

"Out of stalemate has come the effort to act by consensus.... This greater sophistication of approach to action is one of the trends which encourages an old-timer.

"The most successful consensus operation I witnessed was in fact pulled off by the Canadian delegation when they managed, after several years of trying, to get acceptance without a vote of a resolution promoting attention to verification procedures in arms control. Neither the Americans nor the Russians much liked it, and the Indians were suspicious.

"The Canadian ambassador for disarmament, Douglas Roche, and his extraordinarily able team did as professional a job of arm-twisting, cajoling, bargaining and friendly persuasion as I ever saw in the so-called 'golden age.' It was obvious to me, furthermore, that their success was attributed to the respect in which Canada is held as a constructive and independent-minded force in the Assembly. I noted with admiration how our team had already established relationships of trust with colleagues from all the blocs, an essential precondition for successful Assembly diplomacy. As a unilateral crusader, Canada can achieve little; but as a constructive force in coalition-building it can be and is a country of consequence.

"Although there is much to deplore in the words and behaviour of Third World countries in the Assembly, there are encouraging signs of recognition that they achieve little by ritual denunciations of the West in general and the United States in particular. Leading members of the Non-Aligned [countries], and many of their very able delegates, were often endeavouring to put together genuinely constructive rather than merely denunciatory resolutions.

"Regrettably their efforts were too often snubbed by the Americans and the British. One such case concerned the Falklands. A group of the Non-Aligned negotiated energetically to get consensus on a resolution which would simply urge Britain and Argentina to talk with each other, a classic effort to get a conflict resolved before it gets violent. To get consensus they scrupulously removed any phrase that would seem to favour the position of one side or the other. The British delegation, in spite of the pleas of their friends, was isolated in opposition with Belize, Oman and the Solomon Islands.

"In some ways the most dismaying aspect of this affair was the misreporting in the British media of a kind sure to enkindle anti-UN hostility. The BBC insisted in its news reports that the resolution had supported Argentina's claims, and [British Prime Minister] Thatcher chided her friends for opposing self-determination. Her friends, including Canada, deserve an apology, for they did no such thing. It is wise for us to realize that even in our free West what the media tells us—or doesn't tell us—about the UN is frequently misleading.

"For a friend of the United States it is not pleasant to hear the strident and unfair attacks on that great country. Irrational anti-Americanism is an anarchical force in the world and one does not [care] to see it fomented. Too often it is simply scapegoating, bypassing the intricacies of world problems by identifying a villain.

"That, of course, is an error that the Americans too often make themselves. There was something to be said for their getting tough with those who