

Canada also participated in the seventh World Meteorological Congress, as well as the annual assembly of the World Health Organization. Canada's active interest in the work of the UN Specialized Agencies is further illustrated by the fact that it is currently serving on the governing councils of all but one, and plays an active role in their various activities. In 1975, Canada began its term on the Executive Council of the Universal Postal Union by supplying a vice-chairman. Canada is also *rapporteur* of an important working group in the Council dealing with terminal charges for imbalance of incoming international mail. Joe Morris, President of the Canadian Labour Congress, continued as chairman of the Workers Group in the Governing Body of the International Labour Organization. The Canadian representative on the Council of ICAO served as chairman of the Working Group on Conditions of Service.

Human rights

Despite the negative effects of the resolution equating Zionism with racism, the UN did make some progress in the human rights field during 1975. For example, it made a positive contribution to the elimination of torture throughout the world. A major element of this was a resolution, co-sponsored by Canada and accepted unanimously by the General Assembly, which included a declaration on protection against torture.

Canadian interest in the human rights activities of the UN will be focused during the next three years on the Commission on Human Rights, to which it was elected during 1975. The Commission, which is the principal UN body concerned with human rights, was created in 1947 and has over the years elaborated a series of instruments, declarations and conventions designed to strengthen human rights throughout the world. Canada hopes that during its three-year term on the Commission it will be able to contribute to shifting attention from the elaboration of more instruments to considering effective measures to implement these rights.

The implementation of the objectives of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination may have been seriously harmed by the Zionism resolution. Canada and many other Western nations that had until then supported the Decade and the planned World Conference to Combat Racism now feel

constrained to reconsider support for these activities to the extent that they may be tainted by the Zionism resolution.

Conferences

In 1975, four important UN conferences took place. The first of these, the Law of the Sea Conference in Geneva, is dealt with in the section of the *Review* concerning international law.

Lima, Peru, was the site of the second general conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. In addition to the Lima Declaration (discussed in the section on international economic matters), UNIDO II recommended to the UN General Assembly that the organization be converted to a full-fledged Specialized Agency. This was adopted by the seventh special session of the General Assembly. During 1976, therefore, an intergovernmental committee will draw up a constitution for the organization.

International Women's Year was held in 1975. Its highlight was the World Conference of International Women's Year in Mexico City in June. Despite the fact that this conference was marred to some extent by divisive debate on a number of highly political resolutions, including one that sought to "eliminate Zionism", the conference did adopt a World Plan of Action designed to improve the condition of women throughout the world. The Canadian delegation played an active role in the negotiation of many other resolutions, often as co-sponsor. In particular, Canada pledged support for status-of-women programs in developing countries through the Canadian International Development Agency. It also supported measures designed to increase the number of professional women employed throughout the UN system, as well as resolutions for regular review and appraisal of the World Plan of Action.

The fourth major gathering, the fifth UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, was originally scheduled to be held in Toronto in September. The Government, however, influenced by the deterioration of the atmosphere in which international conferences were held, requested the UN to postpone the congress until a mutually-acceptable date in 1976 when circumstances might be more propitious. The UN did not accede to Canada's request and the