

indistinct, and the United Nations seems helpless before the onward march of events.

Consider the nature of the United Nations. It is composed of 159 countries, ranging in size from states with a population of less than my home city of Edmonton to those over one billion. Yet each in the General Assembly has one vote. Canada belongs to the "lucky few" that possess both wealth and democratic institutions. However, we well realize that without the cooperation and collaboration of Third World states, which belong to the great majority, little can be accomplished.

For many Third World countries, the mundane imperatives of survival -- food for their populations, relief from debt, resources for development -- take priority over what many of them see as abstract Western preoccupations on arms control.

A further complication is the role played by the Eastern European countries who, for deeply-rooted ideological reasons often underestimated, are inclined more to conflict than to collaboration with the West. In these circumstances, the wonder of the United Nations is that a common voice is found at all.

The actual process of resolution-making is exceedingly complex, and the quantity of resolutions under consideration -- 72 in the First Committee and well over 200 in the whole General Assembly this fall -- makes the process even more complex. Often the resolutions compete and conflict, and compromise is not always possible.

The General Assembly is a forum for debate, and resolutions are the instruments of that debate. Competition