

tensions that had affected earlier discussions, especially in the General Assembly. At the thirty-first session, the debate on the Middle East, a source of much controversy in 1975, produced no startling results and was generally subdued, owing in part, no doubt, to the civil war in Lebanon and the Presidential election in the United States. Initiatives in Southern Africa, culminating in the convening of the Geneva Conference on Rhodesia, introduced a degree of restraint in the debate on that question, as delegations appeared concerned not to jeopardize these delicate negotiations. On the establishment of the "New International Economic Order", there was tacit agreement by both sides in the "North-South" dialogue to await the results of the Paris Conference on International Economic Co-operation and the follow-up negotiations to the May 1976 UNCTAD conference held in Nairobi, Kenya.

The General Assembly adopted 245 resolutions stemming from 124 items inscribed on the agenda for the thirty-first session. Of these, 148 were adopted without vote and only 97 required recorded votes. The relatively small number of recorded votes reflected the General Assembly's increasing awareness of the need for consultation and consensus. In the recorded votes, Canada voted affirmatively 56 times, abstained 34 times and cast negative votes only seven times. Thus, including those carried without vote, Canada was able to support 204 of the 245 resolutions adopted at the thirty-first session.

Throughout 1976, Canada, a founding member of the United Nations, continued to reaffirm its dedication to the ideals and principles of the organization through a policy of extensive, if necessarily selective, contributions to the world body. The UN's commitment to improving the "quality of life" found further expression at the *Habitat* conference in Vancouver in May. The coming into force during 1976 of the Covenants on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and on Civil and Political Rights was a major step forward for the UN. Referring to these achievements in his October 24 UN Day message to the Secre-

tary-General, the Secretary of State for External Affairs wrote:

This has been a time of adjustment and occasional frustration for the United Nations. During a difficult period, these accomplishments have constituted concrete proof, not only of the validity of the principles embodied in the Charter, but also of the progress being made in their implementation.

I can assure you that Canada attaches importance to the work of the United Nations and will continue to be a loyal and constructive member.

Canada's record as a "loyal and constructive member" received special recognition in 1976 through its election to the Security Council for 1977-78. This was the fourth time that Canada had been selected.

The UN took another step towards universality by admitting Angola, Samoa and Seychelles, thus bringing the membership to 147. A source of particular pride for Canada was the granting of observer status to the Commonwealth Secretariat, whose application Canada co-sponsored.

Equally welcome to Canada was the reappointment of Kurt Waldheim to the post of Secretary-General. In his message of congratulation, Mr. Jamieson wrote:

As you undertake anew the varied and often onerous tasks associated with the position, be secure in the knowledge that you do so with our collective best wishes for success. Canada looks ahead in particular to a close and beneficial relationship with you during our forthcoming service on the Security Council, where your diplomatic skills and professional advice will be highly valued.

No attempt to chronicle the achievements of the UN or Canada's efforts in support of those achievements within the limits of this *Annual Review* can be comprehensive. The focus in this section, therefore, is on those areas of major concern to Canada. A number of UN matters are, however, dealt with in other sections throughout the text; law-of-the-sea questions, UNESCO and UNCTAD, for example, are discussed under their own