

## REPRESENTATION IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

## United Nations

The twenty-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly was an undramatic but constructive one, demonstrating the increased emphasis that the members have come to place on questions of economic and social development and international security. While the twenty-fourth session was sensitive to world tensions, its most notable work was in areas beyond the immediate and volatile issues of the situations in the Middle East, Vietnam and Nigeria. The organization took significant steps in the area of arms control, international development, and reform within its own structures. Canada was a vigorous participant in all these areas.

One achievement of the General Assembly, in the field of arms control, was the passage of a Canadian-sponsored resolution for the international exchange of seismic data, intended to be a step towards a comprehensive nuclear test ban. Another Canadian initiative, concerned with chemical and biological warfare, facilitated urgent discussion on these questions now being taken up by the Committee of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.

Economic development and a deep concern with the human environment dominated the agenda of the economic committee of the Assembly. A Canadian initiative for improving the Second Committee's work, launched at the 1968 session, bore results this year in the enhanced volume and quality of the Committee's efforts in these fields. Preparations for the Second Development Decade accelerated without any of the rancor between developing and developed countries that had characterized some previous discussions of the subject. A Canadian initiative to mobilize public opinion for the Second Development Decade received strong endorsement from the General Assembly.

Preparation for the important 1972 Stockholm Conference on the human environment was advanced by the establishment of a 27-member preparatory committee, to which Canada was elected.

Discussion of questions of colonialism was highlighted by the General Assembly's endorsement of the "Lusaka Manifesto", as well as resolutions concerned with Portuguese African territories and political prisoners in South Africa. Canada voted for a resolution reaffirming the Namibian people's right to self-determination.

Though the Middle East situation received serious attention by the General Assembly during the debate on UNRWA in the Special Political Committee, it did not, as in the past, overshadow other discussions.

Important Canadian initiatives were taken in implementing the call of the Secretary of State for External Affairs in his statement in the