

c) **The First Committee**

The First Committee deals with arms control, disarmament, and international security matters. It is a deliberative, as opposed to a negotiating, body. In recent years, it has dealt with as many as eighty resolutions per year. During the Forty-third Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in 1988, Canadian Ambassador for Disarmament, Douglas Roche, was Chairman of the First Committee. Some of the main issues of special interest to Canada considered by the First Committee include: Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space; Comprehensive Test Ban; Chemical Weapons; Prohibition of the Production of Fissionable Materials for Weapons purposes; and streamlining of the Committee's work. Participants in the Committee try to work toward consensus on all resolutions but many are put to an actual vote.

d) **The Special Political Committee**

This Committee considers a wide range of issues not considered by any of the other six Main Committees. At the Forty-third Session these included: the effects of atomic radiation; international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space; the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA); Israeli practices in the Occupied Territories; peacekeeping; information; the Malagasy Islands; science and peace; and Apartheid.

e) **The United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC)**

The UNDC is another deliberative body whose work on arms control and disarmament is limited to certain issues. In 1989, the UNDC dealt with the following: reduction of military budgets; nuclear disarmament; naval armaments and disarmament; South Africa's nuclear capability; the role of the UN in disarmament; conventional disarmament; and consideration of the Declaration of the 1990s as the Third Disarmament Decade. At the Forty-second Session in 1988, the UNDC reached consensus on two items, verification and confidence-building measures, thus removing them from the agenda. The Commission meets each year in May for about a month, with all member states entitled to participate. Unlike the First Committee, its work is conducted solely by consensus.

f) **Various *Ad Hoc* Committees and Bodies**

These are generally bodies which function under mandate from the General Assembly. They are of both long and short duration, depending upon the nature of their considerations and the purpose of their work. They include such bodies as the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR), the Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUS), the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, the Preparatory Committee for the Fourth Review Con-