

The activities of the United Nations in the social sector receive relatively little publicity, but are no less important for that. The Specialized Agencies continued in 1964 to carry the burden of this work in their efforts to eradicate disease, advance education and relieve hunger, while the High Commissioner for Refugees sought to improve the lot of those still under his mandate and UNICEF carried on with its invaluable work on behalf of children. In 1964, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs studied progress in drug-traffic control, while the Human Rights Commission devoted much of its time to the drafting of a convention on racial discrimination and a companion declaration on religious intolerance. It also appointed a committee to recommend activities for the International Year for Human Rights in 1968.

### *Colonialism and Apartheid*

The advance of colonial territories towards independence continued in 1964 and, at the end of the year, Malta, Malawi and Zambia were admitted to the United Nations. However, with the early adjournment of the General Assembly, consideration of colonial issues in 1964 was confined to the Special Committee of Twenty-Four, which had been set up in 1960 to watch over the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. In its meetings during the year the Special Committee, in dealing with British territories, "deplored the continued refusal" of Britain to implement previous resolutions of the General Assembly concerning a constitutional conference on Rhodesia, again warned of the consequences of a unilateral declaration of independence by the territory, repeated its call for self-determination for Aden and for the implementation of the General Assembly's resolutions concerning the territory and reiterated the General Assembly's request that Britain set a date for the independence of British Guiana. It condemned South Africa's "flagrant disregard" of United Nations resolutions on South West Africa and particularly its refusal to take steps to grant to the inhabitants the right of self-determination and, with regard to Portuguese territories, stated that the Security Council should consider measures to secure Portugal's compliance with United Nations resolutions, particularly with respect to "the immediate cessation of repressive acts" and the transfer of power to freely-elected institutions.

Since, in every instance except the Portuguese territories and South West Africa, the administering power has accepted the principle of self-determination<sup>1</sup>, the main issue in colonial questions revolves around the viabil-

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<sup>1</sup> Rhodesia is a special case because the British Government considers that it cannot by convention intervene in Rhodesian domestic affairs since the territory has internal self-government.