

## II

### CANADA AND THE UNITED NATIONS

At the beginning of 1960 the members of the United Nations could look forward to the coming year with a certain degree of optimism. The organization, reflecting the general state of international relations, had been buoyed up by the improvement in East-West relations particularly. The previous year had concluded with the fourteenth regular session of the General Assembly. This had been one of the most hopeful and constructive sessions in recent years. It had proceeded against the background of Mr. Khrushchov's first visit to the United States, and dealt successfully with a number of contentious issues, made easier by the so-called "spirit of Camp David".

For the time being it appeared that the methods of the "cold war" were at a discount. It was widely believed that, if general disarmament negotiations could be successfully renewed in the spring of 1960 and if this were followed by a successful summit meeting, the United Nations would be able to continue to make progress along the tentative lines laid down at the fourteenth session. Canada naturally shared in this general atmosphere of expectation but the deterioration of East-West relations, following the failure of the summit conference and the breakdown of the disarmament negotiations, provided a gloomy background for the opening of the fifteenth regular session of the General Assembly. Another factor of great significance was the continuing crisis in the Congo. These two developments interacted throughout the second half of the year. They largely determined the outcome of the summer deliberations of the Security Council, of the fourth emergency session of the General Assembly, held in September to deal with the Congo crisis, and of the fifteenth regular session of the General Assembly itself. Toward the end of the year, an additional factor was the effect of the Presidential elections in the United States and the impending change in the Administration.

#### The Congo

The pattern of United Nations efforts to deal with the crisis in the Congo, which developed early in July, was similar to that which had emerged in several recent international crises in which the United Nations had played a major part. The local threat to peace implicit in the Congo crisis was first brought to the attention of the Security Council. Attempts to deal with it there were hampered by the increased tension between the great powers. Nevertheless, the United Nations operations in the Congo were originally initiated through Security Council action that had the support of all the great powers. Subsequently, when the United Nations encountered difficulty in discharging its mandate in the face of an extremely complex local situation, disagreement developed among the great powers and this led to the immobilization of the Security Council. As had happened often in the past, the problem was turned over to the General Assembly. As a result of the decisions of the Security Council and