

The developing countries continued to press for more economic aid, for preferential trading arrangements and for additional technical assistance. In practical terms they achieved results only with respect to the latter. Over the opposition of the majority of developed countries, the portion of the regular United Nations budget devoted to technical assistance was increased at the twenty-third session from \$6.4 million to \$6.9 million. Among the developed countries, Canada, the United States and Britain most notably were of the view that funds for technical assistance should come principally from such voluntary programmes as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Wide support was received for Canada's proposals to reform the procedures of the Assembly's Second Committee in order to gear its operations to more efficient work in the field of development.

An important initiative of the twenty-third session, in which Canada played a key role as a member of the francophone group, was the successful effort to encourage the more widespread use of the organization's official languages throughout the United Nations Secretariat and its various organs. The proposal, accepted by a large majority, revolved around the provision of incentives, particularly accelerated promotion, for professional categories of personnel who are, or become, proficient in two or more of the organization's five official languages. A by-product of this initiative was the adoption of a proposal to make Russian a "working" (in addition to its being an "official") language of the General Assembly, and a parallel recommendation to the Security Council that both Russian and Spanish be working as well as official languages in that body. Canada's support for these proposals was consistent with its advocacy of a multi-lingual approach in the United Nations as an important means of international communication and understanding.

During the International Year for Human Rights, Canada participated in the International Conference on Human Rights held in Tehran in April and sponsored a resolution recommending that governments encourage the development of comprehensive legal aid systems for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Elections

Canada, which was elected to the Security Council for a period of two years during the twenty-first session, terminated its mandate on December 13, 1968. At the twenty-third session of the General Assembly, Finland and Spain were elected to replace Canada and Denmark, and Zambia, Nepal and Colombia replaced Ethiopia, India and Brazil. The two-year terms of the newly-elected non-permanent members of the Security Council begin January 1, 1969.

Canada was elected to one of the 17 vice-presidencies of the General Assembly during the twenty-third session. It was also elected to the vice-presidency of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, which is concerned with administrative and budgetary matters.