

In the ranking of perceived influence, the first five were followed by Yugoslavia, Algeria, Cuba, China, Mexico, Nigeria, Brazil and Pakistan. Algerian diplomats, tough in championing Third World interests, were widely respected. Cuba had gained influence through its presidency of the nonaligned movement. China? The world's most populous nation is difficult to ignore, especially when it has inherited an ancient civilization. Nevertheless, most of the comment about China's UN performance was patronizing. After a decade, it was suggested, China was beginning to learn the rules of the UN game.

Some respondents mentioned more countries than did others. If *all* mentions are counted, Sweden and Canada tied for fourteenth place. (If one combines the influence ranking for the different issue areas, Canada emerged in seventh place, behind only the superpowers, India, Yugoslavia, Algeria, Nigeria and Brazil. As our selection of issues was necessarily limited, however, little weight can be attached to this ranking.)

Are issues interconnected?

We asked whether the stand taken by a country in one issue area, such as the Middle East, was likely to affect its influence in another, say arms control. Most of the respondents, even including half the Arabs, indicated that it would not. We also asked about the issue areas in which Canada was seen to be particularly strong. A substantial majority indicated that our greatest influence lay in economic development, itself the most substantial of current UN activities. Several mentioned Trudeau's role in the North-South dialogue, notably at the Cancun conference. Only a fifth as many respondents cited Canada's role in arms control, an issue taken very seriously by the Canadian mission. Its influence in the human rights field was cited by about the same modest portion. However, the few respondents familiar with this field tended to be high in praise; Canada, Yugoslavia and the Netherlands were considered to be the strongest contributors. A similar minority cited the UN Conference on the Law of the Sea as the setting of Canada's greatest input. An even smaller number, about 10 percent, cited Canada's influence in UN peacekeeping, and about 5 percent international law. Issue areas given single mentions included Namibia, refugees, chemical weapons, food, environment, outer space and the budget.

Is there a "Canadian role?"

A related question asked for Canada's "role" in the UN. A disappointing third declined to give any answer. A tenth of those answering said "peacekeeper." Another tenth suggested "consensus-builder," "conciliator," "honest-broker" or "conduit." Almost as many said "UN supporter." Another significant minority saw Canada principally in its relations with the United States, and suggested as its role "US moderator," "Western moderate" or "enlightened independent." Others cited its leadership in the economic field and the North-South dialogue. Scattered references were made to Canada as a promoter of arms control, women's rights, all human rights, UNICEF, science and technology, and sovereignty over natural