

PART A

Chapter 1: COLLECTIVE SECURITY AND THE RESOLUTION OF CONFLICT

Canada works for collective security and the resolution of conflict through the United Nations in the global context, and through the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in the East-West context. A principal focus of the United Nations is the resolution of conflict, although collective security was the first objective of its 1945 Charter (Article 1) and the Security Council continues to hold some responsibility in this area. NATO was established in 1949 as a regional collective security agency, as envisaged in the UN Charter (Articles 51 and 52), and has become the focal point of Canada's military co-operation with its principal Western allies. Arms control and disarmament negotiations have an important bearing on both security and conflict resolution, and have become a leading priority of both organizations within their respective areas of concern. (Other aspects of Canada's work within the UN system are reviewed in the subsequent chapters of Part A.)

UN Security Council

The Security Council was involved in many of the major international issues of 1980. In January, Canada, though not a member of the Council, spoke there in support of a draft resolution deploring the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and calling for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all foreign troops. The draft resolution was vetoed by the Soviet Union, and the matter was promptly referred to an emergency special session of the UN General Assembly. Also in January, in the face of the continued holding of American diplomatic hostages in Iran, most members of the Security Council were prepared to uphold the Council's collective security responsibilities by means of a resolution calling for mandatory sanctions against all exports to Iran, food and medical supplies excepted. However, this resolution, for which Canada also expressed support, was likewise vetoed by the Soviet Union, and further action later in the year both by the Secretary-General and the International Court of Justice proved unsuccessful in winning the hostages' release.

The Middle East also engaged the Security Council's attention throughout 1980. A resolution in March deploring Israeli attempts to change the status of Jerusalem (on the substance of which the USA changed its vote from affirmative to abstention) was followed by a more forthright condemnation of Israel's unilateral annexation of Jerusalem in August, in response to which the 13 remaining diplomatic missions in Jerusalem were withdrawn. Several resolutions deplored Israel's expulsion of certain Palestinian mayors from the occupied territories. One draft proposal, vetoed by the USA in April, would have endorsed the creation of an independent

Palestinian state, and this issue was later taken up at an emergency special session of the General Assembly in July.

After some hesitation, the Security Council in September called for a ceasefire in the fighting between Iraq and Iran, but attempts to implement it broke down and were replaced by efforts at mediation which led only to the release of neutral ships from the conflict zone. The Council also lent its authority to the full and impartial implementation of the Lancaster House agreements, by which the UK brought Zimbabwe to independence in April, with Commonwealth assistance. Other actions by the Council dealt with cross-border incursions in southern Africa and the admission of new UN members (St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Zimbabwe). At the start of 1980, the German Democratic Republic, Mexico, Niger, the Philippines and Tunisia joined the Security Council for two-year terms; and at the end of the year, Ireland, Japan, Panama, Spain and Uganda were elected to begin two-year terms in 1981.

Peacekeeping

The authorization and supervision of UN peacekeeping forces remains a significant contribution of the Security Council to collective security, while their practical operations and financing come under the authority of the Secretary-General and the General Assembly (for further particulars on the financing of UN peacekeeping operations, see Part A, Chapter 5). The Council acted to strengthen the position of the troubled UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in the wake of fatalities sustained by the force in April during the course of fighting among factions in Lebanon. Canada no longer participates in UNIFIL following a six-month tour of duty in 1978. The Security Council also renewed UNIFIL's mandate until June 19, 1981, as well as the mandates of the two other main peacekeeping forces, in both of which Canada is a major participant. The mandate of the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) on the Golan Heights between Israel and Syria was extended until May 31, 1981, and that of the UN Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) was extended until June 15, 1981.

Canada remains an active member of the General Assembly's special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, also known as the "Committee of 33", which held five meetings during 1980. The Committee considered a paper submitted by Canada bearing on selected questions related to the practical implementation of peacekeeping operations, based on recent developments in specific situations. Once again, however, the Committee was unable to agree on guidelines governing the establishment, financing and day-to-day control of UN peace-