

FOREWORD

This volume of *Canada and the United Nations* reviews the work of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies during 1960.

One of the most encouraging events during this period was the admission of seventeen new members to the United Nations, sixteen of them from the African continent. In the short period of their participation in United Nations deliberations, the new members have given proof of their firm dedication to the purposes and principles of the Charter and have shown that they have a valuable contribution to make in the search for solutions to world problems. The position which they already occupy in the Organization can be expected to increase in importance. Canada shares with them the common desire to see the United Nations strengthened as an instrument for peace and security and for economic and social progress.

The Organization's ability to continue as an effective international body will depend to a great extent on its ability to make the re-adjustments required by the new demands being made on it. During 1960, the United Nations was not able to give its full attention to this problem because of the other complex issues with which it was faced, particularly the Congo situation, colonialism and disarmament. The political climate in which the United Nations had to operate, moreover, made the task exceptionally difficult. The year started off with promise for constructive relations between the East and West, but saw a rapid deterioration of those relations with the failure of the Paris summit conference in May and the breakdown of the Geneva disarmament negotiations in June. The Congo crisis which developed shortly after the emergence of that country as an independent state on June 30, 1960, added a further complication to the increasingly difficult world situation.

At a time when tension and strain in international relations demanded a strengthening of the United Nations as an instrument for peaceful settlement of differences, the U.S.S.R. launched an attack against the Secretary-General and the Secretariat ostensibly over the conduct of the Congo operation; also it intensified its attack on the colonial powers in an effort to divide members and to establish itself as the champion and friend of newly-independent and emerging states. While the impact of the campaign in the first part of the fifteenth session, which is covered in this report, was sharp and disturbing, the Soviet Union failed to mobilize support for its extreme positions.

Nevertheless, these manifestations of the renewed cold war served to disrupt the proceedings of the United Nations and to delay progress on