wherever they might occur. A resolution that would have condemned Uganda failed to win support. The Assembly did, however, adopt a resolution, sponsored by Nigeria, calling for the establishment of regional machinery for the promotion and protection of human rights. The Nigerian initiative was one of several indications of an interest on the part of Third World states in establishing a consensus with the West on this important subject.

The Assembly agreed to call a world conference in Geneva in August 1978 to combat racism and racial discrimination. Following the passage of a resolution in 1975 defining Zionism as a form of racism, Canada had voted against further resolutions on the Decade against Racism. At the 1977 Assembly, the Canadian delegation recognized the concerted efforts that had been made to recall the decade and the conference to their original purposes, and accordingly voted for the resolutions concerning them. Canada's representative in the debate, Miss Coline Campbell, quoted the definition of racism given in the basic UN convention on this subject as "any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin". She said that this definition would continue to be understood as the basis of Canada's support of the Decade, and its acceptance would be one of the elements determining the decision of the Canadian Government with respect to participation in the world conference.

Definition of racism given as basis for Canadian support

Hijacking

As a consequence of the tragic hijacking of a Lufthansa aircraft, the International Federation of Air-Line Pilots' Associations requested the UN to give urgent consideration to the problem of safety in international civil aviation. The Canadian delegation, to which a representative of the Canadian Air-Line Pilots' Association was added as an adviser, co-sponsored the inclusion of this item on the agenda and the resolution that was eventually adopted condemning hijacking and calling for further measures to combat it. As the airline pilots have observed, resolutions cannot in themselves stop hijackers, but they have helped create an international atmosphere that has made their operations increasingly difficult.

The Assembly noted progress in the drafting of an international convention against hostage-taking, and authorized the committee on this question, in which Canada participates, to continue its work during 1978. On a related issue, Canada voted against a resolution concerning the Committee on International Terrorism. The

delegation judged that, by giving first priority to studying the underlying causes of terrorism, the mandate of the committee would effectively prevent it from recommending practical measures to combat terrorism.

The Assembly welcomed progress in formulating draft principles on direct-broadcast television satellites and remote-sensing of the earth from space. Canada, in concert with Sweden, laid particular stress on the importance of consultation and agreement between states with respect to direct broadcasting from satellites. The comparatively obscure UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space gained sudden prominence just after the Assembly when its subcommittee debated whether present international conventions should be modified, or a new one negotiated, to prevent a repetition of the incident involving the crash of a nuclear-fueled Soviet satellite in Northern Canada.

The Assembly adopted a record biennial budget of $986 million for 1978-79. Large though it was, it represented a saving of $32 million in the resources requested, as the result of the determination of the principal contributors to hold growth to a minimum. The Assembly adopted without difficulty a new scale of assessments recommended by the Committee on Contributions. This result was a tribute to the skill of the Committee, to which a Canadian, A.J. Mathewson, was re-elected. Under its new assessment of 3.04 per cent, Canada will pay $12.3 million to the UN regular budget for 1978, remaining the ninth-largest contributor.

Obscure issues

A summary of some of the highlights does not capture the full flavour of the Assembly. Much of the Assembly's work involves relatively obscure issues that attract little press attention but are of great interest to a minority. A useful example this year was the resolution on self-determination for the people of Guam. This was framed in consultation between members of the Committee of 24 on decolonization and the United States delegation. It was, therefore, adopted without objection: a contrast to the controversial resolutions on this subject in previous sessions, and one that demonstrated in miniature the improved relations between the non-aligned countries and the United States delegation, led by Ambassador Andrew Young.

An example of a different kind – which did draw press attention because an astute film-publicist linked it to the advertising campaign for a currently-popular film – was the handling of an item on unidentified