
United Nations

Canada was again deeply involved in the activities of the United Nations during 1974. The UN, entering its thirtieth year of existence, remained the fulcrum of efforts of the family of nations in the attempt to maintain international peace and security, to solve international economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems, and to promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. As an original member of the body, Canada chose to make selective but extensive contributions in fields of international co-operation that touched almost every aspect of the UN's activities.

Economic questions dominated much of the work of the UN in 1974 against a background of continuing efforts to turn the uneasy truce in the Middle East into a lasting peace, and with the spectre of worsening famine in the less-developed world regions darkening the scene. The Arab nations continued to demonstrate leadership of the non-aligned countries within the world organization. A significant move was the election of Abdelazziz Bouteflika of Algeria as President of the 29th General Assembly. Indeed the display of solidarity among the non-aligned nations was a striking feature of that Assembly as they strove to attain their goal of a new world economic order more favourable to the developing countries. Controversy was also generated over the question of observer status for the Palestine Liberation Organization in the UN and the exclusion of South Africa from participation in the 29th Assembly.

The UN took another step to becoming a fully representative organization by admitting Bangladesh, Grenada and Guinea-Bissau. Canada co-sponsored each of the resolutions supporting their membership. The general debate of the Assembly included statements by many heads of state, heads of government, and foreign ministers, including the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Mr. MacEachen summed up Canada's attitude when he said:

A renewal and strengthening of

international co-operation is an urgent requirement if we are to sustain social progress and economic development. We all have a responsibility to contribute to such co-operation.

This section of the *Annual Review* is intended to focus on those areas of the UN of major concern to Canada. To avoid duplication other sections deal with UNESCO, UNCTAD, the law of the sea, and other UN-related areas. Separate sections delineating still other aspects of Canada's multilateral relations provide a fuller appreciation of the extent of Canada's involvement in the UN.

Political and security questions

The already tense situation in Cyprus erupted into conflict in July 1974 and the matter was quickly brought before the UN. Canada joined with Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. in voting for a unanimously-adopted resolution calling for heightened efforts on all sides to negotiate a political settlement.

As in 1973, Cambodia again presented a potentially highly divisive issue to the General Assembly. By a slim majority it was decided to adopt a resolution, co-sponsored by Canada, calling for talks among the parties concerned and for the provision of assistance by the Secretary-General aimed at reaching a peaceful settlement—this in lieu of a resolution proposed to the Assembly which would have expelled the representatives of the Khmer Republic and replaced them with representatives of the so-called Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia (GRUNC), headed by Prince Sihanouk.

An equally divisive item was the status of South Africa in the UN. The debate was inaugurated when the Assembly's Credentials Committee refused to accept the credentials of the South African delegation. The Assembly voted to refer the entire matter of South African status to the Security Council. In that body a move to expel South Africa