

rise to bitter debate. At issue were fundamental questions of the very nature of the United Nations and of some of the principles set forth in the Charter. The debates begun in 1974 were inconclusive, at least in the sense that none of the questions of principle were resolved. Since the questions remain, and are likely to be raised again, it is worth while to consider them here.

### The Charter and the unwritten rules

As has been noted in Chapter Six, the sixth special session of the General Assembly and the subsequent regular session of the General Assembly of 1974 adopted a Declaration and a Program of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, and a Charter of the Economic Rights and Duties of States. The developed countries vigorously opposed adoption of the resolutions, and expressly recorded their reservations regarding some of the principles set forth in them. Under the terms of the Charter, there was nothing illegal in the use by the majority of its voting power to obtain the formal approval of the General Assembly for resolutions expressing principles to which the minority states were opposed. The action of the majority caused the United States delegate, however, to decry the "tyranny of the majority", and caused the representatives of other developed countries to participate in a debate marked by bitterness on both sides. Delegations of developed countries accused those of developing countries of being unrealistic when they forced the adoption of resolutions that could be implemented only with the willing co-operation of developed countries; and they declared that irresponsibility on the part of delegations in the General Assembly brought the United Nations into disrepute, undermined the popular support it had enjoyed in many countries, and adversely affected the ability of the organization to perform its functions.

The developing countries argued that the rich and powerful countries