

Commonwealth heads-of-government meeting in London, and the United Nations.

During the Commonwealth heads-of-government meeting in June, the Canadian Prime Minister played a leading role in the adoption of declarations that condemned the violation of human rights in Uganda.

Canadian efforts on human rights at the Belgrade meeting were based on the belief that human rights had clearly become valid subjects of international concern and possessed direct relevance to the idea of *détente*. The Canadian delegation was active throughout discussions of the Helsinki Final Act, but its attention was focused on human rights and human contacts. As a reflection of the Canadian public's concern, Canada co-sponsored new proposals aimed at: (a) the right of the individual to communicate with his government without suffering for it; (b) the freer movement of people, especially for family visits and family reunification; (c) the freer flow of ideas, especially in the form of printed information; (d) freer contacts between people in business, science, education and culture.

Since the adoption by the UN of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1947, issues of human rights have been prominent in the debates of the General Assembly and other UN bodies. In 1976, the legal basis for international enforcement of human-rights standards was strengthened with the entry into force of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the latter's optional Protocol. Canada, having acceded to these covenants in 1976, was able to participate in the elections to the Human Rights Committee, the monitoring body established by the covenants. This committee held its first meeting in the spring of 1977 and Professor Walter S. Tarnopolsky of the Osgoode Hall Law School, York University, was one of 18 persons elected to the committee (on which they serve in their personal capacities).

In 1977, Canada continued, as a member of the Commission on Human Rights (until December 1978), to press for the adoption of effective mechanisms for the promotion of human rights. Matters of particular concern to Canada during the session of the commission once again included torture and religious intolerance. Also, at the instance of Canada, the commission discussed the effects of science and technology on human rights, and the problem of discrimination against children born out of wedlock. In the General Assembly, Canada shared in the attempt to establish the position of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. However, consideration of the draft resolution, co-sponsored by Canada, was deferred on a procedural motion and the subject was instead referred to the Commission on Human Rights. (See also "Economic and social questions.")

Canadian financial contributions to UN system

The thirty-second session of the General Assembly approved a 1978-79 biennial budget of \$984 million. These funds will be used to support the economic, social and humanitarian activities of the UN and to meet the costs of staff salaries, headquarters maintenance and publications. Expenses are shared by all member states on a scale based largely on figures for relative national income. Under a newly-revised scale adopted in 1977, Canada will be assessed 3.04 per cent of the regular budget, up from 2.96 per cent. Canada's contribution of \$11,930,457 (U.S.) will be the ninth-largest. As a member of the UN Specialized Agencies, Canada also pays their assessments, amounting to approximately \$20 million in the fiscal year 1977-78.

The Canadian contributions for UN peace-keeping cover primarily expenses exceeding those that would have been required to maintain the same forces in Canada. It is estimated that Canada spent a total of about \$12 million for UNIFCYP in the fiscal year 1976-77, including normal pay and allowances; about \$3 million of this total was attributable solely to the presence of 515 Canadian Forces personnel in Cyprus. About \$800,000 of this total, which is to be refunded by the UN, represents the approximate annual cost of the Canadian airlift to Cyprus. In the Middle East there are almost 1,100 Canadians