

failure to agree. As 1966 concluded, the decision of U Thant to accept another term as Secretary-General⁽¹⁾ raised the hopes of those who believed that the United Nations must continue to grow as a credible, effective organization dedicated to the aims of the Charter.

During 1966 questions affecting international peace and security were again a central concern of the United Nations. Achievements in the field of disarmament⁽²⁾ were made as noted above, and the year closed on an optimistic note in this regard. For Canada, peacekeeping⁽³⁾ operations in all their aspects—authorization, financing and control—were a subject of particular interest during the year. Discussion of peace-keeping at the twenty-first session of the Assembly was lengthy and, at times, heated. A deep divergence continued to separate those who agreed with the U.S.S.R. and France that only the Security Council had the power to initiate peacekeeping activities from those who agreed with most Western countries that the General Assembly might initiate peacekeeping operations when the Security Council could not act.

While fully aware of the differing positions of major members of the United Nations, Canada urgently believed that every effort should be made to equip the United Nations to respond to future emergency situations when the mounting of peacekeeping operations might become desirable. Thus, after extensive consultations, Canada decided to submit a resolution to the twenty-first session of the Assembly which, without disturbing the positions of principle of any delegation, would spell out guide-lines for financing future peacekeeping operations and make suggestions for improved planning procedures. After lengthy and complicated debate, the Canadian resolution was adopted by a majority of 52 votes in committee. In the plenary session, however, pressure from the U.S.S.R. and other opponents on the undecided members increased in intensity and, after further consultations, the Assembly adopted a compromise procedure whereby final decisions were postponed until the meeting of a special session of the General Assembly in April 1967. This development naturally came as a disappointment to Canada and other members which had supported the resolution. Nonetheless, the Canadian belief that persistent efforts must continue to be made to improve the capacity of the United Nations to engage in peacekeeping operations remained unaffected. It was significant that the Canadian resolution making specific proposals in this regard received support from a wide cross-section of members representing all major areas of the world except Eastern Europe.

¹ See Page 11.

² See Page 14.

³ See Page 17.