

5. **The international economic climate.** Continued high inflation, high interest rates, and high levels of unemployment will have their repercussions. They tend to make the industrialized nations look inwards, with protectionism and economic nationalism coming to the fore. Theoretically, one might expect governments to welcome a chance to cut defence spending, but past experience indicates this does not happen.

External Affairs Minister Mark MacGuigan has recognized the significance of these outside factors on the prospects for international security. He put it this way:

"Nuclear war is neither imminent nor inevitable. But it cannot be ruled out. No power wants general war. But global politics reflect increasingly the strains to peace which derive from resource imbalances, population pressures and technological and cultural change." (From an address to World Federalists of Canada, Winnipeg, 13 June 1980.)

GROUPS AT THE UN

The UN, of course, is a political organization composed of 154 member states and based on *"the principle of the sovereign equality of all its Members"*. (UN Charter, Article 2(1).) In practice, it operates through a series of groups. One series is based on geography and is concerned with such things as regional representation on committees. The other series is based on the common interests of its members and acts in the role of a political caucus. As had been the practice at UNSSOD I and during the Preparatory Committee of UNSSOD II, three of these caucuses met:

- a) **The Non-Aligned Group**, composed largely of nations from Africa, Asia and Latin America but including some others such as Yugoslavia.
- b) **The Socialist Group**, composed of countries with com-