

troops from Cambodia and the holding of UN supervised free elections in that country.

At the autumn General Assembly session, there were larger majorities than ever for resolutions condemning the Soviet and Vietnamese occupations of Afghanistan and Cambodia. The disputed Cambodian seat at the UN was again retained by Democratic Kampuchea. This decision, also taken by an increased majority, reflected a widespread view that Democratic Kampuchea had a more legitimate claim to the seat, as well as hopes that the Democratic Kampuchean government could be broadened into a coalition of all groups opposed to the Vietnamese occupation. In addition, the UN investigation of chemical weapons allegedly used in Cambodia, Laos and Afghanistan was extended. Canada co-sponsored all four resolutions.

Other political issues

The Organization of African Unity, at its summit meeting in June, reached consensus on the desirability of holding a referendum in Western Sahara, to decide between Algeria's call for the independence of the former Spanish colony and Morocco's annexation based on claims of historical sovereignty. While the General Assembly adopted by consensus a resolution urging UN assistance in the conduct of the referendum, an Algerian resolution tending to prejudge the outcome of the referendum was also approved. Canada continues to take a position of absolute neutrality, to the satisfaction of the parties concerned.

On East Timor, the General Assembly again called for self-determination and humanitarian assistance for the former Portuguese colony annexed by Indonesia in 1976. Canada and over 40 other countries voted against the resolution on the basis that the integration of East Timor, while not entirely consistent with the principle of self-determination, is now an accomplished and irreversible fact. No resolution on the subject could change the principle of self-determination and the international community should now focus on the humanitarian and developmental problems faced by the inhabitants.

Assisted by a strong resolution at the 1980 General Assembly, Belize finally achieved independence in September and joined the United Nations. The 1981 General Assembly also observed the twentieth anniversary of the non-aligned movement, which Canada commended for its role in promoting decolonization and détente. While the Assembly noted a committee recommendation to inscribe the question of Puerto Rico on its 1982 agenda, it adopted no resolution on Poland even after the imposition of martial law in December.

Global arms control and disarmament

During 1981, prospects for further multilateral arms control and disarmament agreements remained poor. The effect of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and events in Poland, the Middle East and Central America, were