

## CANADA ON THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL: 1989-90

SEPTEMBER 1989 - JANUARY 1990

### INTRODUCTION

At the time of writing, Canada has passed the mid-way point of its two-year term as a non-permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council. The past year has been a busy one for Council members, and has brought both successes and frustrations. Elation over the U.N.'s highly effective role in promoting Namibian independence was tempered by the failure to achieve immediate movement towards a long-awaited settlement to the Cambodian crisis. While the U.N.-sponsored truce in the Iran-Iraq war has held, a formal end of the conflict is still not at hand. In Central America, the role of the United Nations in the regional peace plan was reaffirmed and UN peacekeepers were deployed despite the intensification of the civil war in El Salvador.

None of this should in any way minimize the important work of the Council in seeking to resolve the many complex peace and security issues before it. Council members themselves reflect the diverse opinions and attitudes to be found among the U.N. member states. Not surprisingly, bilateral and informal consultations are extensive. While such exhaustive (and exhausting) behind-the-scenes work is largely beyond the eyes of the press and public, it is critical to the more visible activity and action around the Council table.

As you will see in the pages that follow, we have continued over the past four months to use our influence to foster and maintain a pragmatic mood of co-operation among Council members. This, coupled with the general improvement in global political relations, has resulted in a constructive and conciliatory Council.

Our Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Yves Fortier, and the Canadian delegation have worked with active headquarters' support to promote a positive climate in both the Security Council and the General Assembly. What follows is an overview of key issues confronting the Council over the past few months.