

### Definition of Aggression

The search for a generally acceptable definition of aggression has been going on since 1927 when the League of Nations first took up the task. More recently, since 1968 there have been annual sessions of the 35-member United Nations Special Committee on the Question of Defining Aggression on which Canada is represented. The sixth session was held in Geneva from April 25 to May 30, 1973.

In spite of the unwillingness at past sessions of the non-aligned members to explore the middle ground between the Soviet and non-aligned draft definitions, on the one hand, and the Western draft definition (Canada, U.S.A., U.K. Australia, Japan and Italy), on the other hand, a real attempt was made at the last session to bridge differences. At the 1973 session, a number of non-aligned countries (led by Ghana, Guyana, and Cyprus) abandoned extreme positions favoured by the more extreme representatives of the non-aligned group, and made a number of proposals which could form the basis of an acceptable "package" acceptable since the overriding discretion of the Security Council to determine an act of aggression would not be undermined.

In its report the Special Committee noted with satisfaction the further progress made during the 1973 session, and expressed the belief that such progress makes it "a practical possibility" to elaborate a generally acceptable definition at its 1974 session. It therefore recommended that at its 1973 session the United Nations General Assembly should invite the Special Committee to resume its work as soon as possible but not later than in 1974. It is expected that the General Assembly will approve the holding of another session of the Special Committee in 1974 in New York.