

Assembly met in special session to debate the India-Pakistan conflict. On December 7 it passed, by an overwhelming majority, Resolution 2793, which called on both countries to establish a cease-fire and urged that efforts be intensified to bring about conditions necessary for the voluntary return of East Pakistan refugees to their homes. Canada supported this resolution, but informed the Assembly that it would have preferred that the call for a cease-fire had been accompanied by specific United Nations arrangements to supervise it and that the Security Council were in a position to address itself to the underlying political issues. Consequent upon the surrender of Pakistani troops in East Pakistan and the agreement of both sides to cease hostilities, the Security Council was able, on December 21, to pass Resolution 307, which demanded that the ceasefire arrangements initiated by India and accepted by Pakistan be strictly observed, called on member states to refrain from aggravating the situation, and authorized the Secretary-General to appoint, if necessary, a special representative to lend his good offices for the solution of humanitarian problems. As one of his last acts in office, U Thant appointed Mr. Winspear Guicciardi as his special representative.

The twenty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted considerable time and attention to Middle Eastern questions. Canada abstained on the principal Middle Eastern resolution (prescribing specific conditions for resumption of the mission of the special representative of the Secretary-General, Ambassador Jarring) which was adopted in plenary. The Canadian abstention was based on the view that, since the resolution was not broadly acceptable to both parties to the dispute, it did not offer reasonable hope of contributing to an early resumption of the Jarring mission.

The Special Political Committee considered the problem of the Palestinian refugees in the debate on the annual report of the Commissioner General of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees. Resolutions were passed in the Committee and subsequently adopted in plenary renewing the mandate of UNRWA, giving full support for its work on behalf of the Palestinian refugees, and endorsing the efforts of the working group on UNRWA financing, which is trying to solve the serious financial problems confronting the Agency.

The question of the Palestinian refugees also arose during consideration in the Third Committee of the item on self-determination. In these and related discussions, the concern of the international community with the continuing tense situation in the Middle East was underscored.

Peacekeeping and Peacemaking

A continuing aim of Canadian foreign policy is to work for the strengthening of the authority of the United Nations, particularly its capacity to act as a peacekeeping agency for the control of conflict and the mediation of disputes. Unfortunately, the United Nations was not permitted to become involved as a peacekeeping agency in the most recent Indo-Pakistan conflict. Nevertheless, throughout 1971 Canada worked hard in support of the principles of the United Nations Charter in pursuit of the objective of international security. Canada remained a participant in the three on-going United Nations peacekeeping operations: the UN Military Observer Group, India/Pakistan (UNMOGIP), the UN Truce Supervisory Organization in the Middle East (UNTSO), and the UN Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). The Security Council voted to renew the mandate of the