

UN Disengagement Observer Force was for a further six months only, and this took place in a tense atmosphere in which Syria extracted the concession that the Security Council would hold a full-scale debate on the Middle East situation and a statement by the Council president that the PLO would be invited to take part. Israel opposed this development as introducing extraneous "political" considerations during the Council's renewal of the UNDOF mandate. Canada took a leading role in negotiation of the resolutions financing UNEF/UNDOF until the end of its current mandate.

Bitter debate

The peacekeeping effort in Cyprus was also renewed, but only after bitter debate. Many delegates expressed frustration at the lack of progress in ending the eight-month division of the island, and Turkey found itself obliged to cast the only negative vote on the Cyprus resolution, thus destroying the consensus of previous years. Turkey was successful in extracting the political "rider" that operations of the peacekeeping forces in the north of the island would depend on elaboration of an agreement with the Turkish Cypriots.

This year, the campaign surrounding the almost traditional debate on the "Korean question" was particularly intense both in New York and in capitals. Supporters of the R.O.K. and the D.P.R.K. positions both presented resolutions that conflicted in a number of essential ways, though at first glance they looked similar. For example, both resolutions called for the dissolution of the UNC and withdrawal of all troops under the UN flag from Korea. The pro-R.O.K. resolution, which Canada supported, maintained that dissolution should not occur without some specific provision being made to keep the Korean Armistice Agreement (1953) in effect pending a wider settlement. The supporters of the D.P.R.K., on the other hand, called for a peace agreement to replace the armistice, but made no provision for the maintenance of the armistice until the "peace settlement" was achieved. Furthermore, it became clear that, in the view of the D.P.R.K., any peace agreement should be negotiated between North Korea and the U.S. only. The supporters of the R.O.K. maintained that the question must be resolved by the two Koreas themselves without undue outside involvement. Because of these and other important elements of disagreement, no consensus could be achieved and, for the first time in the history of the UN General Assembly, contradictory resolutions deal-

ing with the same subject were passed, the pro-R.O.K. resolution, with a vote of 59 (Canada) to 51, with 29 abstaining, and the pro-D.P.R.K. resolution, with a vote of 54 - 43 (Canada) - 42.

The debate on the former Spanish Territory of the Sahara witnessed the second pair of mutually-contradictory resolutions. The first, though it maintained the approach taken by previous resolutions calling for decolonization and the right of Saharans to self-determination under UN supervision, made no reference to the recently-signed tripartite agreement between Spain, Morocco and Mauritania. This resolution, adopted with no opposition but with a large number of abstentions including Canada's, was preferred by most African states and Algeria. Canada also abstained on the second resolution, which took note of the tripartite agreement and requested that the interim administration (excluding Algeria) ensure all Saharans the exercise of self-determination with the assistance of a UN representative. This resolution was preferred by most Arab states and those sympathetic to the territorial claims of Morocco and Mauritania.

The status of the world's remaining non-self-governing territories - now mainly small areas, except for Namibia and Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), which are special cases - merits Canadian attention in spite of their relatively small size. Canada intervened in the debate to note that self-determination did not necessarily always lead to immediate independence. While the independence of certain remaining territories (e.g. Solomon Islands) is assured in the near future, the eventual fate of others (Belize, Afars and Issas) is uncertain because of historic problems or conflicting claims among neighbouring states.

Portuguese Timor

The situation of Portuguese Timor has been discussed in past years under the heading of general decolonization, and Canada has supported resolutions calling for the orderly liberation of colonies. The situation was different this year because of fighting between rival parties in the territory and the inability of the administering power to restore order. Indonesian intervention in Timor took place during the General Assembly session and prompted resolutions in both the Assembly and Security Council. Canada abstained on the former, which "deplored" the Indonesian action without fully taking into account the circumstances that led up to intervention. Canada agrees with the spirit

Canadian intervention in debate on self-determination