

Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), increasing its 1972 contribution by \$200,000 to a total of \$1.6 million because of the importance of the Agency's humanitarian work.

## Asia

One of the most contentious and potentially acrimonious political matters dealt with at the General Assembly was the question of the admission of Bangladesh to membership in the United Nations. For the first time, China exercised its right to veto in the Security Council on the application of Bangladesh. This led to the presentation of a resolution before the General Assembly requesting the Security Council to reconsider its decision. Canada worked actively to avoid a confrontation. After much negotiation, a compromise solution in the form of parallel resolutions was worked out (and adopted by consensus in the General Assembly) favouring the application of Bangladesh and calling for a fair settlement of the issues, including the return of Pakistani prisoners of war. Canada also supported Bangladesh's applications to join UN Specialized Agencies.

## Institutional development

On the effective functioning of the United Nations and the need to strengthen its role in international affairs, Canada's view was that the United Nations Charter had proved to be a remarkably flexible document, capable of growth and adaptation in response to changing conditions and needs. The future of the organization depends not so much on changing its basic structure as upon the political will of member states to fulfil their obligations and responsibilities as laid out in the Charter. In keeping with this position, which was shared by most other delegations, Canada supported resolutions requesting the Secretary-General to submit a report based on the suggestions of member states concerning the desirability of a review of the Charter, and another report on ways and means of strengthening the role of the United Nations so that its potential might be more effectively used.



On his first official visit to Ottawa, Mr. Kurt Waldheim, UN Secretary General, signs the guest book at Uplands Air Base. Beside him are Mrs. Waldheim and the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mitchell Sharp, who welcomed the distinguished couple to Canada.

C.P. Photo

## Administrative matters

Work in the administrative and budgetary field was dominated by the debate over a proposal by the United States to reduce its contribution to the United Nations regular budget to the level of 25 per cent of the total appropriation. Canada supported this proposal, which was accepted by the General Assembly, on the basis of the principle previously recognized by the United Nations that significant disproportions in rates of assessment would not be appropriate for an organization of sovereign and equal states. Furthermore, measures would be taken to ensure that the implementation of this proposal would not result in the increase of the contribution of any other member state.