

# *United Nations General Assembly*

## TWENTY-FIRST SESSION — THE THIRD MONTH

THE third and last month of the twenty-first session found the United Nations General Assembly engaged in the process of completing substantive examination of many key items on its agenda. This article reviews several of the major developments. The Assembly adopted 115 resolutions during the session in dealing with an agenda of 98 items. In perhaps the most significant event of the period under review, the Security Council and the General Assembly met to approve the reappointment of U Thant as Secretary-General. On December 2, the President, Abdul Rahman Pazhwak of Afghanistan declared the twenty-first session closed. He noted that the Assembly was concluding in a very different (and more hopeful) atmosphere from that prevailing before the session began in September and suggested that progress and not perfection should be the yardstick to assess its accomplishments. On the whole, he felt the mood of the session had been a positive one and that members were now more conscious of the fact that one of the main functions of the United Nations was to extract unity out of division.

### **Secretary-General Reappointed**

On December 2, 1966 the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Security Council, voted unanimously to appoint U Thant as Secretary-General of the United Nations for a further term of office, ending on December 31, 1971.

U Thant was first appointed Acting Secretary-General to complete the term of Dag Hammarskjöld from November 3, 1961, to April 10, 1963. In November 1962, the members of the Security Council asked him to accept a further term of five years, to expire on April 1, 1968. The Secretary-General, however, expressed a preference to serve a term of five years beginning from November 3, 1961, the date of his original appointment as Acting Secretary-General.

Under Article 97 of the Charter, the Secretary-General is appointed by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council, but the Charter does not fix a definite term of office. U Thant wished to reinforce a practice already established that the normal term of the Secretary-General should be five years.

On September 1 of this year, U Thant indicated his unwillingness to serve for another term. He explained that the motives behind his decision were both personal and a concern about the state of international relations. In this latter connection, he mentioned his anxiety over developments in Southeast Asia, the problem of the lack of universality in the United Nations, the problem of finances, created by the dispute over United Nations peace-keeping operations and the