

the drafting of the actual articles. This was done at the twenty-first session this year, when the Third Committee devoted more than two months to the task. After defining the measures of implementation, the Committee also provided the final clauses for the two Covenants, and, as thus completed, both were unanimously adopted by the General Assembly.

In this last and crucial period of consideration of the Covenants by the General Assembly, the first question to be decided was whether the two draft Covenants should be considered as one single instrument and, therefore, be provided with one set of implementation and final clauses applicable to both. Canada joined Western delegations in arguing that the rights contained in the draft Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights were capable only of progressive implementation, whereas those in the proposed Covenant on Civil and Political Rights could be enacted immediately. The nature of the two Covenants thus necessitated, in this view, the establishment of separate machinery for each category of rights. This view prevailed over that held by the East Europeans that one type of rights could not really be divided from the other and that, in reality, they were interdependent. Canada felt that acceptance of this East European assertion would result in a weaker implementation system for the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights than that which was actually achieved.

As approved by the General Assembly, the system of implementation for the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights provides a procedure whereby states parties are required to submit in stages, in accordance with a programme to be established by ECOSOC, reports on the measures adopted and progress made by them in achieving observance of the rights described in the Covenant. In addition, ECOSOC may consider and comment on the reports, and may make recommendations on the advisability of international measures likely to contribute to the effective implementation of the Covenant.

The Covenant on Civil and Political Rights also provides for a reporting procedure similar to the one in the Economic, Social and Cultural Covenant. However, in contrast, the reports to be submitted under this procedure are to be considered not by ECOSOC but by a Human Rights Committee consisting of 18 members to be elected by states parties. This Committee may comment on these reports, and copies of such comments may be transmitted to ECOSOC. In addition, significantly, the Committee may also attempt to conciliate disputes arising among states parties, provided the latter make an appropriate declaration accepting its competence. To give depth to this potential role in conciliation, the Committee may, in certain circumstances, establish *ad hoc* conciliation commissions, with a view to examining all