

I

GENERAL SURVEY

In 1966 the United Nations continued its work in the shadows cast by expanding conflict in Vietnam and amidst growing frustrations over the situation in Southern Africa. The pace of economic development in much of the world continued to falter despite the special importance attached to the goals of the Development Decade. Nevertheless, there was substantial progress in key fields. The twenty-first session of the General Assembly gave unanimous approval to a treaty barring all non-peaceful activities in outer space and prohibiting the use of the moon and other celestial bodies for military purposes. The twenty-first session also adopted a resolution unanimously appealing for progress towards agreement on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and the year finished with the prospects for agreement on a non-proliferation treaty improved. Action was taken to terminate the mandate of South Africa over South West Africa. The session was able to conclude two Covenants on Human Rights which place in treaty form the principles of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights adopted in 1948.

Despite intensive efforts to make progress on methods for improving preparations for the peacekeeping activities of the United Nations, member states remained deadlocked on the constitutional and financial questions involved. In the economic field, the developing countries pressed for more aid on better terms and, after many years of effort, succeeded in recommending the establishment of a United Nations Capital Development Fund despite strong opposition from donor countries. Although more new members joined the United Nations and one, Indonesia, returned to it, thus expanding the membership to 122, new efforts to find a solution to the problem of China's representation failed.

This mixed record of achievement and disappointment has become a basic characteristic of each of the years of the short existence of the United Nations. Yet, by and large, the dynamism and capacity for growth of the organization remains unimpaired. Governments may, and do, use the United Nations as an instrument to search for accommodations that will contribute to peace and security and to "harmonize their actions", despite frequent