

International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

The Assembly will consider the legal, technical and safety aspects of the use of nuclear power sources in space. It will also take up a draft treaty governing the exploration and use of the moon and other celestial bodies. Canada has taken a leading role in initiating the discussions on nuclear power sources in space following the Cosmos 954 incident.

North-South Relations

A number of positive accomplishments at the UN Conference on Trade and Development last spring have become overshadowed by a sense of disappointment among developing countries, due to dissension within their own group (particularly on energy) and to the limited ability of industrialized nations to be forthcoming under difficult economic circumstances. There is a distinct possibility of return to a more confrontational atmosphere, after several years of case-by-case co-operation.

The Assembly is expected to consider a draft international development strategy for the coming decade as well as progress to date in implementing the new international economic order, promoting co-operation among developing countries and mobilizing women for development. There may also be discussion concerning the creation of a new forum to discuss world economic issues, as proposed by the Non-Aligned Summit.

The Secretary-General will report on the Conference on Science and Technology for Development, which has just ended in Vienna.

Human Rights and Refugees

The Assembly will consider human rights issues and the question of racism (which is contentious because of the continuing efforts to link Zionism with racism, efforts which Canada has consistently opposed). For the most part, Canada has concentrated on the development of mechanisms which would discourage human rights violations. The question of human rights in Kampuchea (Cambodia) has also been put on the agenda.

The Secretary-General will report on the Geneva Conference on Indochinese refugees held last summer.