

However, I do not believe the situation will move too far in this direction. Both the majority and the minority acknowledge that each has some justice on its side. For many years the West was able to control the General Assembly in its own interests. We cannot complain in principle that a new majority does the same thing today. Canada agrees with those members of the minority however who object to practices which verge on the abuse of the rules. Nor do we see any solution in the adoption of resolutions which depend for their implementation on the cooperation of all, if the wishes of the minority are ignored. We spoke against such resolutions when we thought they were unworkable or improper but we did not challenge the objective of the developing countries to bring about substantial change in the world economic order.

What we must do is find new ways of making the United Nations a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations without subverting the principles of the organization itself on the one hand or of obstructing its capacity to facilitate change in the practices of international cooperation on the other.

Law of the Sea

The next round of negotiations in the Law of the Sea Conference begins in Geneva on March 17 and runs to May 10.

I would like to set out briefly how we see the present situation, and what the prospects appear to be.

The Conference has more than 100 major items and sub-items on its agenda. All are interrelated and the balance of interests within the 138 participating states is such that final resolution of one particular issue must await progress on all other issues. This is the "package approach". No nation is prepared to make concessions or to accept compromise formulae until it is satisfied that the over-all resolution strikes an acceptable balance between its diverse interests.