

United Nations

The United Nations, involved in activities across the broad spectrum of human endeavour, has become a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations directed toward the maintaining of international peace and security, the solving of international economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems, and the promoting of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Canada, an original member of the world body, has chosen to contribute to international co-operation in selective but extensive fields of endeavour that touch almost every aspect of the United Nations presence in the world today.

In 1973 the United Nations continued its varied work amidst attempts at super-power *détente*, ferment and war in the Middle East and the growing social and economic problems of famine, the environment and the energy crisis. The world's oil situation was reflected in the increased importance of the Arab states at the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly, a session that played a substantial role in global questions such as the environment, population, natural resources, development-planning and the extension of international law.

An important step toward universality was taken in the admission of the Federal Republic of Germany, the German Democratic Republic and the Bahamas to the United Nations. Canada warmly welcomed this development in the firm belief that the United Nations thus continued to become more fully representative of the world's nations, giving greater promise to the aspirations of the United

Nations Charter and to what the late Lester B. Pearson called "our best hope for world peace".

No attempt to chronicle the achievements of the UN organization or Canada's efforts in support of those achievements in the context of the *Annual Review* can be comprehensive. The focus in this section, therefore, is upon those areas of major concern to

Canada. A number of UN matters are, however, dealt with in other sections throughout the *Review*: Law of the Sea questions, UNESCO and UNCTAD, for example, are discussed under their own headings. A fuller appreciation of Canada's involvement in the UN in 1973 will be provided by other chapters, particularly those concerning Canada's multi-lateral activities.

Secretary of State for External Affairs Mitchell Sharp and UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim at UN Headquarters in New York in September. (UN Photo/Chen)

