

which brought together for the first time all the interested parties to set a date for the settlement. Unfortunately, the widespread hopes for the Geneva meeting were dashed by South Africa's unwillingness to proceed immediately to implement the UN plan. The new American Administration of President Reagan undertook a comprehensive review of American policy towards Africa, with particular emphasis on Namibia. The African response to South African intransigence led to the submission of five draft resolutions in the Security Council calling for sanctions against South Africa. Four of the five were vetoed in April by France, the United Kingdom and the United States, while the fifth, in light of the outcome of the previous four votes, was not put to a vote. In September at the eighth Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly, convened at African request to consider the Namibian situation, several strong resolutions were adopted. For its part, the Contact Group abstained on all to avoid compromising its own efforts. By the end of September, the foreign ministers of the Contact Group were able to announce a reactivation of the Western initiative on the basis of a phased approach which they hoped would lead to a settlement in 1982. In the closing months of the year, progress was achieved on the first phase - the development of a set of constitutional principles for an independent Namibia. At the same time, however, it became increasingly apparent that South Africa's willingness to proceed was complicated by its concerns about the Cuban presence in Angola.

Rising international frustration with Africa's continued policies of apartheid is evident in the steadily increasing number of General Assembly resolutions on apartheid and racism. The Assembly, for example, proclaimed 1982 as the International Year of Mobilization for Sanctions against South Africa. Canada found itself obliged to vote against approximately half of the many resolutions adopted on apartheid and racism not because its consistently strong opposition to apartheid had in any way been diminished but because, as in the past, it was not prepared to vote for resolutions which: condemned NATO countries by name; which endorsed armed struggle explicitly; which linked Israel with South Africa (or Zionism with racism); and which urged termination of all economic and other relations with South Africa.

Middle East

The General Assembly adopted 40 resolutions that either dealt with or touched on Middle East issues, which was a marked increase over Middle East resolutions of the previous year. It can be explained both by the injection of Middle East issues into UN areas that previously were considered extraneous to the Middle East debate, e.g. the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and by the introduction of new resolutions under such traditional Middle East items as the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA).

Canada maintained its traditional approach of dealing with these Middle East issues on their merits, taking into account recent developments in the region. Canada took the same positions as it did in 1980 during the