

world's inhabitants so all might enjoy their inherent right to social justice in peace and dignity.

There were a number of questions of major significance that claimed the attention of the twenty-sixth United Nations General Assembly, which with a host of other matters, made an agenda of more than 100 items. On October 25, the General Assembly decided to restore all its rights and to recognize the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China as the only legitimate representatives of China at the United Nations. Accordingly, these representatives replaced those from Taiwan, who had previously represented China. The decision to seat the People's Republic of China at this time was made after procedural voting that eliminated the "important question" aspect. In the debate, Canada spoke in favour of a change in Chinese representation and supported the resolution providing for this. The vote was 76 in favour to 35 against, with 17 abstentions. Representatives of the People's Republic of China took their places on the Security Council, in the General Assembly, and on several UN committees during November. The question of Chinese membership in various UN Specialized Agencies at once became a matter for consideration. Owing to differences among the constitutions of the Agencies, Chinese participation had to be approached and handled in a variety of ways. By the end of 1971, decisions to recognize the PRC as the representative of China or withdraw the status given Taiwan had been taken by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

After more than ten years in office, the Secretary-General, U Thant, retired following the end of the twenty-sixth session and was succeeded by Dr. Kurt Waldheim of Austria. The recommendation of Dr. Waldheim by the Security Council was approved unanimously by the General Assembly on December 22, 1971. In a special message to U Thant, Prime Minister Trudeau expressed the gratitude of the Government and people of Canada for his years of personal sacrifice and service to humanity. The Prime Minister also extended congratulations to Dr. Waldheim, pledging Canadian co-operation to help the new Secretary-General meet the challenges of his office.

By Resolution 2847, the General Assembly adopted a proposal that, by amending Article 61 of the United Nations Charter, raised the membership of the Economic and Social Council from 27 to 54. This change in composition is subject to ratification by two-thirds of the UN membership, including the five permanent members of the Security Council. The resolution reflected a widely-held view, particularly in developed countries, that ECOSOC needed revitalizing to make its role as a principal organ of the United Nations more meaningful in meeting the economic and social challenges of the modern world.

Another important matter to which the twenty-sixth session gave particular attention was the deterioration in relations, and ultimately war, between India and Pakistan. Despite the offer of the good offices of the Secretary-General and the co-ordination of much of the international relief effort assembled to help the millions of people who entered India from East Pakistan during 1971, the United Nations was unable to take any effective action to prevent the outbreak of hostilities. In the face of inability by the Security Council to act, owing to differences among the permanent members, the General