

in particular to improve the capacity of the United Nations to discharge its Charter responsibilities. According to Article I of the Charter of the United Nations, the aims of the Organization are fourfold: to maintain international peace and security; to develop friendly relations among nations; to achieve international cooperation; and, to this end, to make the United Nations a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations. In a sense, the United Nations' objectives are a composite of the national interests of member states. Each power has its own views, its own interests, its own client governments to defend, its own face to save. The United Nations' role is to promote and produce accommodations between such diverging points of view through patient negotiation and diplomacy.

The United Nations Affairs program must operate within this context. Its broad objectives are thus:

- to further Canada's objectives at the United Nations;
- to aid in the formulation of government policies to this end, both in terms of what the policy itself should be and when and how to present it;
- to assess political implications of developments at the U.N.;
- to coordinate and to liaise with other government departments and other governments in order to maximize the opportunities offered through the U.N. for advancing a broad range of national goals and to make effective use of these opportunities;
- to articulate Canada's position on a particular issue so as best to reflect the country's interest in the matter; and
- to protect Canada's interests as a sovereign state and in its relations with foreign countries.

2.5 Activities and Outputs

With a view to formulating, refining, and coordinating Canadian policy, or identifying new areas of concern for Canada, either in compliance with government initiative or in response to the needs as perceived by the U.N. Affairs staff, and with a view to presenting the policy position at the most opportune time and in the most opportune manner to the U.N. and the Canadian public, the activities of the United Nations Affairs program include: