

most attentive consideration by member states, United Nations organs and related bodies, and called on the Specialized Agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency to take appropriate measures for their earliest possible implementation.

In a related area, the United Nations also took concrete steps to bring the problem of the proliferation of meetings, conferences and documentation within manageable proportions. Canada and New Zealand were co-authors of a resolution adopted unanimously which established on an experimental basis a Committee on Conferences, to consist of 15 member states. The main task of the new Committee will be to draw up an annual schedule of conferences and meetings which will be compatible with the resources at the disposal of the Secretary-General for the servicing of meetings and conferences.

As the United Nations system of organizations has grown since the war, and as the membership of these organizations has radically changed in the last decade, the organizations themselves have evolved from being clearing-houses for the exchange of information and focal points for the setting of international standards in various fields into purveyors of a wide variety of services to countries which are in the process of economic and social development. Although they remain bodies concerned with the setting of international standards, a far more significant role in the present age is the international organization and distribution of technical, commodity and financial assistance to developing countries. There now is widespread agreement among members, including Canada, that these activities are essential and, by and large, effective.¹

The United Nations, then, survived in 1966 another stormy year without compromising or injuring its basic purposes and principles. Every year it is necessary for each member state to re-examine the basic question of the value of the United Nations, and every year the answer of the overwhelming majority is in the affirmative. It is hard to see how it can ever be otherwise in a world where, increasingly, men must co-operate to live.

¹ See Page 77.