

southern Africa remain unresolved and these, together with related colonial questions, continued to be a major preoccupation of the United Nations in 1968.

The developing countries, particularly the African members, have sought to have the United Nations take punitive action against South Africa because of its apartheid policies and its maintenance of control over South West Africa in the face of the General Assembly's termination of its mandate over the territory in 1966. These efforts led, at the twenty-third session, to an attempt by developing countries to have South Africa suspended from membership in UNCTAD. This controversial and divisive attempt, which was resisted by Western delegations because of the important legal and constitutional issues raised, failed to obtain a two-thirds majority in the General Assembly, where it was considered as an "important question" under Article 18 of the Charter.

At the twenty-third session, the General Assembly adopted a number of resolutions on apartheid and colonial issues. Canada supported resolutions containing practical proposals designed to combat racial discrimination and further the aims of self-determination for dependent peoples. In particular, Canada voted for a resolution calling on Portugal to grant self-determination to its African colonies and for a resolution re-affirming that independence should not be granted to Rhodesia before majority rule (NIBMAR). A Canadian contribution of \$25,000 to the United Nations Consolidated Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africans was announced during the session.

Outer Space

Canada participated actively in the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held in Vienna from August 13 to 27, 1968. Seven Canadian papers were given at the Conference, and Dr. E.S. Rettie of the National Research Council chaired one of the eight thematic sessions -- that dealing with international co-operation and opportunities for participation in outer space activities.

In 1968, Canada and Sweden co-operated in suggesting to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that a working group be established to study direct broadcasting from satellites, a proposal unanimously accepted by the Committee and subsequently approved by the twenty-third session of the General Assembly. The working group's mandate is to study and report on the technical feasibility of direct broadcasting from satellites as well as the political, legal, economic and cultural implications of the development and use of such satellites. In this regard, Canada and Sweden plan to submit a joint paper to the first meeting of the working group in February 1969, which will consider the technical feasibility and comparative user costs of direct broadcasting from satellites.

The Outer Space Committee has two sub-committees. The Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee did not meet this year in view of the Vienna Conference. Details of the Legal Sub-Committee's 1968 session will be found in the outer space section under Legal Division.