

Nonetheless, in 1972 the Committee succeeded in endorsing a new bureau of officers, including a vice-chairman from Canada, and in enlarging its Working Group of which Canada is a member. With the establishment of this new procedural framework, there is the hope that the Committee can make progress on the substantive issues. Canada introduced a resolution extending the Committee's mandate for another year, which was accepted unanimously. A Canadian memorandum on the command and control of peacekeeping operations provides the Committee with some practical suggestions which, it is hoped, will contribute to a solution of these problems.

Africa

During 1972, Canada's position on Southern Africa questions reflected its concern with the question of human rights, a major political issue before the United Nations. At this twenty-seventh session, the General Assembly adopted a series of resolutions dealing with the territories under Portuguese administration, the status of Rhodesia under the Smith regime, the policies of *apartheid* of the Government of South Africa and the future of Namibia. Canada supported the resolution reaffirming the right of the peoples of territories under Portuguese administration to self-determination and independence. It was emphasized that we had voted for the resolution primarily because of the initiative calling for negotiations between the Portuguese Government and the people of the respective territories—a course which conformed with Canada's view that the dispute should be settled by peaceful means through negotiation between the parties.

On Rhodesia (Zimbabwe), the General Assembly adopted two resolutions calling on Britain and other members to take all effective measures to put an end to the Smith regime and to bring about conditions necessary to enable the people of Zimbabwe to exercise their right to self-determination and independence. Although Canada supported their general objectives, it abstained on both resolutions because of its concern that neither would help to create conditions necessary for a solution to the problem.

Canada supported all but two of the General Assembly's numerous resolutions assailing South Africa's *apartheid* policies. While condemning the racially discriminatory policies of South Africa, Canada stated its opposition to violent solutions to this problem, as well as to interference with bilateral trade in peaceful goods and to undermining the principle of universality of United Nations membership by excluding South Africa from the Specialized Agencies. Canada also abstained on a resolution by the General Assembly which called upon the Government of South Africa to withdraw immediately from Namibia (South West Africa), although Canada recognizes the right of the people of the territory to self-determination and independence and supports the efforts of the Secretary-General to achieve a negotiated solution.

Middle East

In the discussion of Middle Eastern items, Canada maintained its balanced and objective approach to issues arising from the Arab-Israeli conflict. Canadian representatives expressed the view that the full implementation of Security Council Resolution 242, adopted in 1967, offered the best means of achieving peace in that region. However, the Canadian delegation abstained in the vote on the General Assembly Resolution dealing with the Middle Eastern situation, on the grounds that certain references in the resolution could have been interpreted as derogating from the balance and integrity of Resolution 242; it also voted against a resolution stemming from the report of the special committee to investigate Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the population of the occupied territories. The Canadian Government expressed the belief that the Special Committee had been given an unsatisfactory mandate and that there was little purpose in going on with it. Moreover, the Committee had been denied access to the occupied areas, a fact which precluded the production of a report which could be considered evidential.

In the absence of a solution to the Palestinian refugee problem, which Canada believes must be part of any general political settlement, Canada extended substantial financial support to the United Nations