

be found, but these expectations were not realized. Nevertheless, the emphasis in the General Assembly resolution on the need to resume intercommunal talks, especially the provision calling on the parties concerned to co-operate with UNFICYP, enabled Canada to support this resolution (See also "Defence relations".)

Peace-keeping

The mandates of the main UN peacekeeping forces in which Canada is a major participant were extended by the Security Council during 1977: the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF), which is stationed in the Sinai, for a full year until October 24, 1978; the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, (UNDOF) for six months, until May 31, 1978; and the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), also for a six-month period, until June 15, 1978.

Though the UN has successfully operated peacekeeping forces in the field, there has been considerable disagreement over peacekeeping policy. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, of which Canada is a member, remained unable to produce guidelines for future peacekeeping operations because of differences among its members concerning the principles governing the establishment and day-to-day control of such operations. The Special Committee discussed the question of "practical measures" - improvements that would help ensure better preparation of operations and greater efficiency for peacekeeping forces in the field. The mandate of this committee was renewed at the thirty-second session for another two years. The committee was also requested to devote attention to practical measures. (See also "Defence relations".)

Disarmament

The UN's role in the search for a solution to the complex problems of disarmament continued at the thirty-second session; however, disappointment over the lack of progress was reflected in the 100 statements of national position and the adoption of 24 resolutions. Despite the lack of any dramatic breakthrough, the atmosphere was conducive

to progress, and a greater spirit of compromise was displayed by members states. Attention was focused on the special session on disarmament, to be held in May and June 1978, which, it was hoped, would give new impetus to international efforts to halt and reverse the arms race. In his statement of October 27 to the General Assembly's First Committee, the Canadian representative said that, although achievements had been disappointing up to that time, there were grounds for optimism in at least three crucial areas where current efforts had resulted in opportunities for major progress - the Strategic Arms-Limitation Talks between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R., international efforts to strengthen the non-proliferation system, and negotiations for a comprehensive test-ban. He added that these developments provided no grounds for complacency, adding that, on the contrary, efforts to enhance international security required a greater sense of urgency because the success of this enterprise depended on the intensity of the effort — particularly by all states of military significance — in the next few years. (See also "Arms control and disarmament".)

Economic and social questions

The sixty-second and sixty-third sessions of the Economic and Social Council dealt with a variety of items of concern to Canada, which completed a three-year term on the Council in December.

The traditional social-affairs orientation of the spring (sixty-second) session was maintained, though the work of several scientific and technical bodies was also reviewed, including those dealing with population questions, cartography, the transport of dangerous goods, statistics and international drug control.

The two most important debates on human rights centred on the UN Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and UN activities for the advancement of women. On the former theme, the Council adopted a resolution establishing the necessary agenda and machinery for the 1978 World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination; its adoption without a formal vote constituted progress towards the original international consensus on the goals of the UN Decade. The initial consensus had been disrupted for a time by UN General Assembly Resolution