

In its discussions, the Third Committee bore in mind the important co-ordinating role which the International Committee of the Red Cross is playing in convening working groups of experts to propose suggestions for the further development of international humanitarian law. The Committee accordingly reaffirmed its support for the ICRC's work in this field and urged the Secretary-General and the ICRC to continue their present co-operation. It also adopted a resolution which recognized the need for a convention for the protection of journalists engaged in dangerous missions in areas of armed conflict, and invited the Commission on Human Rights to examine as a matter of priority the various texts which had been proposed as possible draft conventions.

For the fifth consecutive year, the Third Committee was unable for lack of time to discuss substantively the question of the creation of the post of High Commissioner for Human Rights. After three meetings devoted to the subject, its further consideration was deferred until the twenty-eighth General Assembly in 1973. Long a proponent of such an office, Canada sought with a number of like-minded countries to obtain the consensus of a large majority of the UN membership for the creation of the post. The views expressed within and without the General Assembly on the matter suggest that there is still some distance to go before the idea receives general acceptance.

Institutional Development of the United Nations

Canada is taking an active interest in the institutional development of the expanding UN family of organizations, which includes, among other bodies, 14 agencies and the United Nations Development Program. During 1971, Canada has carried out consultations with other major financial contributors with the objective of ensuring the effective use of resources, streamlining administrative and budgetary procedures and practices, and co-ordinating programs throughout this system of multinational organizations.

In the United Nations proper, Canada's major initiative, launched in 1969, to rationalize the procedures and organization of the General Assembly was brought to a successful conclusion. The General Assembly adopted without a vote a resolution implementing recommendations in a comprehensive report of an intersessional committee set up in 1970 to deal with the matter. Canada was an active member of this committee. The recommendations include a number of improvements in the rules of procedure and detailed conclusions on all aspects of the functioning of the General Assembly designed to make it more efficient.

A Canadian financial expert has been appointed by the General Assembly to serve on its Committee on Contributions for a three-year term, starting January 1, 1972. This Committee, among other matters, recommends the scale of assessment for apportioning expenses of the UN among member states.

On the proposal of the President of the twenty-seventh session, Canada has been appointed to a new special intersessional committee of 15 member states on the financial situation in the UN. Its purpose is to study all the facts as well as existing and new suggestions to overcome the financial difficulties of the UN. The Committee will also consider working out concrete proposals fully to restore the UN to solvency.