

UN's main purpose is to further the process of rectification of the system of political, economic and social subjugation to which they have been held in bondage because of the self-centred policies of the developed nations. Faced by the unwillingness of developed countries to increase the admittedly inadequate level of development assistance, they have had no compunction in using their voting power to push through substantial increases in the assessed budgets of UN agencies to finance activities intended to help them. It has seemed right and proper to them that their nations should be represented at all levels of the international secretariats and that the requirement to achieve equitable geographical distribution in the employment of staff, until such time as a reasonable balance is achieved, should in fact be the paramount consideration.

So far as the developing countries are concerned, their successes at the UN and in the Councils of the Specialized Agencies are heavily outweighed by their failures. Their main goals are still beyond their reach. Above all, they have not been able to obtain significant increases in development assistance or improvement in the terms of trade. The developed countries, and in particular the permanent members of the Security Council, still hold the real reins of power. This catalogue of frustration presents, on the one hand, what is perhaps the greatest threat to the UN as an institution, as well as offering at the same time an opportunity for reform. There is an opportunity for those developed countries which have demonstrated their willingness to go some way to meet the aspirations of the developing nations to point out that militancy has not produced many dividends and that, at least in some areas, other and more constructive alternatives would be worth trying. This thesis forms the basis of the political and economic recommendations advanced elsewhere in this study, but it is also applicable to the question of how effectively the UN functions as a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations.

It should be recognized, however, that, at least in the short run, any actual accomplishments will probably be few and limited. They will depend on Canada's success and that of like-minded governments in maintaining the confidence of the developing countries that Canada and others are sincere in their efforts through their support for political initiatives intended to eliminate at least some of the causes of the present dissatisfaction of the developing countries.

The first objective should be to seek public understanding and support for the goals we are pursuing in the United Nations, as well as the broadest possible participation in carrying them out. Canada must also improve its record with respect to continuity of representation in UN bodies. To be an