

the difficult issues of international law that defied solution in 1974. Canada's demonstrated support for objectives of the UN's present efforts to deal with world economic disparity, as well as its continuing experience in the regulation of foreign investment, should enable it to contribute to the development of new international law to meet the demands of the world community for greater social justice.

Other areas of international law are already ripe for further development. For the future, it will be increasingly important to be selective in seeking out opportunities to build on past achievement, to choose subjects for development or clarification where there is likely to be common ground for all the major interest groups at the UN. A selective approach would, of course, recognize the importance

of the UN forum for dealing with problems of a global character, as well as alternative means of international co-operation between regional or like-minded states. The increasing attention given to political and doctrinal disputes within the UN and the frustration of hopes for the compulsory adjudicatory process should not be allowed to obscure the widespread recognition among states of the importance of the lawmaking process and the expanding prospects for its further development. Creation of international law, whether customary or conventional, is of necessity complex and laborious, and at times painfully slow, but the United Nations has, where common interests are identified, proved remarkably adept at developing and codifying in a progressive way most of the known legal standards of our day.

Importance of lawmaking has been widely recognized

United Nations

Measuring UNESCO's progress in wake of Nairobi meeting

Napoleon LeBlanc

November 4, 1976, the nineteenth session of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization suspended its proceedings in order to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the founding of the Organization. This anniversary, it was felt, should be marked by dignified yet colourful ceremony. The great hall of Kenyatta Centre was the setting for speeches in which the activities of the Organization were examined retrospectively and prospectively for the benefit of members of the delegations of the 140 member states and staff of the Secretariat. This solemn session was followed by a dazzling spectacle that brought to the forefront the richness of African culture and revealed the soul of the Kenyan people. The occasion was a moving testimony to the reality inherent in the dream of UNESCO's founders.

The forerunner of UNESCO was the International Institute of Intellectual Cooperation of the League of Nations. The Institute consisted of intellectuals and scientists who believed that the prerequi-

site for lasting peace was continuous intellectual co-operation. It may seem paradoxical that the founding of UNESCO, the heir to the ideas of the Institute, was the result of a political act on the part of some 44 states that met in London in 1945. These states entrusted to the new agency the task of promoting, on an international scale, the formation of functional relations between the member states. The purpose was to promote intellectual co-operation in education, science and culture in order to guarantee the free exercise of human rights and to contribute towards laying the groundwork for a just and lasting peace.

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