

themselves," he said. "What is now required is the elaboration of an international agreement or agreements by which the nuclear states would undertake not to relinquish control of nuclear weapons or to transmit the information necessary for their manufacture to states not possessing such weapons, while the non-nuclear states, for their part, would pledge themselves not to manufacture or otherwise acquire control of nuclear weapons. In the Canadian view, an agreement on these lines would have a significant contribution to make to the enlargement of world peace and security."

Economic and Social Developments

Before 1960, the United Nations was primarily a forum for debate rather than an agent for change, as far as economic matters were concerned. Its activity in this respect was restricted to an objective analysis of world trends and to the establishment of multilateral aid programmes, which, while significant, were small compared to the burgeoning bilateral programmes. However, the great influx of new African states in 1960, all preoccupied by the need to reinforce political independence by rapid economic development, transformed not only the Organization's approach to economic questions but the very nature of the subjects discussed. What the new African states and the other developing countries sought was not just an analysis of trends but action, not just increased financial aid but a recognition of the role of trade in development and the necessity for appropriate international policies to support their own domestic efforts. Unquestionably, the most important manifestation of the new emphasis on action was the convening in Geneva, from March 23 to June 16, 1964, of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), which, with representatives of 120 countries in attendance, was the largest economic conference in history. The Conference adopted some 60 recommendations on a wide variety of subjects including conciliation procedures, the types and scope of commodity arrangements, the granting by the developed countries to the developing of maximum reductions in duties in manufactured and semi-manufactured products, and the general criteria to be followed by industrialized countries in providing financial co-operation through bilateral and multilateral programmes of assistance. But, more important, the Conference drew up recommendations which led to the establishment by the General Assembly in December of the Conference as an organ of the General Assembly and of a 55-member Trade and Development Board to serve as its executive body.¹ Another significant development in Geneva was the emergence of a cohesive group of 77 developing

¹ See Page 24