

session. The resolution providing for the establishment of a committee to report to the twenty-third session of the General Assembly on this whole subject was significant in that it marked the beginning of a United Nations concern with a new and complex area of interest and possible benefit to all mankind.

The twenty-second session was also notable as the first presided over by a President from a Communist country. Foreign Minister Cornelius Manescu of Romania carried out his tasks with efficiency and impartiality.

NOTE: The items in this review are grouped according to the committees which dealt with them. These items are necessarily brief and are intended only to report the highlights of the Assembly's deliberations and of Canada's part in them. They do not include all subjects on the agenda of the session. Where the substantial debate on an item occurred in Committee, it has not been dealt with expansively in the section on the plenary session. Disarmament (First Committee) and Legal (Sixth Committee) questions are the subjects of separate articles in this issue.

Plenary

The plenary session's activities covered a wide range of subjects from outer space to the ocean-floor, and a number of important decisions were taken despite the fact that the Assembly's activities were somewhat overshadowed by developments in the Security Council. An agreement on the rescue and return of astronauts and of objects launched into outer space was approved by the Assembly, and an important first step was taken toward a study of a new and complex area of interest and possible benefit to all mankind — the reservation and exploration exclusively for peaceful purposes of the ocean-floor and the sea-bed.

The elections which take place early in the plenary session's discussions are perennially among the most interesting items on the General Assembly agenda, reflecting, perhaps more directly than any single item, the degree to which the members might be expected to work together or fail to do so for the duration of the session. On the opening day, the first representative from an East European country to become President of the General Assembly, Mr. Cornelius Manescu, was elected almost unanimously, receiving 112 of the 113 votes cast. The committee chairmen and the 17 vice-presidents were elected on a broad geographical basis. Five new non-permanent members (Algeria, Hungary, Pakistan, Paraguay and Senegal) were elected to the Security Council for a two-year term beginning January 1, 1968, to replace the retiring members whose terms ended on December 31, 1967 (Canada will continue to serve until the end of 1968). Nine countries were elected unopposed to the Economic and Social Council to replace nine members (including Canada) that retired on December 31, 1967. Fifteen members were elected or re-elected to the 44-member Industrial Development Board (on which Canada serves) for a period of three years. In a single ballot on October 30, the General Assembly elected the 29 members who will constitute the United Nations Commission on Inter-