

into operation. The differences of opinion which characterized the debate on UNCDF could, if allowed to spread, paralyze the essential co-operation which is required if the United Nations is to be effective in the development field. It is to be hoped, therefore, that both the developed and the developing countries will consider further what is the best role for the UN in this vital field.

To most members it has long been clear that the struggle for economic development must be accompanied by efforts to define and protect the basic economic, social, political and cultural rights of all people. It was cause for great satisfaction therefore, in 1966, when the twenty-first session of the General Assembly adopted three international instruments known collectively as the International Covenants on Human Rights.<sup>1</sup> Covering the whole spectrum of human rights debates in United Nations forums over the past twenty-one years, the Covenants on Human Rights incorporate, in the form of treaties providing for binding obligations and meaningful implementation measures, the principles which had been set out in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights of 1948. Most important of all, these Covenants provide for a reporting procedure and a procedure for conciliation between states, as well as making it possible for complaints to be made by individuals against states which are parties to certain of the treaties, which should do much to contribute to the protection of human rights throughout the world.<sup>1</sup> Canada had hoped that these important instruments would have even stronger implementation systems than those which were eventually incorporated in them, but concluded that the Covenants, as adopted by the General Assembly, did represent a desirable minimum in this regard. The Covenants on Human Rights, which will come into force after 35 states have signed and ratified them, were open for signature and ratification by member states at the end of 1966.

Progress was also made during the year in improving the relations between the United Nations and its system of organizations and in harmonizing the administrative and budgetary procedures used throughout the United Nations system. The twenty-first session of the General Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution approving recommendations contained in the second report of the Ad Hoc Committee of Financial Experts established by the twentieth session in 1965, of which Canada was a member. The report recommended detailed means of improving the administrative and budgetary practices of all United Nations bodies, and also suggested measures for improving the co-ordination of the work of the United Nations and all its agencies. The resolution adopted urged that these recommendations be given

---

<sup>1</sup> See Page 29.