

individuals who seek legal redress. Governments were further asked to co-operate, to the extent appropriate, in making competent legal assistance available to aggrieved individuals and, finally, the United Nations would seek to provide the necessary resources, within the limits of the human rights advisory service programme, to facilitate expert and other technical assistance to the member states seeking to extend the availability of competent legal aid.

During the twenty-third regular session of the United Nations General Assembly, the Assembly adopted the text of a Convention on the Non-applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity. The Convention, which is now open for signature, ratification and accession, provides that there should be no statutory limitations applied to war crimes, regardless of their date of commission. It provides that war crimes shall be considered an extradictable offence and that states party to the Convention will take all necessary means to ensure that persons accused of the commission of such crimes shall be brought before an appropriate tribunal in accordance with international law. The General Assembly also made further progress in its consideration of the Draft Declaration on Social Progress and Development. Approval was given in the Third Committee to the text of the preamble and Part 1, embodying the principles of the Draft Declaration. The Assembly agreed to give high priority to further consideration of the Declaration at the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly in 1969.

On December 9 and 10, a special commemorative session of the General Assembly was held to honour those who had taken part in the original drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In connection with this celebration, a number of human rights prizes were awarded to those who had made particular contributions in this field during the past two decades.

Canada's role in the Economic and Social Council, the Statistical and Narcotic Drug Commission, the Housing, Building and Planning Commission and the Commission on Social Development continued to be one of active support. During the latter part of the year, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees visited Ottawa to discuss the problems of facilitating the permanent settlement of refugees. In addition to increasing its contribution to the refugee programmes, Canada also announced an increased contribution to the work of the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund and the United Nations Rehabilitation and Works Agency. As International Year for Human Rights drew to a close, Canada announced its intention of signing the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, the 1965 Protocol to the Convention and the 1957 Hague Agreement on Refugee Seamen.

Southern African Questions and Colonialism

The United Nations has seen its membership greatly expanded with the admission of states granted independence in the postwar period, when governments with colonial possessions gave effect to the principles of self-determination enunciated in the Charter. However, the hard-core and seemingly intractable problems of entrenched white minority rule in