

Underlying many other issues was the fundamental question of whether the United Nations would remain an effective organization for international action. The Congo crisis served to draw particular attention to the functions of the United Nations in the field of peace and security, the heavy strains which peacekeeping operations imposed and the importance to the future of the Organization of ensuring the success of the Congo operation. It also provided an opportunity for the Soviet Union, which thought that its interests in the Congo had been damaged by decisions of the Secretary-General, to elaborate its charges against him and the Secretariat as part of a campaign for reorganization along lines which threatened to destroy the effectiveness of the United Nations.

While the Soviet "troika" approach gained little support from other members, there was a general recognition that some adjustment in the composition of the Secretariat was required to meet the legitimate aspirations of the many new members from Asia and Africa. At the same time, the growing financial problems which the peacekeeping activities had created for the Organization required closer attention than in the past. During the first part of the fifteenth session the Assembly adopted *ad hoc* arrangements to meet the immediate financial crisis, but it was acknowledged that longer term solutions would have to be reached in the coming months, if the Organization was to continue to be able to discharge its peacekeeping responsibilities effectively.

Because Canada has always given strong support to the peacekeeping activities of the United Nations, it was particularly anxious to ensure that the United Nations' prestige and effectiveness in this area was maintained. At the same time, Canada did not neglect the economic and social programmes of the United Nations to which it makes substantial financial contributions. On Canadian initiatives the General Assembly adopted two resolutions, one calling for the creation of a "Food Bank" to mobilize surplus foodstuffs for distribution in areas of greatest need and the other to set up an "experts bank" to facilitate the prompt provision of technical assistance personnel for less developed countries. The Canadian Delegation argued against a resolution which decided in principle to establish a United Nations Capital Development Fund, since in Canada's view, the establishment of additional aid machinery at this time would have to compete for available resources with established programmes and especially would involve a wasteful duplication of effort with the newly created International Development Association.

The increase in membership in the United Nations at the fifteenth session raised a number of questions of a constitutional and organizational nature. An effort was made to reach agreement on the enlargement of the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in order to provide for a more equitable representation of members in these United Nations bodies. No progress was made in this direction, however, largely as a result of the Soviet Union's obstructive attitude.