

as new UN members, and the aggression against the Seychelles that ended with the hijacking of an aircraft to South Africa.

At the start of 1981 Ireland, Japan, Panama, Spain and Uganda joined the Security Council for two-year terms; at the end of the year Guyana, Jordan, Poland, Togo and Zaire were elected to two-year terms beginning in 1982.

### Peacekeeping

UN peacekeeping forces remain a significant contribution to stability and peace in particular areas. The Security Council is responsible for the authorization and supervision of such forces, while their practical operations and financing come under the authority of the Secretary-General and the General Assembly (see also Part A, Chapter 5). One of the most encouraging developments of 1981 was the settlement reached in the General Assembly that ended China's withholding of peacekeeping assessments, leaving the Soviet Union the sole major country still engaged in this regrettable practice. The Security Council renewed the mandate of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) until June 19, 1982, as well as the mandates of the two other main peacekeeping forces. Canada makes an important contribution to both of them. The mandate of the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) on the Golan Heights between Israel and Syria was extended until May 31, 1982 and that of the UN Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) was extended to June 15, 1982.

Canada's principal contributions towards peace on Cyprus include the continued participation by over 500 Canadian troops in the UN Force in Cyprus and strong support for the UN Secretary-General's efforts to bring about a successful conclusion to the intercommunal negotiations between Cypriots of Greek and Turkish origin. These talks continued under the good offices of the Secretary-General's representative in a positive atmosphere and some limited progress was achieved, including the establishment of a Committee on Missing Persons. The question of Cyprus was not debated by the General Assembly in 1981.

Canada remains an active member of the General Assembly's Special Committee on Peacekeeping, also known as the "Committee of 33", which met twice in 1981. Unfortunately, the Committee was unable to agree on guidelines for the establishment, financing and day-to-day control of UN peacekeeping operations and was once again urged by the General Assembly to continue to work towards the completion of agreed upon guidelines.

### Southern Africa

The five-year old initiative by the Western Contact Group (Canada, Britain, France, Federal Republic of Germany and the USA) to bring about a peaceful transition to independence in Namibia through UN-supervised elections, was steadfastly pursued during 1981 on the basis of Security Council Resolution 435 (1978). As a result of progress in discussions, a "pre-implementation" meeting was convened under UN auspices in Geneva in January,