

28. A relatively weak resolution was eventually proposed and adopted by vote. The resolution invited the tenth regular session of the Governing Council to recommend the establishment of the special commission to the UN General Assembly and recommended that the commission present its report within two years through the Governing Council to the General Assembly. Despite the adoption of the resolution, potential donors, i.e. Japan, will undoubtedly have second thoughts about the special commission in view of the strength of the opposition.

VI OTHER RESOLUTIONS

29. In addition to the Nairobi Declaration, the special session adopted five resolutions - three by vote. Resolution I, "The environment in 1982: retrospect and prospect", which occupied a major part of the substantive work of the session, was adopted by consensus. Resolution II, "The Special Commission on long-term environmental strategies" (described in Section V) was adopted by vote (46(Canada)/6/13), i.e. 46 in favour including Canada, six against and 13 abstentions.

30. Resolution III on "Arms and the environment", proposed by Mexico, and supported by the Group of 77 and Eastern Europe, was also adopted by vote (54/4/15(Canada)). The resolution appealed to governments to halt the arms race and thereby prevent a major threat to the environment and requested the UN Secretary General to bring the appeal to the attention of the second UN special session on disarmament. Canada and most Western countries (only Sweden voted in favour) abstained in the view that such a resolution was politically motivated and inappropriate to the context of the Special Session. Furthermore, the arms race is dealt with in other UN fora.

31. Resolution IV, "Environmental consequences of the Israeli project to build a canal linking the Mediterranean Sea to the Dead Sea", was adopted by vote (6/2/26(Canada)). The low voting figures illustrated the general lack of interest and support by all but the Arab proponents of the resolution, while the majority considered it to be politically motivated and irrelevant to the special session. The resolution requested the UN Secretary General to undertake a study and report to the Governing Council" on any adverse environmental implications resulting from the Israeli decision to change the nature and the environmental conditions of the occupied and Jordan territories ...". A number of delegations, including Canada, objected to the word "adverse" which tended to prejudge the outcome of the study.

32. Resolution V entitled "Resolutions and Recommendations of the Intergovernmental Regional Meeting on the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean", was adopted by consensus. It merely transmitted the results of the meeting which were uncontroversial to the tenth regular session of the Governing Council for consideration.