

C) **Canada's voting record**

In total, some 245 resolutions were adopted by the thirty-first regular session of the UNGA. Of these, 148 resolutions (60 per cent) were adopted by consensus or acclamation, and 97 resolutions (40 per cent) were adopted after recorded votes. (See Appendix B.) In the 97 recorded votes, Canada voted "yes" 56 times (57.3 per cent), "no" seven times (7.22 per cent) and abstained 34 times (35.05 per cent). Of the totality of 245 resolutions adopted, Canada was obliged to vote against only 2.85 per cent of the resolutions and abstained 13.88 per cent of the time.

Most of Canada's negative votes and abstentions have related to resolutions dealing with the Middle East or Southern Africa. In both cases the number of resolutions tends to increase every year. There were 19 resolutions on Southern Africa in 1976 compared to 11 the year before, and the tone of these resolutions was more militant. Canada voted in favour of 11 resolutions at UNGA XXXI, opposed two, and abstained on six, compared to 9-1-1 at UNGA XXX.

On issues relating to Israel and the Middle East, UNGA XXXI produced some 18 resolutions, compared to the 15 resolutions emanating from UNGA XXX. There were ten Canadian positive votes at UNGA XXXI, compared to five the previous year. The number of negative votes (three) remained the same, while there were five abstentions at UNGA XXXI, compared to seven at UNGA XXX. Of these, 12 resolutions were the same at the two sessions, and Canada's vote remained unchanged on ten. A change in the text of the resolution on population and refugees displaced since 1967 permitted Canada to change its negative vote to a positive one at the thirty-first session. Elimination of a reference recalling Resolution 3379 (XXX) in the resolution on the implementation of the program for a decade of action to combat racism permitted Canada to abstain rather than vote against that resolution. Five resolutions at UNGA XXX had no direct equivalent at the later session. Six resolutions at UNGA XXXI, including, inter alia, two Habitat-related texts, a resolution about the return of refugees to the Gaza Strip and a call for the resumption of the Geneva Conference, accounted for Canada's other five positive votes and single abstention on Middle East related questions.

At UNGA XXXI the First Committee adopted 21 resolutions on disarmament and arms-control issues, compared to 24 at UNGA XXX. The bulk of the resolutions remained virtually the same and Canada's voting record at UNGA XXXI was consistent with that of the previous session. There was a similar congruence in Canada's voting pattern in the Third Committee consideration of human rights questions at the two sessions.

Among the votes not previously explained there were two other negative votes cast by Canada at the 1976 session. The resolution on international terrorism in the Sixth Committee was unacceptable because it did not condemn acts of terrorism whatever their causes and seemed to be an attempt to justify certain kinds of terrorism.