

complete in all details. While the Canadian delegation could understand that the underlying reasons were the need to avoid translation costs, we were highly critical of the decision, which robbed many delegations of key information on which to base informed decisions.

The Canadian Delegation was faced with a virtual fait accompli with respect to the first round of austerity measures in 1986. To prolong the fight might even have endangered the solvency of the Organization, as many reductions were urgent and the entire package of measures had to be agreed at once. But we placed on record our opposition to further cuts in the human rights program, not only in the Third Committee (Human Rights) but also in the Fifth Committee (Administration). Late in the session of the General Assembly, when it appeared evident that another round of reductions would be necessary in 1987, the Right Honourable Joe Clark wrote a personal letter to the Secretary General of the United Nations, asking directly that he refrain from any further reductions in programs related to the work of the United Nations in the field of human rights. The Fifth committee subsequently discussed another package of measures designed to effect reductions for the next twelve months, and through the efforts of the Canadian Delegation, the human rights programs were spared what appeared to be significant measures regarding the provision of summary records and other documentation. At the end of UNGA 41, therefore, the Secretary General had been made fully aware of Canadian concerns, and actions had been taken to keep program reductions to a level which would permit the continued and effective operation of the Centre for Human Rights.

At the present time, the financial situation of the United Nations remains critical. At least ten per cent of the budget must be cut again in 1987 (some \$85 million), and measures must be taken to encourage the early payment of assessed contributions. A late payment by the United States of part of its 1986 contribution assured the Organization of funding through the early parts of 1987, but additional measures need to be taken.

- The Canadian position can be stated as follows:
- a) there is room for program reductions in many areas which will make the Organization leaner, but which will in no way detract from its effectiveness in crucial areas. There are, for example, excessive conference costs in some areas, and travel programs which are unrealistic. These are the areas which should be tackled on a priority basis.