

Namibia

Canada, as a member of the Group of Five (initially as a member of the Security Council), continues to work toward achieving a peaceful transition to majority rule. Resolution of the few remaining difficulties would open the way for a ceasefire and the start of UN operations to facilitate the transition to independence.

Zimbabwe-Rhodesia

The all-party conference in London offers the possibility of a settlement leading to internationally-recognized independence and an end to sanctions. While the April elections in Rhodesia have given rise to a new set of circumstances which cannot be ignored, Canada has taken the view that the central features of the constitutional framework mean that full majority rule is not yet demonstrably in place. Canada has not given consideration to recognizing the regime or lifting sanctions on the basis of current arrangements.

Apartheid

The General Assembly will again condemn the practice of apartheid in South Africa. The opposition of the new Canadian Government to apartheid and racial discrimination in South Africa is a matter of record since Canada endorsed the final communique of the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Lusaka.

Administrative and Legal Questions

For the biennium 1978-79, the UN's budget surpassed one billion dollars (US). During debate last year on supplementary increases to the budget, Canada and other major contributors stressed the need for the UN to set firm priorities and to control its spending. Apparently this advice has been heeded as it is believed that a modest program increase of 0.8% in real terms will be proposed for the next biennium budget. Canada is the ninth largest contributor to the UN budget and is assessed at a rate of 3.04% (in 1979, Cdn \$17 million).

The Assembly will consider international legal issues such as terrorism. The latest development in the UN's efforts to combat international terrorism is completion of the main elements of a convention against hostage-taking in February 1979 by an Ad Hoc Committee, of which Canada is a member. The Draft Convention obligates states to prosecute or extradite hostage-takers within their jurisdiction.