

adoption of a resolution on the International Year for Human Rights. To focus attention on the Year, an International Conference on Human Rights will be held in Tehran from April 22 to May 13, 1968. This will be an important conference, perhaps one of the most significant since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. Its purposes are:

- (a) To review the progress which has been made in the field of human rights since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- (b) to evaluate the effectiveness of the methods used by the United Nations in the field of human rights, especially with respect to the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination and the practice of the policy of *apartheid*;
- (c) to formulate and prepare a programme of further measures to be taken subsequent to the celebrations of the International Year for Human Rights.

### **High Commissioner for Human Rights**

It is becoming increasingly evident that the advancement of human rights calls for a shift in emphasis from defining these rights to the problem of implementation on a world-wide basis. Various proposals aimed at improving the situation have been advanced over the years. At the twenty-second session of the General Assembly, Canada co-sponsored a resolution which would give "high priority" during the twenty-third session of the General Assembly to the proposal for the establishment of a High Commissioner for Human Rights. This resolution was adopted on December 14 by a vote of 61 in favour to 25 against, with 11 abstentions.

### **Elimination of All Forms of Religious Intolerance**

A major task confronting the Third Committee is the consideration of a preamble and 12 articles of a draft International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Religious Intolerance. After lengthy and acrimonious debate, the Third Committee, during the twenty-second session, adopted a preamble and Article 1, with amendments, of a draft Convention on the subject. The Committee decided to leave open the question for the next session.

### **Capital Punishment**

During discussion of the report of the Commission on Human Rights at the forty-second session of ECOSOC in 1967, Sweden and Venezuela had submitted a proposal for eventual adoption by the General Assembly whereby member states would be invited to mitigate the harsh aspects of capital punishment and to streamline legal procedures so as to circumscribe to the greatest possible extent dangers of miscarriages of justice. A resolution was adopted which transmitted the draft resolution to the General Assembly. However, the Third Committee was unable to dispose of this item at this session.