

- 1957 October 4 (cont.) Sputnik 1, an 84 kg capsule, is put into an earth orbit, remaining there until early 1958. General Assembly takes up issue of peaceful uses of outer space.
- 1958 January Canada on Security Council until December 1959. Charles Ritchie is ambassador.
- February–April First UN Conference on the Law of the Sea in Geneva. Delegates approve four conventions drafted by International Law Commission, including Convention on the Continental Shelf, whose definitions are soon outdated.
- March Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization (now the International Maritime Organization) starts work as a UN specialized agency, with special responsibility for safety of life at sea and prevention of pollution.
- International Geophysical Year 1958–59. Leads to Antarctic Treaty and ushers in (see Epstein contribution) “the golden years of developing détente” of arms control agreements.
- May 12 Canada and U.S. sign North American Air Defence (NORAD) Agreement, at that time for defence against manned bombers.
- United Nations Observer Group in Lebanon (UNOGIL) sent to Lebanon after complaints of outside intervention. Canada contributes 78 military observers.
- June International Labour Organization approves Convention No. 111—Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) at annual conference (see Kaplansky contribution).  
Canadian Commission for UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) launched.
- 1959 January Canada on Security Council (Ritchie).
- Antarctic Treaty signed by 12 nations, including Soviet Union and United States, by which Antarctic continent is made a demilitarized zone to be preserved for scientific research. Treaty to last for 30 years; review is due in 1989.
- General Assembly establishes Special Projects Fund, for pre-investment assistance to develop large-scale projects, alongside Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. The two were merged into the United Nations Development Programme in 1966.
- General Assembly adopts the Declaration on the Rights of the Child, drafted by the UN Human Rights Commission. Work still continues on turning the