



Council became deadlocked, and it was decided at an Emergency Session of the General Assembly to expand the UN Observer Group in Lebanon (UNOGIL) established by an earlier Security Council resolution. Canada provided 78 military observers for the operation, in an effort to stabilize the situation in Lebanon and to facilitate an early withdrawal of troops. Canada was steadily building on the reputation it had earned in pioneering the formation of the first United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF I) in 1956 for which Lester B. Pearson, Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs, won the Nobel Peace Prize.

#### 1967-68

This period was dominated by the 1967 Arab-Israeli War, the crisis in Cyprus and the invasion of Czechoslovakia. Canada sponsored resolutions seeking to prevent a recurrence of fighting in the Middle East, and its Permanent Representative, George Ignatieff, succeeded in introducing a procedural motion calling for an inquiry into events in Czechoslovakia.

Canadian skills in conflict management proved fruitful in the 1968 *Pueblo* incident, in which a United States intelligence ship was captured by North Korea. Canada and Hungary managed to establish communication links between the disputing parties, and this led to an out-of-court settlement. Canada's policy in the Security Council has characteristically been not to rely merely on formal decisions by the Council but to use that body in whatever manner might best facilitate a direct settlement between disputing parties.

#### 1977-78

During this term, the attention of the Security Council shifted from the Middle East, which had entered a period of relative calm, to Southern Africa, focussing on the interrelated issues of apartheid, Namibian independence and majority rule in Zimbabwe. To improve their capacity to deal with these problems, the Western members on the Council organized an informal caucus called the Contact Group consisting of the deputy representatives of Canada, France, the German Federal Republic, the U.K., and the U.S. The Contact Group offered its good offices in arranging for UN acceptance of a peace plan for free elections in Namibia, to be supervised by the UN, and subsequent independence.

Canada performed the triple functions of harmonizing Western positions; acting as the Group's spokesperson in the UN and during visits to Southern Africa; and serving as a bridge to the African members on the Council and their wider following among non-aligned nations. It was during this session that the resolution calling for a landmark compulsory arms embargo against South Africa was adopted. In July 1978, a successful resolution of the Namibian situation seemed within reach, when both SWAPO and the Republic of South Africa accepted the plan for UN-supervised elections. However, South Africa subsequently defected and staged its own internal elections.

Canada has always favoured, where possible, simple, direct and pragmatic methods for resolving disputes. It therefore was concerned by the increasing formality of Security Council deliberations which tended to inhibit opportunities for constructive compromise and consensus. In an effort to revitalize the Council and infuse it with a greater sense of direction, the then Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs Donald Jamieson advocated the use of less formal channels of consultation based on Canada's experience in the Commonwealth where informal discussions had proven effective in reaching consensus on contentious issues.

## A Unique Set of Credentials

In its current term (1989-90), many of the issues already encountered during Canada's previous sessions on the Security Council, such as Cyprus, the Middle East and Southern Africa, are reappearing on the agenda. Canada offers the advantage of a comprehensive understanding of many international peace and security issues acquired through its past experience on the Council and its active participation in a vast array of multilateral fora including La Francophonie, the Commonwealth and the 'Group of Seven'. Canada also possesses the important capability of being objective, as it is not involved in any major international conflict. Through its membership in multilateral organizations, Canada has developed an extensive range of contacts in all regions of the world and has consistently demonstrated its ability to identify common ground and purpose in the midst of diversity. In this sense, its qualifications are virtually unique.

Encouraged by recent signs of decreased tension in the international political environment and what it perceives as a growing climate of cooperation, Canada is using every opportunity to employ its unique skills in consensus building and is trying to bring to the Council an undaunted spirit of optimism and creativity in resolving threats to international peace and security.