

keeping operations in accordance with the Charter. Canada is in a position to make a substantial contribution to such a study in the light of extensive Canadian experience with peacekeeping operations of various types throughout the history of the United Nations organization. While it could be argued that progress during the twenty-second session on peace-keeping was little more than procedural, there was also, on the other hand, an increasing awareness that peace-keeping, like housekeeping, is a job that is never done.

Vietnam, which was also not on the agenda of the twenty-second session, figured in much of the political discussion, not only in general debate but on such recurrent items as the definition of aggression. There was genuine concern expressed at the escalation of the war in Vietnam and its effect on international relations generally. Mr. Martin's statement on Vietnam, which, with those of a number of foreign ministers, emphasized the importance of stopping the bombing as a necessary first step in the process of de-escalation of the conflict, was widely recognized as an important contribution to discussion of the Vietnam problem.

The late arrival of the interim report of the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee left little time for debate on disarmament items in the First Committee and, in fact, there was virtually no substantive discussion of the various disarmament items. However, the debate cleared the way for further discussions of the non-proliferation treaty at the resumed General Assembly before the proposed conference of non-nuclear countries in August or September of this year.

Although it failed to demonstrate any marked improvement in the capacity of the General Assembly to make significant contributions to the resolution of over-riding issues in the political field, the session once again reflected the importance of the Assembly as a forum for the enumeration of foreign policies. The General Assembly had some positive accomplishments, although it tended to be somewhat overshadowed by events in the Security Council and to be devoid of major initiatives on difficult and recurrent subjects such as peace-keeping and Chinese representation.

The conclusion of an agreement on the rescue and return of astronauts and the return of objects launched into outer space was a solid achievement. The agreement constitutes an elaboration in detail of a basically humanitarian provision of the Outer Space Treaty, which was commended by the twenty-first session of the General Assembly to all states for signature and ratification and to which Canada became a party on October 10, 1967. While it may be said that the outer-space agreement was to a large extent a product of bilateral consultation between the United States and the Soviet Union, other delegations, including those of Canada and Australia, played an active role in the sessions of the Legal Sub-Committee and in many informal consultations over the last three years which paved the way for the agreement. The Maltese proposal regarding the reservation for exclusively peaceful purposes on the ocean-floor and sea-bed was the only genuinely new item on the agenda of the twenty-second