

# United Nations

Canada participated actively in the manifold affairs of the United Nations and its family of organizations during 1975. As a founding member of the world body, it pursued a policy of selective but extensive contributions to almost every aspect of the UN's activities. On October 24, the UN's thirtieth anniversary, the Secretary of State for External Affairs sent a message to the Secretary-General reaffirming Canada's dedication to the ideals and principles expressed in the Charter and its support for the UN's efforts to embody these principles in action. Mr. MacEachen wrote:

"At the time of its conception and establishment 30 years ago, the United Nations reflected the values and realities of a world emerging from the shock of a tragic war. In 1945 the world hungered for peace: the 51 countries gathered in San Francisco were determined to establish a new and dynamic system of international relations based on justice and equality rather than power and exploitation. International relations have evolved considerably in the intervening 30 years but the hopes of 1945 have still not been fully met. Nevertheless, the United Nations has successfully risen to many of the challenges that the intervening years have placed before it. Indeed, the Canadian Government and people firmly believe that the successes of the UN have far outweighed its shortcomings and that its continued good health is indispensable to the well-being of the world community. We therefore hope and expect that progress will continue to be made towards the goals and ideals of its founders."

In addition to its thirtieth anniversary, the UN also celebrated the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, a landmark resolution in the UN's active role in the decolonization process. As further proof of the success of this process, six more newly-independent nations were admitted to membership in the world body. The admission of Mozambique, Cape Verde, São Tomé and Príncipe, Comores, Papua New Guinea and Surinam increased UN membership to 144 and brought the world body another step closer to the achievement of universality of membership.

Much attention was focused at the UN during 1975 on issues of international economic co-operation, highlighted by the achievements of the seventh special session of the General Assembly in September. The UN also continued

its efforts to make peace in the Middle East, the troubled state of which was well illustrated by the dominance of Middle Eastern questions on the agenda of the thirtieth regular session of the General Assembly. Disturbing questions were raised, and controversy was stirred, by the adoption of an ill-conceived resolution equating Zionism with racism. The continuing confrontation in many UN forums between the non-aligned countries and the Western industrialized countries continued to obstruct UN attempts to seek solutions to world problems and has increased demand for changes in the structure and procedures of the world body.

This section of the *Annual Review* is intended to focus on those areas of UN activities of major concern to Canada. To avoid duplication, some aspects of UN affairs, such as the law of the sea, UNCTAD, UNESCO, etc., are covered in other sections of the *Review*.

## Political and security questions

The thirtieth anniversary session of the General Assembly, despite some notable setbacks, achieved moderate progress in a number of fields and was marked by less confrontation and more genuine effort to seek harmony than was evident at the twenty-ninth session. The monolithic support by the non-aligned members of an increasingly radical leadership, a main feature of the twenty-ninth session, was considerably qualified during the thirtieth session. Where debate was rancorous and divisive, the General Assembly accurately reflected the intractability of the central issues rather than the shortcomings of the institution. The General Assembly itself is increasingly regarded as a centre for airing and, it is hoped, cooling international disputes. The misconception that it is in any way an international legislative institution appears quite properly to have been dispelled.

## The Middle East

The political highlight of the thirtieth session of the General Assembly was again the debate on issues relating to the bitter dispute in the Middle East, the main thrust of which was to seek further recognition of the rights of the Palestinians and the continuation of pressure on Israel. Canada's concern at the lack of balance in resolutions arising out of the Arab-Israeli conflict is well illustrated by its voting record: of the 14 resolutions and sub-resolutions on the