

Willingness  
to consult  
results in  
fewer votes

along with India, the Federal German Republic, Venezuela and Mauritius. The Assembly approved the report adopted at *Habitat* and agreed that appropriate machinery for dealing with human settlements should be created by the Economic and Social Council at its next meeting. In addition, a resolution was approved establishing in Canada a centre for audio-visual materials on human settlements.

The General Assembly adopted 245 resolutions with respect to 124 items inscribed on the agenda for the thirty-first session. Of these, 148 were adopted without vote, and only 97 required recorded votes. The relatively small number of recorded votes reflects a welcome readiness by member states to consult. In the recorded votes, Canada voted "yes" 56 times, abstained 34 times, and cast negative votes seven times. Thus Canada was able to support 204 of the 245 resolutions adopted at the thirty-first session.

### Major objectives

Canada's major aims at the session were as follows:

1. to speak and vote in ways that would not be inconsistent with policies it was likely to follow on the Security Council in 1977;
2. to work in favour of compromise formulas on Middle East questions that preserved the chances for direct negotiations between the parties;
3. to work in favour of resolutions on human rights that were balanced and impartial;
4. to encourage resolutions on North-South matters that were helpful to negotiations at the Paris conference;
5. to strengthen the financial arrangements for the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP);
6. to encourage a larger number of contributors to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA);
7. to gain as much support as possible for the report of the *Habitat* conference and for workable institutional arrangements to follow it up;
8. to use its influence with Black African delegations to follow moderate policies on Rhodesia and Namibia;
9. to support the German initiative on the taking of hostages.

The following paragraphs refer to most, if not all, of the activities associated with these objects.

Issues relating to Southern Africa were perhaps the major concern of the Assembly, in view of the influence of the 49 African states and developments in Rhodesia,

Namibia and South Africa. The German mission to the area, the violence in South Africa and the of a conference on Rhodesia attracted world-wide attention. There were more resolutions on these issues than ever before and of these resolutions was more than the first time, countries having relations with South Africa were named in these resolutions, armed in Namibia received the endorsement of the Assembly, and the debate explicitly treated the situation in Africa as a colonial situation. Many countries, including Canada, felt themselves unable to support these resolutions, even though sympathetic to the concerns of the members.

### Apartheid

Canadian votes on the various resolutions grouped under the agenda titled "Policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa" are compared from year to year by the number of resolutions and their results. Thus at the thirty-first session (1975), there were several resolutions introduced in the debate, which were introduced during the session:

|           | Total | Positive | Abstention |
|-----------|-------|----------|------------|
| UNGA XXX  | 7     | 6        | 1          |
| UNGA XXXI | 10    | 4        | 6          |

In 1975, the Africans concentrated on elements they realized were likely to be unacceptable to Western members. In 1976, they prepared a number of resolutions and the results were scattered, with the result that the number of Canadian negative votes and abstentions correspondingly greater.

Canada opposes apartheid, has reservations about certain kinds of national action proposed to solve the problem (see Chapter VII on the boycott and endorsement of arms embargo). Canada abstained on resolutions on economic collaboration with the Government in South Africa because it does not agree that the maintenance of trade and commercial relations with the countries implied support for their policies.

On the question of Namibia, there were eight resolutions passed during the thirty-first session, compared to three during the thirtieth session. Canada supported resolutions condemning the illegal African administration and calling for the independence of Namibia and free-