

PART A

Chapter 1: COLLECTIVE SECURITY AND THE RESOLUTION OF CONFLICT

Canada works for collective security and the resolution of conflict through the United Nations in the global context, and through the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in the East-West context. A principal focus of the United Nations is the resolution of conflict, although collective security was the first objective of its 1945 Charter (Article 1) and the Security Council continues to hold responsibility in this area. NATO was established in 1949 as a regional collective defence organization, as envisaged in the UN Charter (Article 51), and has become the focal point of Canada's military co-operation with its principal Western allies. Arms control and disarmament negotiations have an important bearing on both security and conflict resolution, and have become a main priority of both organizations within their respective areas of concern. Other aspects of Canada's work within the UN system are reviewed in the subsequent chapters of Part A.

United Nations Security Council

As the world was fortunately spared any major new conflicts in 1981, most questions considered by the Security Council, under its responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, focused on Middle East and Southern Africa issues. After the collapse of major negotiations on Namibia in January, African frustration led to the presentation in the Security Council in April of five draft resolutions calling for a number of economic and political sanctions, including an oil embargo, against South Africa. Because of the vetoes of France, the United Kingdom and the United States, these draft resolutions were not approved. In June, the Council considered a complaint by Angola concerning the South African invasion of its territory, and approved a resolution calling for the withdrawal of South African troops. Angola was again on the Council agenda in August, but a draft resolution condemning further South African incursions into Angola was vetoed by the United States because there was no reference to the presence of the other foreign troops in Angola, i.e. Cuban combatants and Soviet military advisers.

Regarding the Middle East, the Council twice renewed the six-month mandates of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon. The Council in June also considered the Iraqi complaint concerning the Israeli air attack on Iraqi nuclear installations. A resolution was approved unanimously which strongly condemned it and recognized that Iraq was entitled to appropriate redress for the destruction it had suffered. An additional Middle East resolution was approved by the Council in December, which declared null and void, and without international legal effect, Israel's decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights.

Other matters considered by the Security Council in 1981 included: peacekeeping in Cyprus, the admission of Vanuatu, Belize and Antigua-Barbuda