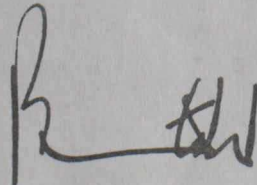


Dear Reader,

The attached is the second in our series of newsletters "Canada on the United Nations Security Council". We acknowledge with thanks the many positive responses to our first letter. Mr. Escott Reid, a former senior official at the Department of External Affairs and a leading member of the Canadian delegation to the San Francisco Conference, wrote to say that while he appreciated the difficulty in summarizing the functions of the Security Council he thought we should include reference to the powers of the Council to decide on the terms of settlement of a dangerous international situation and to impose those terms by the threat or use of sanctions (see Chapter VII of the UN Charter). He also suggested that readers be reminded that Permanent Members of the Security Council cannot veto a decision of the Council taken under Chapter VI of the Charter if they are a party to the dispute. We also note that Professor Harald von Riekhoff has produced a very interesting Background Paper entitled "Canadian Attitudes and Approaches to the United Nations Security Council" for the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security.

This newsletter provides an overview of events on the Council, from January 1st, as well as some insights on the current atmosphere and dynamics of Security Council deliberations with a particular focus on Canada's activities and role. We have selected the most important of the hundreds of pages of documents issued by the Council since January 1st.

The dynamics of Council deliberations have changed dramatically since Canada's last term in 1978-79. The easing of tensions between the superpowers has led to much greater cooperation and common action amongst the Permanent Members. This in turn has influenced the dynamics of other sub-groups both within and outside of the Council such as the Non-Aligned Movement (of which there are seven members on the Council), the OAU, the Front Line States and the Arab countries. Canada, Brazil and Finland are the only members of the Council which are neither permanent nor members of these other groups. While the interplay between the Permanent Five and these other groups can create difficulties, the situation does provide Canada with a degree of freedom to pursue its traditional role as mediator.



C.W. Westdal
Director General
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