

## PROBLEMS OF HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

The Canadian delegation welcomes the fact that, in addition to examining comparatively unfamiliar questions relating to outer space and the ocean-floor, attention will be paid at this session to the problems of the human environment. We in Canada are keenly aware that the effects of pollution of the air and water respect no boundary. We and our neighbour the United States have together pioneered in the development of international machinery to deal with this problem. For these reasons we have welcomed the initiative of Sweden to have this important matter considered as a problem of world significance and, therefore, one which it would be appropriate to deal with in the first instance in plenary session.

## PEACE-KEEPING

Despite the scientific revolution and startling advances in world organization, the sad fact is that governments are all too often forced to give military expenditures priority over the requirements of peaceful development. Resources which might be used to increase production and foster education must be applied to reconstruction and relief. It may be utopian to believe we can banish the use of force in relations amongst states. But we must strengthen the capacity of the United Nations to act as an agency for the control of conflict and the mediation of disputes.

My Government is encouraged by the signs of progress in the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. We have been among those governments which have attempted to contribute to this work by summarizing their own practices and by pointing to the lessons which might be drawn. Papers on observer missions, prepared by the Secretary-General and now being studied by a working group of the Special Committee, represent a significant contribution to our study of peace-keeping in all its aspects. Discussions due to take place in the Committee should help in narrowing the differences among member states about preparations for peace-keeping. I hope the Assembly will instruct the Committee to expand its investigation to include other aspects of United Nations peacekeeping experience and attempt to draw some agreed conclusions. In this way, we should be able to develop an understanding about the practice of peace-keeping acceptable to all.

## UNIVERSALITY OF UNITED NATIONS

We shall not be able to improve very much the capacity of the United Nations to realize its full potential in promoting peace and security unless the institution itself reflects the world as it is. The question of universality of membership remains pressing. We regret the absence from this Assembly of states that play an important part in world affairs.

The question of the representation of China is the most important of these issues, even though it is not strictly a question of membership. My Government has made public its decision to explore the possibilities of entering into diplomatic relations with the Government of the People's Republic of China. It is not in the long-term interests of world peace and security that the government in Peking should remain isolated. For this reason, we think that this government should be represented at the United Nations. We should welcome any equitable proposal which would facilitate the representation of the People's Republic of China in this organization - having regard, however, to the rights of existing members.