

benefits in the way of increased mutual understanding and reduced suspicions. The destructive power of modern weapons is so great that the world's most urgent concern must be to prevent a war in which such weapons would be used. It is not possible to banish them from the face of the earth; there is no effective means of controlling any such sweeping abolition; but a limited disarmament agreement could at least stop the further build-up of stocks of these weapons, and could be a major element in the continued efforts to reach international settlements, particularly among the major powers, and reduce as much as humanly possible the danger of war. For this reason it is essential to pursue disarmament negotiations however disappointing the results may seem. There is at the present time some reason to believe that the major powers recognize more clearly than before the vital importance of carrying on their disarmament negotiations and are approaching these negotiations in a more serious and realistic spirit than they have done in the past.

While the world's attention was focussed on these political and security questions at the eleventh session, the quiet and constructive economic and social work of the United Nations was continuing apace. This work has already proved its worth in raising living standards in large areas of the world, thereby ameliorating conditions which give rise to international distrust and dissension. The technical assistance programmes are now soundly based, and in the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance as well as in the regular programme (and the Specialized Agencies participate in both the regular and the expanded programmes) notable progress is being made in providing for the services of experienced advisers and for the training of personnel from the less developed areas of the world. However, the problem of how to provide more capital assistance for the less technically developed countries has not yet been solved, but the search for suitable arrangements to meet this need still goes on. A Canadian initiative at the eleventh session may be of some significance in the search for practical solutions for this need. The Canadian proposal was that of using United Nations facilities to collect and collate information on all types of international assistance, whether arranged bilaterally or multilaterally. In the social field, the problem of refugees, the health and care of children, the Draft Covenants on Human Rights, international narcotics control, and the efforts to improve the status of women, were questions which were discussed and acted upon with some advantage. In the view of Canadian delegations to the meetings of the Economic and Social Council, the Specialized Agencies, particularly WHO and FAO, and the Council itself have already left their mark on the history of our time in endeavouring to raise standards of health and agriculture. With very little publicity their work of conquering the timeless enemies of all peoples—illness, illiteracy, malnutrition and hunger—steadily goes on. In this most valuable work of the United Nations the communist states have never given much assistance.

Concerning the legal work of the United Nations, the International Law Commission submitted the culmination of several years of study when it presented to the General Assembly its final report on the law of the sea. This document is an important contribution to the codification and development of international law and, perhaps more important still, it can provide at least a basis upon which to build some universally accepted rules of law