

addition of 17 new members, mainly from Africa, the organization found itself unable to make progress in any important direction. At the end of the year, the effectiveness and the future of the United Nations operations in the Congo remained in doubt; the organization's working procedures and certain aspects of its basic structure were in need of thoughtful review, particularly in the light of increases in membership; its financial position continued to give cause for grave concern; it had proved unable to take positive action to bring about the resumption of East-West contacts either at the summit or in the field of disarmament; and it had been obliged to adopt the unusual expedient of deferring a good portion of the work of the General Assembly to a resumed session.

While the year ended with the organization facing the prospect of one of the most difficult periods of its history, it also saw a renewed conviction on the part of the vast majority of members that the United Nations is the best hope for peaceful progress. With this encouraging sign, there is reason to be hopeful that the United Nations will overcome its present difficulties.