

Secondly, Canada could be helpful in assisting the Japanese toward a more palatable, less heavy-handed style of UN diplomacy. They can speak to few others without the heavy burden of history intruding in some way, but our important economic relations have produced a certain atmosphere of confidence. This places Canada in a good position to help them assume a leadership role at the UN and win due respect for their significant financial contribution.

RECOMMENDATION

- *Canada should support the Japanese wish for a Permanent Security Council seat, but only given their firm prior commitment to fiscal responsibility; further, tactful advice from Canadian colleagues could assist them in moderating their aggressive new UN style.*

*A Special Issue
of the Nineties*

NORTH-SOUTH TENSIONS AND THE SECURITY COUNCIL

A disturbing new factor of growing importance must also be taken into account. The East/West struggles of the past forty years have been replaced by a North/South divide. There is growing uneasiness among Third World members of the UN about the Security Council's new decisiveness and its emergence as a kind of world directorate led by the Permanent Five, which leaves them, as they see it, pretty well out of peace and security decision-making. For many years they had their say in the General Assembly, which they dominated by sheer force of numbers during crises whenever the Council was paralyzed (as in 1956, when the initiative on peacekeeping came into being through a GA resolution) but these heroic days seem over for the Assembly and feelings of frustration and powerlessness are building.

This was made abundantly clear at a summit meeting of the 108-nation non-aligned movement in Jakarta in September, 1992, when in speech after speech delegates called for UN reform in these terms: increased representation for the NAM on the Security Council, curtailing of veto powers and strengthening of the Assembly, and more economic and social programs. Given that to the North "reform" means at least partly curbing growth and eliminating waste, what looks ominously like a major ideological struggle may be shaping up at the United Nations.

Brian Urquhart, a former Undersecretary, regards this split as the "major hazard for the United Nations now". And because it could sabotage the reform efforts so urgently needed right across the UN system, Canada has a special role to play in helping to bridge the gap and find compromise solutions. Equipped as possibly no other country for such a demanding task, as noted earlier, Canada has a foot in both