

bly, but unfortunately the widespread hopes for the Geneva meeting were dashed by South Africa's sudden unwillingness to move forward.

Rising international frustration with South Africa's continued policies of *apartheid* is evident in the increasing number and stridency of UN resolutions on *apartheid* and racism. External Affairs Minister MacGuigan recognized the mounting pressure for meaningful change in that country in several strong statements, including his plenary address to the General Assembly. Probably the most significant new development in this area at the Assembly in 1980 was the decision to convene a world conference in 1983, to conclude the UN decade against racism. Of the 24 resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on *apartheid* and racism, Canada abstained on four, joined consensus or voted favourably on nine, and considered itself obliged to vote against 11 (far more than in 1979). This outcome, unfortunate in view of Canada's consistently strong opposition to *apartheid* as a violation of fundamental human rights, resulted from the more extreme nature of the resolutions proposed in 1980 rather than any change in the Canadian view. Canada voted against resolutions which condemned NATO countries by name, which endorsed armed struggle explicitly, which linked Israel with South Africa (or Zionism with racism), and which urged termination of all economic and other relations with South Africa.

Cyprus

Canada's principal contribution toward peace in Cyprus continued to be the participation by over 500 Canadian troops in the UN Force in Cyprus. Canada has also strongly supported the efforts of the UN Secretary-General to bring about a resumption of the inter-communal negotiations between the Greek and Turkish language groups of Cyprus, which had broken down in June 1979 after only one week. Substantive negotiations were successfully re-opened in September 1980 under the good offices of the Secretary-General's personal representative. Unlike the previous round, the talks have continued since then in a positive atmosphere, and some limited progress has been achieved on practical measures to promote goodwill and resettlement. This gradual improvement was recognized in decisions not to establish an international committee on Cyprus called for by the General Assembly in 1979, and not to hold a General Assembly debate on Cyprus in 1980.

Kampuchea

Faced with continuing conflict in Kampuchea in the wake of the 1979 Vietnamese invasion, the thirty fifth General Assembly adopted a resolution proposed by ASEAN and co-sponsored by Canada, calling for an early international conference to negotiate the total withdrawal of foreign troops from Kampuchea and the holding of UN-supervised free elections in that country. This initiative, more far-reaching than the previous year's, was nonetheless approved by a larger majority. Indeed the strength of ASEAN support was such that a competing Vietnamese text had to be withdrawn to avoid defeat by a second ASEAN draft. In 1980 again, the disputed Kam-

puchean seat at the UN was awarded to Democratic Kampuchea (previously the Pol Pot regime) rather than its Vietnamese-backed rival. This decision, also taken by a larger majority than in 1979, reflected a widespread view of the former regime as the lesser of two evils.

Other political issues

The thirty fifth General Assembly adopted overwhelmingly a firmer resolution than in the past on the Central American territory of Belize, calling for its independence by the end of 1981, preferably through a negotiated settlement between Britain and Guatemala, and with UN security guarantees thereafter if appropriate. Canada continued its traditional co-sponsorship of this initiative, and the USA for the first time moved from abstention to a positive vote. Considerable progress has been achieved subsequently in meeting the objectives of the resolution.

On East Timor, the General Assembly renewed its call for self-determination and humanitarian assistance for the former Portuguese colony annexed by Indonesia in 1976. Canada and several others shifted from abstention to a negative vote on the resolution, accepting that the territory's annexation, while not accompanied by an ideal exercise of self-determination, was now an accomplished and irreversible fact to which the appropriate international response was relief for the past deprivations of the inhabitants.

On the Western Sahara, the General Assembly again sided with Algeria's call for self-determination in the former Spanish colony, rather than Morocco's annexation based on claims of historical sovereignty. The Algerian resolution passed comfortably, while a Moroccan draft was defeated by a single vote. Canada continues to take a position of absolute neutrality, to the satisfaction of the parties concerned.

Global arms control and disarmament

Though 1980 was a year of much activity, prospects for further multilateral arms control and disarmament agreements remained poor. The effect of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and of fears, later in the year, of a Soviet intervention in Poland were not conducive to progress in the various negotiating forums. The change in the US administration was expected to lead to a major review of security policy including arms control and disarmament, postponing forward movement in 1981 where such may be possible.

1980 marked the mid-point between the first and second United Nations special sessions devoted to disarmament. In preparation for the second special session scheduled for June 1982, the Canadian government established the position of Ambassador for Disarmament, absorbing that of Adviser on Disarmament and Arms Control Affairs set up soon after the first special session in 1978. The department's Consultative Group on Disarmament and Arms Control Affairs met twice during 1980, and the first two editions of the *Disarmament Bulletin*, a semi-annual review of national and international disarmament and arms control activities, were mailed to an already expanding readership of some two thousand.