

agenda (the last is the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine). The Special Committee had no opportunity to meet during the summer because of the Middle East crisis and so it made no proposals beyond recommending its continued existence. Debate was cautious in tone, there was no change of position by any party and no substantive proposals were introduced. The only new feature of the resolution adopted was the expression of the belief that a technical study of the kind advocated this year by the Secretary-General on standby forces "would be appropriate". Canada welcomed this resolution as possibly a faint indication of a trend towards more flexible positions on the part of different member states, and expressed particular interest in a study focused on such questions as the standardization of equipment and training, without necessarily excluding a study of broader scope.

### Second Committee

During the first two months of the twenty-second session, the Second (Economic) Committee held wide-ranging discussions on the need for intensified action by the United Nations to accelerate the economic development of the less-developed countries. The Committee reached agreement on recommendations to the General Assembly regarding the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) scheduled to be held in New Delhi from February 1 to March 25, 1968, and on the preparation for international action in the period following the expiration of the current development decade.

### Third Committee

The Third Committee was unable to give substantive consideration to all items on its heavy agenda during the twenty-second session of the United Nations General Assembly. However, an outstanding achievement was the adoption on November 7 of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (Item 54). The Declaration was approved by a vote of 111 to none, with 11 countries abstaining.<sup>(1)</sup>

On November 22, after discussing the question of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the General Assembly adopted a resolution extending the High Commissioner's term for another five years, from January 1, 1969. As the problem of refugees appears to have become a persistent feature of the international scene, the Assembly requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to pursue his activities of protection and assistance, and to continue to make every possible effort to

(1) The provisions of the Declaration were discussed in the December 1967 issue of *External Affairs*.