

value of peacekeeping there. Canada also states its support for the efforts of the UN Secretary-General to bring about a resumption of intercommunal negotiations.

In May 1979, Cypriot President Kyprianou met with Mr. Denktash, leader of the Turkish-Cypriot community, under the auspices of the Secretary-General, and the two agreed to resume negotiations in June. Unfortunately, the talks broke down after only one week and by year's end had not been resumed. Canada abstained on the General Assembly resolution on Cyprus, principally because of a provision to establish an *ad hoc* committee on Cyprus if no progress was reported in the intercommunal talks by March 31, 1980. In Canada's view, such a committee was more likely to distract than aid the dialogue between the two communities.

### **Kampuchea**

Among international disputes having gained the attention of the United Nations more recently, the conflict arising out of Vietnam's invasion of Kampuchea (Cambodia) in January 1979 is one of the most dangerous. After the Soviet veto of a resolution condemning the invasion itself, the Security Council again failed to deal effectively with the ensuing Chinese punitive action against Vietnam. At the start of the 1979 session, the General Assembly decided conclusively to continue recognizing the *de jure* Kampuchean regime rather than its *de facto* rival installed in the capital by Vietnamese troops; in the process, the non-aligned majority reversed its own recent stand of not recognizing either regime. Later in the session, the Assembly overwhelmingly adopted a resolution (defeating two other weaker drafts) which called for the withdrawal of troops, steps towards a political solution to the conflict, and humanitarian assistance co-ordinated by the UN for the swelling number of refugees affected by the fighting. Canada supported the recognition decision and co-sponsored the resolution, considering that governments created by foreign military intervention are illegitimate and that a permanent solution to the refugee problem requires tackling of its political roots.

### **Western Sahara and East Timor**

Two other disputes resulting from the process of decolonization engaged the United Nations in 1979. On the Western Sahara, the General Assembly sided with Algeria's call for self-determination, rather than Morocco's annexation of the former Spanish colony based on claims of historical sovereignty. Canada has taken a position of absolute neutrality, to the satisfaction of the parties concerned.

On East Timor, the General Assembly moderated its earlier strong opposition to Indonesia's annexation of the former Portuguese colony, and limited itself to a call for self-determination and humanitarian assistance. Canada abstained on the resolution, recognizing that the territory's annexation had not been accompanied by a full exercise of

self-determination, but accepting it as an accomplished and irreversible fact to which the appropriate international response was relief for the past deprivations of the inhabitants.

### **North Atlantic Treaty Organization**

Canadian membership in NATO, as a collective defence organization and forum for political consultations with our allies, has been a major factor in the conduct of Canadian foreign policy since the Alliance's inception 30 years ago. Based on the principle of co-operation among the European member nations, the United States and Canada, and the indivisibility of the defence of its two continental sectors, the Alliance has served its members well in safeguarding peace for three decades. The Alliance's consultation process has also provided NATO countries with the opportunity to exchange views and seek consensus on important issues having a direct bearing on the East-West relationship.

Canada's defence commitment to NATO is based on the premise that in contributing to the direct defence of Europe, Canada is also contributing indirectly to the defence of Canada. NATO relies on a strategy of defence and deterrence based on a triad of intercontinental and theatre nuclear forces and conventional forces. While a decision on the acquisition of a new fighter aircraft was postponed until the early part of 1980, arrangements for the procurement of new equipment for Canada's defence forces progressed satisfactorily in 1979 with the completion of the delivery of the Leopard main battle tanks, the entry into service of the first of the new armoured personnel carriers, and the initial testing of the first Aurora long-range patrol aircraft destined for Canada. Further refinement was also carried out on the submissions by five consortia competing for the design contract for six patrol frigates.

The NATO consultation process provides member nations with the opportunity to discuss major initiatives designed to improve East-West relations. In 1979 these included the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) scheduled to be resumed in 1980 in Madrid, the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) between the United States and the Soviet Union, and the ongoing negotiations in Vienna on Mutual and Balanced Force Reductions (MBFR). There were also meetings of national experts on a wide range of subjects, some of which extended beyond the NATO treaty area. These included regular sessions of the Committee on the Challenges to Modern Society (CCMS) and of the Science Committee. Through membership in NATO, Canada exchanged views with 14 of its major allies, including eight of the nine members of the European Community, on a variety of political, military, economic, and scientific questions.

The Under-Secretary represented the newly appointed Secretary of State for External Affairs at the May North Atlantic Ministerial Meeting in The Hague; he presented a message to the Council from Canada's Prime Minister