

among member states that the principle of self-determination as expressed in the Charter should be furthered, but showed opinions sharply divided both as to the meaning of the principle and as to the ways of carrying this out in practice. The general recommendation to member states to uphold the principle of self-determination was not opposed, but states administering dependent territories objected to those recommendations which related to such territories while ignoring the problems of peoples nominally sovereign or situated within the metropolitan jurisdiction of the states which governed them. The administering states also opposed the request for political reports as discriminatory and an attempt to alter their duties and responsibilities under the Charter.

Canada opposed both resolutions in the form in which they were originally introduced. In an attempt to find some satisfactory compromise, however, Canada supported several amendments to the first resolution which would have eliminated the phrase characterizing the colonial relationship as slavery and made the resolutions applicable to all states; including both those with responsibility for the administration of dependent territories and those controlling the exercise by another people of the right of self-government. With regard to the second resolution, Canada suggested in the course of the debate that a proposal which would have noted that political information was being transmitted by certain administering powers and encouraged the voluntary transmission of such information would probably secure the agreement of several of the administering states and be more in conformity with the terms and intent of the Charter.

The Assembly agreed to the deletion from the first resolution of all references to the colonial relationship as slavery, but the essential principles of both resolutions were otherwise maintained, including their special application to trust and non-self-governing territories. The first resolution was adopted by a vote of 40 in favour, 14 against (including Canada) and 6 abstentions; the second by 39 to 12 (including Canada) and 5 abstentions.

A third resolution was adopted which was sponsored by a group of eight Arab and Latin American countries. It instructed the Commission on Human Rights to continue preparing recommendations concerning international respect for the right of self-determination and particularly steps which might be taken by the United Nations and Specialized Agencies to develop such respect. A number of administering powers expressed the view that it would be inappropriate to ask for the preparation of further recommendations until the exact meaning and scope of the right of self-determination had been precisely defined. The resolution was adopted, however, by a vote of 42 to 7 with 8 abstentions (including Canada).

### **Convention on the Political Rights of Women**

The Charter of the United Nations (Article 1 (3) ) states that one of the purposes of the United Nations is to achieve international co-operation in promoting and encouraging respect for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or