

The problem of Palestine was the most serious political issue confronting the Second Session of the General Assembly. This matter had already been considered at a Special Session of the General Assembly which began on Apr. 28, 1947. A Special Committee on Palestine was created and instructed to prepare for consideration at the next regular session of the Assembly a report on the question of Palestine. Canada was one of the eleven nations chosen to provide a member for the Special Committee. The Canadian member supported the majority recommendation of this Committee for a plan of partition with economic union. A minority recommended the formation of a federal state.

At the Second Session of the General Assembly, therefore, these recommendations of the Special Committee on Palestine were considered by an *ad hoc* Committee along with a plan introduced by the Arab nations for an independent unitary state. Each of these plans was considered by a separate sub-committee and a third sub-committee was appointed to explore the possibility of conciliation between the contending parties. The General Assembly finally approved the recommendation of the *ad hoc* Committee that Palestine be partitioned into independent Arab and Jewish states and that Jerusalem be placed under a Special International Regime, all parts of the country to form an economic union. The Assembly set up the Palestine Commission to supervise the steps leading to this objective. This Commission was to be guided by and report to the Security Council in the interval between meetings of the Assembly.

The proposal to create an Interim Committee of the General Assembly to meet during the recess of the main body was supported by the Canadian Delegation, which assisted in drafting the resolution accepted by the necessary two-thirds majority of the Assembly. The Canadian Delegation made important contributions to a resolution regarding war propaganda, which was accepted unanimously by the Assembly. Other important political results of the Session were the establishment of a Special Balkan Committee, the election of Argentina, the Ukraine, and Canada to the Security Council, the admission of Yemen and Pakistan to membership in the United Nations and the establishment of a Temporary Commission on Korea, to which Canada was appointed.

In the economic field, agreements with five specialized agencies* were approved; the applications of Austria and Italy for membership in the International Civil Aviation Organization were accepted. Resolutions were adopted recommending the preparation by the United Nations of periodic reports on world economic conditions. It was agreed to study the factors bearing upon the establishment of an Economic Commission for the Middle East.

The General Assembly in dealing with social matters approved an appropriation of \$670,000 for an Advisory Social Welfare Services Program. The action taken by the Economic and Social Council and the International Labour Organization to formulate definite principles regarding trade union rights was confirmed. A resolution was accepted inviting Member States not to assist illegal immigration and urging measures to encourage voluntary repatriation and the settlement of a fair share of non-repatriable persons in each Member State. The Assembly urged the acceptance by Member States of the constitution of the World Health Organization at the earliest possible date.

* International Telecommunications Union, Universal Postal Union, World Health Organization, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and International Monetary Fund.