

Canada's Contribution during 1948.—Although forced by the inadequacies of the security guarantees provided by the United Nations itself to participate in the discussions leading to the North Atlantic Treaty, Canada continued to regard membership in the United Nations as one of the essential principles underlying foreign policy. In the face of grave doubts concerning the value of the Security Council as the executive arm of the United Nations, Canada entered a two-year term of membership on Jan. 1, 1948. General A. G. L. McNaughton, as Canadian Permanent Delegate to the United Nations, acted as Canada's representative on the Council and also on the Atomic Energy Commission and the Commission for Conventional Armaments. Canada was represented on the Economic and Social Council until the end of the year, and did not stand for re-election.

The General Assembly met for two sessions during the year. From Apr. 16 to May 15 it held its second special session at the request of the Security Council to consider the future of Palestine. Canada was a member of the twelve-nation Subcommittee established to formulate provisional arrangements in Palestine which would come into effect after the expiry date of the United Kingdom mandate on May 15.

The first part of the third regular session of the General Assembly was held at Paris from September to December, 1948. The Canadian Delegation was headed at first, by the Rt. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, then Prime Minister, and later by the Hon. Lionel Chevrier, Minister of Transport, until Nov. 2 when the Hon. L. B. Pearson, Secretary of State for External Affairs, assumed the leadership. The Delegation included members of the Senate and House of Commons, with whom were associated delegates and advisers from the Department of Finance and the Department of External Affairs. The Assembly failed to complete its heavy agenda and it was decided to hold a second part of the third session at Lake Success in April, 1949.

Admission of New Members.—In 1948 only one new member state, Burma, was admitted to the United Nations. Applications by Italy and Ceylon were both rejected by the Soviet veto. The differences between the Soviet bloc and the non-Communist members prevented further consideration of other outstanding applications for membership, namely those of the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom, Ireland, Portugal and Austria, supported by the Western Powers, and those of Albania, Bulgaria, Finland, Hungary, the Mongolian Peoples' Republic and Roumania, backed by the U.S.S.R. The application of Israel was considered by the Security Council in December, 1948, but failed to secure the seven votes required to justify a favourable recommendation to the General Assembly.

Indonesia.—The Indonesian problem, which had been a concern of the Security Council since August, 1947, appeared to be well on its way to settlement when the year 1948 opened. On Jan. 17, the Netherlands and the Indonesian Republicans signed a military truce and agreed to a set of principles offered by a United Nations Committee of Good Offices to serve as a basis for a political settlement. This Renville agreement, which was supplemented two days later with additional principles, was acknowledged in February by the Security Council. A Canadian resolution commending the parties for concluding a truce agreement, and asking the Committee of Good Offices to return to Indonesia and assist the parties in working out a political settlement was also accepted by the Security Council.