

During these three months the Western Powers had attempted to meet Soviet objections to currency reform in Western occupied Germany. It was when these negotiations failed that the problem was referred to the Security Council. The Soviet representative denied the competence of the Security Council to deal with this problem and refused to take part in the Council's consideration of the Berlin dispute.

Between Oct. 6 and Oct. 25, members of the Security Council not direct parties to the dispute (including the Canadian representative) met to consider whether a basis for agreement existed. On Oct. 22 they presented a draft resolution calling upon the Soviet Union to raise the blockade and at the same time suggesting that the governments concerned should meet to discuss arrangements for the unification of Berlin currency. The "neutral" group then undertook to be represented on a committee of experts whose purpose was to seek a detailed agreement under which Berlin currency could be unified and communications restored.

This committee met at Paris and at Geneva under the chairmanship of Mr. N. A. Robertson, Canadian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, in an attempt to reconcile the position of the countries concerned. At the end of the year its work was uncompleted.

Other Political Questions.—Other political questions discussed during the year included the alleged threat to international peace arising from events in Czechoslovakia, the future of Trieste, the India-Pakistan dispute, the relations of Spain with the United Nations, the trusteeship system applied to strategic areas, the report of the Special Committee on the Balkans, and the future of the former Italian colonies in Africa.

Interim Committee.—The Canadian delegation shared fully in the work of the Interim Committee established on an experimental basis by the General Assembly in November, 1947, to assist the Assembly in promoting international co-operation and in maintaining international peace and security. The Interim Committee met from the beginning of January to mid-July to consider the question of Korea; proposals for the revision of voting procedures in the Security Council; general principles of co-operation in maintaining international peace; and the advisability of giving a permanent mandate to the Interim Committee to assist the Assembly in discharging its responsibilities between sessions. Canada was a member, and a Canadian was the rapporteur of a nine-nation working group which, during May and June, prepared a draft recommendation to the General Assembly suggesting the types of Security Council decisions in which the veto should not operate.

Economic and Social Council.—The Sixth Session of the Council was held at New York, Feb. 2 to Mar. 11, and the Seventh at Geneva, July 19 to Sept. 7. At its Sixth Session the Council was largely concerned with general supervision over the work of subsidiary organs and specialized agencies, and with the development of working procedures adapted to the discharge of its functions. An *ad hoc* committee, of which Dr. G. F. Davidson, Deputy Minister of Welfare of the Department of National Health and Welfare was chairman, was set up to study the better co-ordination of the work of the Council, its commissions, and the specialized agencies. The Seventh Session of the Council dealt chiefly with substantive questions and made some progress with the planning or revising of international conventions relating to the suppression of the traffic in women and children; the prevention of prostitution; death certificates for missing persons; freedom of informa-