

of atomic weapons and for a one-third reduction in the armed forces of the Great Powers. Western governments opposed both demands, the first because no proposals for adequate atomic inspection, verification and control had been accepted by the U.S.S.R., and the second because the existing disparity between the armed forces of the communist world and those of the free world made it impossible for the democracies to accept a formula which would perpetuate the present dangerous unbalance.

On Dec. 13, 1950, the Assembly created a committee to study the advisability of merging the Atomic Energy and the Conventional Armaments Commissions. Canada, which had been one of the sponsors of the proposal, was made a member of this committee. In accordance with the recommendations of the committee the Assembly on Jan. 11, 1952, established a Disarmament Commission, under the Security Council, to replace the two previous Commissions. The new Commission, given the same membership as the former Atomic Energy Commission (that is, the eleven members of the Security Council, plus Canada), was directed to prepare proposals for inclusion in a draft treaty or treaties, respecting the regulation, limitation and balanced reduction of all armed forces and armaments, and the effective international control of atomic energy.

Palestine.—During the period 1949-51, the Palestine Conciliation Commission had little success in its efforts to bring about agreement on the differences between Israel and its neighbours. In 1950, the Assembly noted with concern that progress was not being made and the Sixth Session of the Assembly, in January 1952, adopted a resolution asking the Conciliation Commission to continue its work. This resolution was supported by the Canadian delegation, which had succeeded in formulating amendments making it acceptable to both Israel and the Arab states. It was felt that, with both sides concurring, the resolution had some hope of success.

Another important problem which occupied the Assembly in this connection was that of Palestine refugees. In the autumn of 1948, a fund was established under the name of United Nations Relief for Palestine Refugees. At the end of 1949 a more permanent relief agency was established, entitled the United Nations Relief Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWAPR). This Agency was continued by the General Assembly in 1950 and, in January 1952, the Sixth Session endorsed a program envisaging the expenditure of large sums of money for relief and reintegration during a three-year period ending June 30, 1954. Canada has supported United Nations action to assist Palestine refugees and has made substantial contributions to UNRWAPR.

Indonesia.—The year 1949 saw the settlement of the Indonesian problem, despite the fact that an early solution appeared unlikely. In January 1949, the Security Council called for an immediate end of hostilities and the release of political prisoners, and replaced its Committee of Good Offices by a United Nations Commission for Indonesia with broad powers to act as the Council's representative. A Security Council directive of Mar. 23, 1949, sponsored by Canada, resulted in a meeting of representatives of the opposing forces, and substantial agreement was reached by early May. In the following weeks, Netherlands forces were withdrawn from the Indonesian capital, political prisoners were released and a general ceasefire was proclaimed on Aug. 28. A Round Table Conference, including the Netherlands and Indonesian representatives and the United Nations Commission, met at The Hague from Aug. 23 to Nov. 2. As a result of the agreement