

The question of disarmament received careful attention at the Assembly. Under a resolution approved by 54 members (including Canada), with none against and only the Soviet bloc abstaining, the Disarmament Commission was asked to continue its work with a view to ending the deadlock between the Western Powers and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Interest in the problem was greatly heightened at the conclusion of the eighth session by a proposal put forward by President Eisenhower that governments principally involved should make contributions of fissile materials to an international agency for peaceful purposes. In connection with this proposal, the President specifically endorsed the Assembly resolution that called for the establishment of a special sub-committee of the Disarmament Commission consisting of representatives of the powers principally involved, which would seek in private an acceptable solution to disarmament problems. The Prime Minister of Canada welcomed the President's "imaginative and constructive approach to what is perhaps the greatest problem of the day" Subsequently, the Big Four Foreign Ministers agreed at the Berlin Conference in mid-February upon a declaration to the effect that the solution of international controversies would be aided by agreement on disarmament and that an exchange of views along the lines of the General Assembly resolution should be held. Meetings for this purpose were convened some weeks later. Canada is a member of the Disarmament Commission and was also appointed to the sub-committee.

Canada shared in the Assembly decision to renew the Expanded Program of Technical Assistance to which she had given a total of \$2,400,000, including a contribution of \$800,000 for 1953. For 1954 a recommendation was made to Parliament that up to \$1,500,000 be contributed to the Program, subject to adequate amounts being given by other countries. Attention was also given to the related problems of increasing the flow of public and private capital for financing economic development. In accordance with a suggestion put forward by the United States, member states of the United Nations, including the United Kingdom and Canada, undertook to ask their peoples, when sufficient progress had been made in internationally supervised world-wide disarmament, to devote a portion of the resulting savings to a United Nations Fund for Economic Development. Decisions were also taken about various other important programs including reconstruction work in Korea, relief and rehabilitation for Palestine refugees, welfare programs for mothers and children under the United Nations Children's Fund (which was established on a continuing basis) and the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. To all of these, Canada has made contribution of considerable size.

The Assembly discussed possible preparations for consideration to be given in 1955 to a conference to review the United Nations Charter and instructed the Secretary-General to undertake certain tasks in this direction. Canada took the position that there might be some benefit in re-examining the Charter but that, in the present international climate, unwarranted hopes of reduction in international tensions through changes in the Charter should not be encouraged.

The Palestine Problem.—Beginning in the autumn of 1953, the Security Council was concerned with problems relating to the Palestine question. In late 1953 and early 1954, various armed clashes took place between Israel and its neighbours and feelings ran very high. There was a resulting impairment of the machinery for maintaining peaceful conditions that had been established with the signing of the armistice agreements between Israel and her individual Arab neighbours. At