

the end of the period under review, the Security Council had on its agenda items relating to alleged attacks, and also was considering whether or not to review the Palestine problem in general. The Security Council also gave brief attention to the Trieste question. Canada was not a member of the Security Council during this period but followed developments very closely.

Economic and Social Affairs.—Through the Economic and Social Council and its related bodies, the United Nations continued to help promote higher standards of living and to concern itself with international problems in the economic, social and health fields. Many of the issues in the fields of technical assistance, aid for refugees, child welfare and a number of others were handled initially in the Economic and Social Council and then passed to the Assembly for final decision.

In the early part of 1954, the Commission on Human Rights passed an important milestone in its work by completing the two international draft Covenants on Human Rights that had been under consideration for five years. One of the draft Covenants is on civil and political rights and the other on economic, social and cultural rights. Canada made clear in a statement on the Covenants that, "in the absence of a satisfactory federal-state clause, Canada could not become a party to the Covenants owing to the nature of its Constitution which divides legislative powers concerning human rights between the national parliament and the provincial legislatures". The possibility existed, however, that the next session of the General Assembly would decide to include a reservations clause in the Covenants.

Specialized Agencies.—Closely linked with the work of the Economic and Social Council in the Technical Assistance Program and in other fields have been the undertakings of the ten Specialized Agencies. These are separate intergovernmental bodies that work in close harmony with the United Nations. Canada has ratified the Convention for an Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO) which will concern itself with technical matters relating to international shipping. It is expected that this body will come into being at an early date.

Despite the many vicissitudes, Canada's support of the United Nations remained strong. The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Hon. L. B. Pearson, summed this up on United Nations Day as follows:—

"We have learned in the long hard years since the Charter was signed that it is easier to produce a blueprint than to complete a structure for peace. The United Nations has had failures and disappointments, but it has also had its achievements—political, economic, social and humanitarian. The achievements should hearten us, and the difficulties become a challenge which should spur us to greater effort in the cause of international co-operation for peace and progress."

Subsection 3.—Canada and the North Atlantic Treaty

Within less than two years of the end of World War II in 1945 and the establishment of the United Nations, people's hopes of a lasting peace gave place to growing anxiety. The United Nations Security Council, which had been given responsibility for maintaining world-wide security, was deliberately prevented by the Soviet representatives from fulfilling this function. The Soviet Union maintained its armed forces after the war at a level that insured to itself a preponderance of military strength in Europe. The Soviet Government blocked attempts by the Western Powers to reach a peace settlement in Europe and Communist Parties