

of Canada was appointed Chief of Staff for the Palestine Truce Supervisory Organization. Continuation of the armistice in Korea facilitated withdrawal of most of the Canadian military forces which had formed the third largest contribution to the United Nations command during hostilities.

The United Nations has been diligent in its efforts to give increasing independence to non-self-governing peoples and to pool the wealth and skills of mankind in the interests of underprivileged peoples and underdeveloped countries. The United Nations helped Israel and Indonesia achieve their independence. The futures of three large territories in Africa—Libya, Eritrea and Somaliland—all formerly under Italian colonial rule, were resolved by the General Assembly, with Libya becoming an independent kingdom, an autonomous Eritrea being federated with Ethiopia and Somaliland destined to emerge as an independent civil state after a ten-year trusteeship régime. In other parts of Africa and in the Pacific a course is being charted for the future self-government of other large groups of dependent peoples living in Trust Territories. Countries administering colonial areas pledge themselves to make the best interests of the inhabitants their first consideration and they report regularly to the United Nations on conditions in their possessions.

Through its Economic and Social Council, the United Nations seeks to promote higher living standards, full employment, economic and social progress and solutions for international economic, social, health and related problems. Support for the activities of the Economic and Social Council has increased slowly but steadily as member nations have recognized that the edifice of world peace must rest on the solid foundation of a sound and growing world economy, that poverty can lead to unrest and that prosperity, like peace, is indivisible. If the efforts of the United Nations to devise a formula for disarmament are successful much of the vast resources now being poured into defence measures will be available for diversion to works of peace. (As a member of the Disarmament Commission and its Sub-Committee, Canada, in the period under review, played an active role in disarmament negotiations.) In the meantime through its voluntary agencies—United Nations Children's Fund, relief and rehabilitation programs in Korea and Palestine and the work of its High Commissioner for Refugees—the Organization is helping relieve the ravages of previous wars. Canada has made substantial contributions to all the voluntary agencies of the United Nations.

In an address at the opening of the ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on Sept. 23, 1954 Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Hon. Lester B. Pearson, reviewed a number of difficulties that beset the United Nations during its early years. He emphasized the need to recognize and understand the divisions within the Organization which had weakened it internally—the fundamental division between totalitarian and free societies, the division between the self-governing and non-self-governing parts of the world, the division between the highly industrialized parts of the world and 'underdeveloped' areas. Mr. Pearson referred also to the 'freeze' on the membership applications of twenty-one countries resulting from the 'cold war' and the difficulties arising from Chinese representation. He continued:

"Mr. President, over the nine short years in which the United Nations has existed, it has been threatened from within, and attacked from without. But with all its shortcomings, it is impossible to envisage a world without the network of practice and precedent, the institutions and procedures for peace making and peace enforcement which we mean by the phrase 'the United Nations'. If this United Nations organization did not exist, we should soon have to find another one."

A number of authorities on the United Nations consider that many of the difficulties referred to by Mr. Pearson could be eliminated by revising the Charter. Article 109, paragraph 3 of the Charter provides for a decision on the calling of a review conference to be made at the tenth session of the General Assembly. Because the Charter cannot be amended without the consent of all the members of the Security Council and because the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics has been consistently antagonistic to changes in the Charter, prospects for the holding of a successful review conference are not promising at present.