

Canal in the summer of 1956 and the Soviet armed intervention in Hungary confronted the United Nations with its most serious crises since the Korean War. The General Assembly took action, particularly by establishing the United Nations Emergency Force, to secure the ceasefire in the Middle East and the withdrawal of Israeli, French and United Kingdom troops. The Hungarian uprising began on Oct. 23, 1956. The General Assembly called on the Soviet Union to withdraw its forces from Hungary, but this request met with no success since neither the Soviet Union nor the Kadar Government in Hungary was willing to comply with the resolutions of the United Nations. Neither was the Secretary-General of the United Nations nor his observers allowed to enter Hungary to investigate the circumstances of the uprising. No concrete results had developed from the disarmament negotiations by April 1957.

Security Council.—Canada was not a member of the Security Council during this period. The source of chief concern to the Council continued to be the threat of hostilities between Israel and its Middle Eastern neighbours. Increasingly grave crises were occurring between Israel and three of its four Arab neighbours. Israel was unanimously condemned by the Security Council on Jan. 19, 1956, for what was called a flagrant violation of the 1948 ceasefire when it replied to a Syrian shooting incident on Lake Tiberias by mounting a large-scale military raid against Syrian positions. The Secretary-General of the United Nations visited the region on a number of occasions and endeavoured to arrange measures which would reduce the existing tensions. Then on Apr. 5, 1956, Gaza was shelled by the Israelis and hostilities were halted only by the intervention of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization. However, reprisals continued for some weeks by Egyptian-trained fedayeen against Israel because of the shelling of Gaza. In September and October 1956 there was again a sharp increase in violence on the Jordan-Israel border. In mid-October Jordan appealed to the Security Council, and the Council was considering this appeal when, on Oct. 29, Israeli forces invaded Egypt. Earlier, on Sept. 26, 1956, the Security Council began to study the Suez Canal question and by mid-October had achieved unanimous agreement on six principles which should govern the settlement of the Suez Canal dispute. Immediately after Israel launched its attack against Egypt on Oct. 29, followed on Oct. 30 by the twelve-hour notice from the Governments of the United Kingdom and France that their forces would intervene, the Security Council met and called for the withdrawal of Israel's forces behind the armistice line and requested other countries to give no assistance to Israel. This Security Council proposal was vetoed by France and the United Kingdom. Because of this lack of unanimity among the Council's permanent members, there was invoked for the first time the General Assembly's 1950 "Uniting for Peace" resolution and the problem of the Middle East hostilities was referred to the General Assembly.

Among other matters of importance considered by the Security Council during the period under review were the admission of new members to the United Nations, the Kashmir dispute submitted by Pakistan against India, and the proposal to call a general conference of United Nations' members for the purpose of reviewing the Charter.

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).—Canada began serving its third three-year term of office on the Economic and Social Council on Jan. 1, 1956. Canada's previous years of service were from 1946-48 and again from 1950-52. In the period reviewed by this article the Council held its twentieth, twenty-first, twenty-second and twenty-third sessions. As of the end of April 1957 Canada was a member of four of ECOSOC's eight functional commissions—Population, Statistical, Narcotic Drugs and International Commodity Trade.

Ever since the United Nations was established, its ten Specialized Agencies have been the chief instruments through which member states have pooled their efforts in trying to achieve the goals of higher standards of living, full employment and conditions of economic and social progress. Canada is a member of all the United Nations Specialized