

administration made satisfactory political advances during the period, and a six-nation commission, to which Canada will provide a member, will visit the territory in the summer of 1957 to examine the practical operation of its new constitution and of the institutions established under it. In the review period, United Nations missions visited trust territories in the Pacific which are administered by Australia, New Zealand and the United States. Canadian policy on trusteeship matters before the General Assembly is governed by a careful weighing, within the provisions of the United Nations Charter, of the responsibilities, rights and aspirations of both the administering states and the indigenous populations.

International Court of Justice.—To “adjust and settle international disputes in conformity with Justice and International Law” is one of the purposes of the United Nations and it was therefore essential to establish a judicial arm for the Organization. The Statute of the International Court of Justice is an integral part of the Charter of the United Nations. All members of the United Nations are *ipso facto* parties to the Statute of the Court. A state which is not a member of the United Nations may, nevertheless, become a party to the Statute of the Court on conditions to be determined in each case by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council. Thus, at the moment, the total number of parties to the Statute is 85—81 members of the United Nations and 4 non-members (Liechtenstein, San Marino, Switzerland and the Federal Republic of Germany). The Court is composed of 15 judges who are elected in individual capacities. Judge John E. Read of Canada was elected to the Court in 1946 and again in 1949. His present term of office expires in 1958.

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 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 U.S.S.R. 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 were used as an instrument of Soviet policy to sabotage Western European efforts at economic recovery and political co-operation. Under these circumstances, the countries of the Atlantic community felt themselves in grave peril of Soviet aggression and communist subversion and therefore took special collective measures under the United Nations Charter to maintain peace.

The first step in this direction was taken in the spring of 1948 when Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom signed the Brussels Treaty establishing Western Union. On Apr. 4, 1949, as a result of negotiations between these countries and Canada and the United States, the North Atlantic Treaty was signed at Washington, D.C. This Treaty was accepted by all major groups of opinion in Canada and was passed without a single dissenting vote in Parliament.

The original signatories of the Treaty were Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom and the United States. In September 1951 it was agreed that Greece and Turkey should be invited to accede to the Treaty and they were admitted in February 1952. In October 1954 a protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty inviting the Federal Republic of Germany to join NATO was approved together with related arrangements which provided for the establishment of a Western European Union (composed of the Brussels Powers, the Federal Republic of Germany and Italy) and for the restoration of full sovereignty to the Federal Republic of Germany. These measures, designed to bring the Federal Republic of Germany into close and enduring association with the Atlantic Community of free nations, were adopted following the failure of the European Defence Community Treaty which was