

and representatives of the West Indian colonies, a Constitution was proclaimed in July 1957. This Constitution provides that the new Federation shall have full self-government in all matters except questions related to defence, external relations and the maintenance of financial stability, for which the United Kingdom Government retains the right to make such laws as appear necessary. The avowed aim in establishing the Federation is the ultimate achievement of internal self-government within the Commonwealth. The Constitution was brought into full effect on Apr. 22, 1958, when H.R.H. The Princess Margaret inaugurated the federal legislature following the first federal election in March, and a central government was appointed. Canada has maintained trade relations with the West Indies for over two hundred years, an interest which paved the way for Canada-West Indies Trade Agreements in 1912, 1920 and 1925. Coincident with the establishment of the new Federation, Canadian officials have held discussions with federal officials from the West Indies to decide upon ways in which Canada can be of assistance to the new country. A long-term program is being worked out, some of the aspects of which were foreshadowed in a message sent on Mar. 10, 1958, by Prime Minister Diefenbaker to the Governor General of the West Indies and the Advisory Council. Forms of aid are to include the provision of the services of various Canadian experts and a ship suitable for an inter-island shipping service.

Subsection 2.—Canada and the United Nations

During the years 1957 and 1958, the United Nations continued to be confronted with recurrent crises, especially in the Middle East. While the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) continued its work of maintaining peace on the Egyptian-Israeli border, the Assembly, at its twelfth session, faced new problems arising on the Syrian border with Turkey, and held an emergency session to deal with a crisis affecting Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq during the summer of 1958. Among other political issues which came to the attention of the United Nations during this period were the question of Algeria, the tense relations of France with Tunisia in the winter and spring of 1958, and continued repression in Hungary. The problem of disarmament remained a subject of dispute between the Western Powers and the Soviet Union, the latter refusing to take part in the work of the Disarmament Commission from the month of August 1957, while in October the launching of mechanical earth satellites and the development of research for inter-continental ballistic missiles (ICBM) on both sides of the Iron Curtain gave new urgency to this problem.

Throughout the whole of this eventful period, Canada maintained its policy of supporting and promoting the United Nations as an instrument for preserving the peace. Canada was elected to a two-year term of office on the Security Council, beginning Jan. 1, 1958. Canada continued to be represented on the United Nations truce teams in the Middle East, UNTSO and UNEF, and assisted in forming a new organization which was created during the Lebanon crisis, for observation duties on the Syrian-Lebanese border. To this new group—called the United Nations Observation Group in Lebanon (UNOGIL)—Canada contributed 78 officers.

Developments in important United Nations bodies during the period under review are summarized below.

General Assembly.—The twelfth session of the General Assembly met in New York from Sept. 17 to Dec. 15, 1957, under the presidency of Sir Leslie Munro of New Zealand. It was preceded by a brief resumption of the eleventh session of the Assembly on Sept. 10 which was called for further discussion of the Hungarian question. The Canadian representative at this session was Mr. R. A. MacKay, the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations. The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Hon. Sidney Smith, was Chairman of the Canadian Delegation to the twelfth session of the Assembly. The Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. John G. Diefenbaker, addressed the session.

Disarmament continued to be a matter of primary concern to the Assembly during its twelfth session. During August 1957 the four Western members of the Sub-Committee of the Disarmament Commission had put forward a plan for a first stage of disarmament