

The relative stability that seemed to prevail in the Middle East was partly a result of the intervention of the United Nations in late 1958. Through the Secretary-General, special United Nations representation, in addition to the United Nations Observation Group in Lebanon, was established in the area. The United States and the United Kingdom were able to withdraw their forces and the Observation Group began to disband late in the year.

Canada, in addition to participation in UNEF and UNTSO (United Nations Truce Supervision Organization) in the Middle East, played an active role in the several disarmament issues and took the initiative in a proposal for a greater measure of international co-operation through the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation in the collection and collation of information on radiation and its effects. Concerning the United Nations-sponsored World Refugee Year, Canada took special action in accepting 100 tuberculous refugees and their families.

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

General Assembly.—The fourteenth session of the General Assembly met in New York from Sept. 15 to Dec. 13, 1959, under the presidency of Señor Victor Belaunde of Peru. The Hon. Howard Green, Secretary of State for External Affairs, was chairman of the Canadian Delegation.

A new item to come before the Assembly was the appeal of the Dalai Lama concerning Communist China's suppression of the revolt in Tibet. This appeal aroused considerable sympathy in the West and among Asian and African nations but a number of countries expressed doubt as to the usefulness of an Assembly debate on the issue. A formal draft resolution calling in particular for "respect for the fundamental human rights of the Tibetan people" was presented and adopted by a vote of 45 to 9, with 26 abstentions. Canada supported the resolution but in so doing followed the general line of emphasizing human rights and the rule of law.

Premier Khrushchov's Sept. 18 speech to the General Assembly in which he proposed "general and complete" disarmament, together with suggestions made by the United Kingdom Foreign Secretary, produced a major debate on disarmament. The Soviet delegation sought outright United Nations endorsement for the Khrushchov plan, which called for a four-year time-table that would eliminate all weapons of mass destruction, disband all armies, navies and military establishments, and leave to the individual States only "strictly limited contingents of police . . . to maintain order". Controls would be fully established only after the entire process was complete. The United Kingdom plan provided for a step-by-step approach toward total disarmament, beginning with a nuclear test ban and proceeding toward a cut-off of nuclear weapons production, the limitation and later reduction of armed forces, the destruction of all nuclear weapons and a final reduction in armed forces to internal security levels. Each step of the plan would be accompanied by appropriate international controls. In contrast to the Khrushchov plan, the United Kingdom envisaged an international police force under the United Nations to preserve world peace. The resolution adopted as a result of the debate on these proposals represented a compromise, and was sponsored by all 82 members of the United Nations. In particular, the resolution called on governments to make every effort to achieve a constructive solution of the disarmament problem and referred the proposals and related declarations to the ten-nation Disarmament Committee which had been agreed upon in September 1959 by the United States, the United Kingdom, France and the U.S.S.R. As an indication of the importance that Canada attaches to this Committee, it was announced toward the end of the year that Lieut.-Gen. E. L. M. Burns, after five years of distinguished service as Chief of Staff of UNTSO and UNEF Commander, was returning to Canadian Government service and would be the Canadian representative on the Disarmament Committee.