

Canada has taken the position that the United Nations should be associated as closely as possible with the ten-nation Disarmament Committee. The United Nations Disarmament Commission convened on Sept. 10 to note with approval the creation of the Committee. It is intended that the Committee report regularly to the United Nations and that the United Nations, probably through the Disarmament Commission, discuss the progress of the Committee's work.

The General Assembly discussed a number of questions related to disarmament. The Canadian initiative for increased world-wide co-operation in the collection of data on radiation and a study of its effects was adopted unanimously. This proposal arose from Canada's recognition of the widespread concern over the possible hazards from radio-active fallout resulting from nuclear tests. It is hoped that expanded international co-operation through the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation and the competent Specialized Agencies will stimulate research into the effects of low-level radiation on man and his environment and the distribution of fallout, and will enable soundly based judgments to be made as to the qualitative and quantitative nature of the hazards from nuclear testing. The Assembly also set up, by unanimous agreement, a special committee of 24 countries, including Canada, to consider further the problems of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. This committee replaces the previous one approved in 1958 but on which the U.S.S.R. had declined to participate because it considered the membership unsatisfactory.

The Assembly gave its attention to such continuing problems as Chinese representation, Hungary, Algeria, UNRWA, trusteeship questions, economic aid for under-developed countries and UNEF financing. The Assembly decided that at the fourteenth session there should be no discussion of the question of the representation of China. The discussion on Hungary coincided with reports of new repressive measures about which Canada expressed considerable concern. The Assembly "deplored" the failure of the U.S.S.R. and Hungary to honour previous United Nations resolutions which had called for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Hungary and the admission of a United Nations representative to survey the situation there; it called on both nations to co-operate now. A resolution on Algeria which had general support from African and Asian members failed to get the required two-thirds majority. The Assembly extended for three years the life of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and re-affirmed the right of the refugees to repatriation in Israel. On UNEF financing, the Assembly adopted a new scale of assessments for the annual \$20,000,000 required, which cut the assessment on smaller countries and put more emphasis on voluntary contributions from wealthier countries.

**Security Council.**—The year 1959 was the second of Canada's latest two-year term on the Security Council. In that year the Council was considerably less occupied than in 1958, only one question, concerning Laos, being formally discussed. Elections in the General Assembly for the non-permanent members of the Council for the period 1960-61, however, constituted a major problem which was resolved only with considerable difficulty.

At the request of the Secretary-General, the Council, on Sept. 7, considered the appeal, which had been addressed directly to Mr. Hammarskjöld by the Laotian Government, for a United Nations emergency Force to halt alleged military aggression in Laos by North Viet Nam and to prevent it from spreading. To avoid being paralyzed by the veto, the Council then adopted—as a procedural matter not subject to the veto, and by a vote of ten to one—a resolution which established a sub-committee of the Security Council under Article 29 of the Charter to "conduct such enquiries as it may determine necessary and to report to the Security Council as soon as possible" Argentina, Italy, Japan and Tunisia were named as members of the sub-committee which left New York for Laos on Sept. 12 and returned on Oct. 21 to report on its fact-finding mission; alternate representatives remained in Laos. Although the findings of the committee were not completely conclusive, the Secretary-General felt it useful to go to Laos personally and subsequently