

Developments in the six principal organs of the United Nations in the year ended May 31, 1955 are summarized below.

General Assembly.—The ninth session of the General Assembly was held in New York from Sept. 21 to Dec. 17, 1954 under the presidency of Mr. Eelco M. Van Kleffens of the Netherlands. The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Hon. L. B. Pearson, and the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Hon. Paul Martin, were chairman and vice-chairman respectively of the Canadian Delegation.

The most notable development at the session was the agreement by the USSR to join Canada, France, the United States and the United Kingdom in co-sponsoring a procedural resolution setting the stage for renewed discussions in the Sub-Committee of the Disarmament Commission. As acting chairman of the Canadian Delegation, Mr. Martin took the initiative in obtaining the agreement of the USSR to join the other members of the Sub-Committee in co-sponsoring the resolution which eventually was adopted unanimously by the Assembly. This encouraging display of Assembly unanimity was repeated in respect of another resolution co-sponsored by Canada and a number of Western countries which provided for continued negotiations leading towards the establishment of an agency to further co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy and for the convening in 1955 of an international conference of scientists interested in nuclear and related fields. This resolution was based on President Eisenhower's address on the peaceful uses of atomic energy at the eighth session of the General Assembly. The spirit of co-operation and harmony resulting from the unanimity on the resolutions on disarmament and atomic energy waned later in the session when the Communist members introduced a number of propaganda items—among them an appeal for a ban on propaganda favouring a new war.

Considerable time was spent but little progress made on recurring questions such as race conflict in South Africa and political difficulties in Tunisia and Morocco. New and difficult issues relating to Cyprus and West New Guinea were debated with indecisive results. In the absence of any change of view on the part of the major powers the general question of the admission of new members remained unresolved.

In the economic field Canada pledged \$1,500,000 as its contribution to the expanded program of technical assistance for the coming year and announced its preparedness to support the proposed International Finance Corporation which, under the aegis of the International Bank, would promote investment of capital in private enterprise in underdeveloped countries. On the question of the proposed Special United Nations Fund for Economic Development, the Canadian Delegation supported a resolution providing for further examination of the manner in which such a fund might operate but made it clear that Canada was not committed to the establishment of such a fund.

During debates on problems of international law the Canadian delegation made known its doubts that a suitable definition of aggression could be agreed upon or that any definition could have any practical value at the present time. With respect to studies of the Continental Shelf the Assembly asked the International Law Commission to complete its work on the régimes of the high seas and territorial waters and to submit a final report to the eleventh session of the Assembly in 1956.

The Assembly agreed on a procedure for final revision of the draft International Covenant on Human Rights and also continued its study of recommendations concerning the right of peoples to 'self-determination'. Consideration was also given to the desirability of drafting a supplementary convention on slavery and two measures for the abolition of forced-labour practices. With respect to women's rights, a resolution was adopted urging the abolition of customs or ancient laws reflecting on the human dignity of women.

Security Council.—Although Canada was not a member of the Security Council in the period under review it had a keen interest in a number of the problems dealt with by the Council. The source of chief concern to the Council was the threat of hostilities between Egypt and Israel resulting from border disputes. Major General Burns reported personally to the Council on a clash between armed forces of Egypt and Israel near Gaza on