

## INTERIM COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

In his opening address before the General Assembly, the United States Secretary of State, General Marshall, said his delegation would introduce a resolution proposing the creation of a standing committee of the Assembly, consisting of all members of the United Nations. Because of the extensive use of the veto in the Security Council by the U.S.S.R., that body had frequently been unable to act even in matters of seemingly minor importance. Also, the agenda of each succeeding Assembly meeting was becoming heavier and it was increasingly difficult to cover all matters in the period allotted to ordinary sessions. Many delegations therefore agreed that some standing committee could well take on duties which would facilitate and expedite the work of the United Nations in general and make the General Assembly a more efficient working body.

As established, the Interim Committee of the General Assembly was to function until the next session. The advisability of making it a permanent "Little Assembly" would then be discussed. It was given power to consider matters referred to it by the Assembly, or any dispute or situation brought before the Assembly or Security Council, requiring preliminary study and rated as "important" by two-thirds of its members; to study methods of implementing Charter provisions for the study of methods of conciliation for the maintenance of peace; and to consider whether a special session of the Assembly should at any time be called to consider a particular matter. It could also conduct investigations and appoint commissions of inquiry provided the consent of the states concerned was given.

The U.S.S.R. and other eastern European countries declared that establishment of the Interim Committee was a violation of the Charter and that they would take no part in its work.

### Canadian Position

Canada supported the United States proposal to establish an Interim Committee of the Assembly. It was the Canadian view that the apparent failure of the United Nations to become an effective instrument for international co-operation was largely due to the failure of the Security Council to agree within itself and support was, therefore, given to the proposal to strengthen the functions of the General Assembly. The crowded agenda of each Assembly and the need for careful study of some of the more complicated items referred to the United Nations were other reasons which led the Canadian delegation to support this proposal. The Canadian representative was chairman of the sub-committee of 15 countries which drafted the resolution for the establishment of an Interim Committee. (The U.S.S.R. and Czechoslovakia did not take their seats). The resolution was finally adopted by a vote of 41 to 6 with 6 abstentions.

### CONSIDERATION OF THE VETO

During the 1946 Assembly session, the problem of the veto was discussed and a resolution adopted which requested the permanent members of the Security Council not to impede the effective operation of the Council by use of their special voting privilege. As the veto was still used frequently during the ensuing months, the Argentine delegation proposed a general conference to discuss possible amendment of the Charter so that the veto should be prohibited. The United States offered to waive its right of veto on all subjects except those concerning threats to the peace, breaches of the peace and acts of aggression, and suggested that the whole problem be referred for detailed study to the Interim Committee. Its resolution provided that the Interim Committee study the