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THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES¹

1. The United Nations

The lack of that unity of purpose among the Great Powers upon which the Charter was based has continued to hamper the work of the United Nations. Among its effects have been the continued exclusion from membership of a considerable number of countries, and a tendency to go outside the United Nations for solutions to problems such as Indochina.

Despite these handicaps, Canada still regards the United Nations as the best long-run hope for the maintenance of peace and security and the improvement of international relations.

As usual, Canada was represented by a considerable delegation at the General Assembly. Canadian representatives also participated in the work of various other United Nations bodies, including: the Disarmament Commission and its Sub-committee; the Collective Measures Committee; the Advisory Committee of the Korean Reconstruction Agency; the Executive Board of the Children's Fund; the Negotiating Committee for Extra-budgetary Funds; the Statistical, Fiscal, Social, and Narcotic Drugs Commissions of the Economic and Social Council; and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

While Canada is not now on the Security Council, the Department continued to give close attention to its proceedings. The dispute between India and Pakistan over Kashmir has been quiescent, but nine Canadian officers are still working there with the United Nations military observer group. Pakistan's decision to accept United States military aid resulted in India's taking the position that United States military observers in Kashmir could no longer be considered neutral, a contention which the Secretary-General repudiated. Grave incidents along the demarcation lines between Israel and the Arab states were referred to the Security Council; four Canadian army officers were appointed to serve as members of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, and another Canadian, Major-General E. L. M. Burns, was named Chief of Staff. The case of the *Bat Galim*, an Israeli vessel detained by the Egyptian authorities on entering Suez Canal waters, was brought before the Security Council. In September the Council was asked to consider a complaint that Soviet military aircraft had attacked a United States naval aircraft over the high seas.

Canada took part in the private London talks of the Disarmament Sub-committee, at which agreement was reached among the four Western countries on new proposals for a comprehensive disarmament convention and for international control of disarmament. The decision of the U.S.S.R., announced at the ninth session of the Assembly, to accept the Western

¹Fuller information is contained in the departmental publication *Canada and the United Nations, 1953-54*.