

(including Canada). The 17-power resolution was adopted in committee and in plenary session, after slight amendment, was passed by a vote of 38 in favour, 11 against (including Canada) and 11 abstentions.

Early in 1954, the Commission resumed its study and invited Canada to inform it of measures taken by the Canadian Government which might be useful in suggesting ways and means of alleviating the racial situation in South Africa. In replying on May 13, 1954, the Canadian Representative to the United Nations said that Canada was unable to comply both for the reasons implied in the statements made by its Representative at the eighth session of the General Assembly, and because the Canadian Government doubted that there was any information it could provide from its experience which would be relevant to a study of the problems before the Commission. The reply went on to say that Canada was not uninterested in this problem but the Canadian attitude reflected our interest in seeing the United Nations achieve a reconciliation between the principle of domestic jurisdiction of sovereign states on the one hand, and on the other, the legitimate interest of the United Nations in human rights and freedom for all peoples, regardless of race, creed, or colour.

Greece and its Northern Neighbours

The Balkan Sub-Commission of the United Nations Peace Observation Commission was established on January 23, 1952 to observe the frontier areas in northern Greece opposite to Albania and Bulgaria. Composed of Representatives of Colombia, France, Pakistan, Sweden and the United States, the Sub-Commission was authorized to act in accordance with the general mandate of the Peace Observation Commission "to observe and report on the situation in any area where there exists international tension".¹

At the request of the Greek Government the Sub-Commission established a military observer group in Greece. This group originally included one military observer from each of the member countries of the Sub-Commission and was headed by a principal observer, appointed by the United Kingdom. On December 21, 1953, at the suggestion of Greece, the Peace Observation Commission decided to limit the number of military observers to three, excluding the principal observer, and to continue their services until July 31, 1954.

At the time of its inception the need for the Balkan Sub-Commission was urgent and real. During the past two years, however, relations between Greece and its northern neighbours have greatly improved and the reports of the Military Observer Group have shown a corresponding decrease in the number of incidents in the frontier areas. The reports since January 1, 1954 have stated that the situation was quiet. In view of these hopeful trends the Greek Government suggested, in a letter of May 14, 1954 to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, that the mission of the Military Observer Group in Greece be discontinued from August 1, 1954, but that the Balkan Sub-Commission be maintained for one more year. These suggestions were adopted unanimously by the Sub-Commission on May 23.

¹See *Canada and the United Nations 1951-52*, p. 21.