

contribute toward the reconstruction and economic and social development of Libya through "appropriate mechanisms within the United Nations available for receiving voluntary contributions". The resolution asked the Secretary-General and the Specialized Agencies to give all possible favourable consideration to Libya's requests for technical assistance, waiving the payment by Libya of local costs. Should further means become available for helping to finance the development of under-developed areas, due consideration should be given by the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies to Libya's specific needs. Nothing was said in the resolution about continued bilateral aid, which is thus not ruled out, and it is expected that Libya will continue to receive aid on this basis from two or three countries in addition to the financial assistance already promised by the United Kingdom in the recently-ratified treaty of July 29, 1953.

Ad Hoc Commission on Prisoners of War

The Commission on Prisoners of War was established by the General Assembly at its fifth session to determine what had happened to Second World War prisoners who had not been accounted for or repatriated to their homelands. Members of the Commission were chosen from El Salvador, Sweden and Burma. In its report to the eighth session of the Assembly the Commission was able to report very little progress, largely because of the refusal of the U.S.S.R. to co-operate. At the same time charges continued to be made by other nations, principally Germany, Italy and Japan, that large numbers of prisoners were still held by Soviet bloc countries. In a statement on December 2 the Canadian Representative, Mrs. A. L. Caldwell, regretted that it had not been possible to avoid emphasis on political differences in what was largely a humanitarian problem. She said that the recent return from the U.S.S.R. of a few German prisoners and the working arrangements established between Japan and Communist China on the prisoner question were encouraging. By a vote of 46 in favour (including Canada), 5 against (Soviet bloc) and 6 abstentions, the General Assembly passed a resolution praising the work of the Commission and asking it to continue its efforts. It noted with concern that certain governments had refused to co-operate with the Commission, and it urgently appealed to all governments to supply information to the Commission and to grant it access to areas in which prisoners are detained.

Forced Labour

The report of the joint United Nations-International Labour Office (ILO) *Ad Hoc* Committee on Forced Labour was debated for a week in the Third Committee in November. The *Ad Hoc* Committee, which was appointed in 1951, reported that its investigations had shown that forced labour for political coercion and for important economic purposes existed in the world and that those governments which made use of it were contravening the United Nations Charter. The Soviet Union and the satellite countries were found to be particular offenders.

During the debate the Canadian representative on the Third Committee, Mrs. A. L. Caldwell, deplored the fact that in the last six years six countries with populations of some 200 to 300 million have passed laws permitting forms of forced labour. The Canadian Representative declared that "humanity has marched backward in this respect". She expressed full support for the resolution.