

CANADA AND THE UNITED NATIONS*

(This article covers the work of the General Assembly from November 1 to November 30).

Appointment of the Secretary-General

Mr. Trygve Lie was appointed Secretary-General of the United Nations on February 1, 1946 for a five-year term. It was therefore necessary for the Security Council to attempt to reach agreement upon a recommendation to the Fifth Session of the General Assembly either to continue Mr. Lie in office or to appoint a successor.

After several closed meetings, the Security Council reached complete deadlock, with the U.S.S.R. vetoing the re-appointment of Mr. Lie and the United States threatening to use the veto to prevent the appointment of any other candidate. Since it was the Assembly that had originally set Mr. Lie's term of office, it was decided to refer the matter to it, on the ground that it had the right to amend its own resolution on the subject. After a bitter debate, during which the Soviet Delegate stated that his Government would not recognize or deal with Mr. Lie if he were reappointed, the Assembly passed a joint resolution sponsored by fifteen countries, which extended Mr. Lie's term of office as Secretary-General for three years.

Soviet Proposal

The annual Soviet attempt to make the most of a "peace" debate in the General Assembly was manifested at the present session in the item entitled "Soviet proposal for the removal of the threat of a new war". The draft resolution which embodied this proposal was virtually a repetition of similar proposals introduced by the U.S.S.R. in 1948 and 1949. This year, however, the so-called "Stockholm peace appeal" was used as the theme of the Soviet case. The majority of member states had long since recognized the motives underlying proposals of this kind, and showed their distrust of these motives by rejecting the Soviet proposal by a very heavy majority.

The answer of the non-Cominform states to the Soviet proposals was contained in a resolution entitled "peace through deeds" which, when submitted to the Assembly, won a majority of 50 to 5 with 1 abstention. Discussion on the resolution resembled the debate on the "essentials of peace" which had occupied the Fourth Session of the Assembly. Once again representatives of the Western powers criticized the patent artificiality of the Soviet position. Mr. Pearson, in his statement to the Committee, challenged the Soviet Union to clarify further its position with regard to the control and inspection of atomic energy installations and facilities. His appeal went unanswered. Mr. Pearson also suggested two simple steps which the Cominform states might take to remove fears about Soviet foreign policy. First, the U.S.S.R. should abandon its boycott of the constructive work of the Specialized Agencies and should assume its share of the burden of assistance to under-developed countries. Secondly, it should cease isolating "its people, its culture, its progress" from contact with the outside world.

Yugoslav Proposals

During the second week of November the Political Committee considered two items which had been introduced by the Yugoslav Delegation. The first of these proposals, entitled "duties of states in the event of the outbreak of hostilities", was generally regarded as a reflection of the fears felt by Yugoslavia at the possibility of aggression by one of its Soviet satellite neighbours. The most significant provisions of this proposal were: that within twenty-four hours after an outbreak of aggression

* A separate article dealing with the Korean situation, and with discussions of Korean affairs in the General Assembly and Security Council, is on pp. 426-433.