

## U.S. Report on Korean Atrocities

Concern was felt at the eighth session of the General Assembly over a report issued by the United States on atrocities committed by the Communist side in the Korean conflict. Speakers in the debate dwelt on their revulsion at such inhuman acts but made it clear that they were aware of the many practical and political difficulties which full investigation and punishment would involve. The U.S.S.R. representative charged that the report was without foundation and had been fabricated as a means of stirring up hatred and opposing peace. In a statement on November 30 the Canadian representative drew attention to the legal requirements for humane treatment of prisoners and recalled the Geneva Conventions of 1929 and 1949. He expressed the view that the least that could be done in the present situation was to demonstrate concern at the report of atrocities and to condemn such acts which violated international law and the basic standards of morality. It was the hope of the Canadian Delegation that when the judgment of world opinion had been passed upon any governments guilty of such atrocities, the Assembly would be able to close this gruesome chapter and look forward to the task of rehabilitating Korea and to the business of making peace. After a four-day debate in plenary session the General Assembly adopted a joint draft resolution introduced by Australia, France, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States, in which grave concern is expressed at the reports of atrocities, and the commission of such atrocities is condemned. The vote was 42 in favour (including Canada), 5 against (the Soviet bloc) with 10 abstentions.

## President Eisenhower's Speech of December 8

In a speech to the United Nations General Assembly on December 8, 1953, President Eisenhower put forward the proposal that to the extent permitted by elementary prudence, the governments principally involved should begin and should continue to make joint contributions from their stock piles of fissionable material to an International Atomic Energy Agency set up under the aegis of the United Nations. The Agency would use this fissionable material for peaceful purposes only, experts being mobilized to advise methods whereby atomic energy would be applied for agriculture, medicine, electric power, etc. The President suggested that this proposal be examined during private conversations which might take place pursuant to the General Assembly resolution of November 28 last which suggested that "the Disarmament Commission study the desirability of establishing a special committee, consisting of representatives of the powers principally involved, which should seek, in private, an acceptable solution—and report on such a solution to the General Assembly and to the Security Council not later than September 1, 1954".

The Eisenhower proposal was presented as a measure designed to bring about East-West co-operation on one aspect of atomic energy, thus paving the way for a general settlement of all the problems of atomic energy including the prohibition of atomic weapons. Repeated efforts by the United Nations to solve this problem since 1946 have ended in a deadlock between the Western powers and the U.S.S.R. It is true that these efforts have produced the United Nations Plan for International Control of Atomic Energy which was approved by the General Assembly in 1948, but the Communist countries opposed the plan at the time and no progress has been made since then. The stumbling block in East-West negotiations has been the question of international control