

States voted to continue the United Nations Special Committee on the Balkans and the United Nations Commission on Korea. The work of both these bodies had proved useful in providing the Assembly with an impartial account of the confused circumstances in these two trouble areas. The presence of United Nations observers in the countries concerned, while not eliminating the disturbances therein, seems to have mitigated the violence in both cases. The conclusion to be drawn would seem to be that bodies of this type may be regarded as indispensable parts of the machinery of conciliation and mediation in future disputes where the parties have resorted to force.

The Assembly also showed a marked reluctance to discontinue efforts to reach an agreement on the control of atomic energy and to give up the search for a satisfactory system of disarmament. The resolutions adopted on both these subjects reflect the anxiety with which Member States, particularly the smaller powers, viewed the recurring reports of new and terrifying developments in the art of modern warfare. In effect the powers most concerned were urgently requested to pursue with renewed patience their efforts to avert another world conflict and to establish a solid foundation for lasting peace and security.

The "Essentials of Peace"

At the same time a significant majority of the members made it quite clear that, if there was any fear of war in the world, it was due to the aggressive, imperialist policies of the Soviet Union, and to the efforts of international communism to support such a policy by subversive action within the territories of other states. In the bitter debate on what was loosely termed the Russian peace proposal, the representatives of the Soviet block tried to throw on the western powers, and in particular the United Kingdom and the United States, the blame for the preparation of a new war. It was apparent from the trend of the debate, however, that Russian criticism of the Western World served only to strengthen and unify the determination of the free peoples to continue to build up their power to resist aggression, in whatever form, on the part of the Soviet Union. In the end the joint United Kingdom-United States resolution on the "essentials of peace" was adopted by the overwhelming majority of 53 to 5 with Yugoslavia abstaining.

Two important steps were taken in the economic and social field. The Assembly's resolution on technical assistance was an effort to meet the sincere and persistent desire of many nations of the world to secure help in developing the economies and raising the living standards in the more backward areas of the world. This desire has found continuous expression in the work of various organs of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. Although there is no way of telling how successful the most recent plan will be, it is clear from the trend of the debate in the Assembly that most Member States recognize that the solution of many of the world's most pressing political problems is directly related to the improvement of living conditions in the under-developed countries.

In order to increase the effectiveness of plans, such as the technical assistance programme, the General Assembly explored ways and means of co-ordinating the work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. Several