

These annual exercises on disarmament cannot be said to advance the matter very far, but they do keep the subject before the public. This year the Assembly proved a useful forum in which to push the Great Powers towards more serious consideration of limiting nuclear tests, a move in which the Canadian Delegation assisted. There is much to be said for the practical arrangement by which the responsible powers work on such subjects as disarmament in a small private committee, but are subject in the Assembly to the pressure of public opinion from other delegations.

The issues which I have mentioned, were, of course, not nearly so important as those of Hungary and Egypt. It is primarily for the handling of these questions that the United Nations has been accused by some of unwarranted interference; by others of ineffectiveness; and by many of laying down double standards of behaviour.

### THE MIDDLE EAST

It is not possible yet to pass a final judgment on the actions of the United Nations over the Egyptian crisis. If we assume that the military invasion of Israel, followed by the intervention of Great Britain and France if it had been not interfered with, would have resulted in the over-throw of Colonel Nasser and his replacement by a well-disposed Egyptian regime, by the establishment of international control of the Suez Canal and by progress towards a solution of the Palestine question, then one may consider United Nations intervention wrong and ill-advised. If it is felt, however, as I myself feel, that military action of the kind taken could have accomplished none of the purposes that I have mentioned, that, on the contrary, it would have driven the Egyptians to invite Communist help, have split the whole Asian-Arab world from the West in bitter hostility, and imposed heavy, perhaps unbearable, strains on the Commonwealth Asian members, then, the sooner it was stopped by international action the better for all concerned, including, in particular, the British and the French themselves.

From this point of view, United Nations intervention was an essential service to peace. Certainly there could not have been international intervention by any other agency. Intervention by the other Great Powers on their own would have had, I believe, disastrous results. Any effective international action outside the United Nations would have required collaboration between the United States and the U.S.S.R., which was obviously impossible. Or, at the least, it would have required close collaboration between the Big Three of the West. Even if that had been possible - and, unhappily, it was not - it would have met fierce Arab-Asian resistance and the threat of Russian interference.

In my view, the role played by the United Nations last November was important, yes essential, for the preservation of international peace and security. Whatever may happen now,