

In committee the Arabs and their supporters secured the adoption of a resolution in the above sense by considerably amending the four-power draft. They were successful in having incorporated in the revised resolution, in addition to the provisions just mentioned, an expression of regret that the Assembly's past resolutions concerning the repatriation of refugees, the equitable evaluation of their property and the payment of compensation had not yet been carried out. They also incorporated in the resolution a paragraph urging the governments concerned to observe "strictly" the Assembly's past resolutions on Palestine.

Immediately after the committee adopted the resolution desired by the Arab states and their supporters, it was realized that a critical situation had to be faced. Among many states not directly concerned in the Palestine dispute there was an apparent sympathy with the view of the Conciliation Commission that strict implementation of all past resolutions of the Assembly would now be difficult to expect. For that reason the vote in committee on some paragraphs of the amended resolution had been almost evenly balanced, and it seemed unlikely that in the final vote in plenary session these passages would be supported as they stood by the requisite two-thirds majority. If they were rejected, however, there was a possibility that the resolution as a whole might fail of adoption.

Meanwhile the representatives of Arab states, who were under heavy domestic pressure to secure confirmation of the principle of repatriation of the refugees, had made it clear that if the Assembly closed the door to further efforts by the Conciliation Commission to obtain the repatriation of refugees, partly by boundary adjustments and partly by the return of certain categories of refugees to Israel as provided in past Assembly resolutions, the Arab states themselves would not be able to support the programme for rehabilitation of refugees in Arab territory put forward by the head of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees.² The resolutions relating to the Conciliation Commission and the work of the Relief and Works Agency, that is to say, were considered by the Arabs to be mutually complementary, and to have to stand or fall together. The point they made was that the refugees could co-operate in the Agency's efforts for their rehabilitation in Arab territory only if they knew that parallel efforts were continuing to be made under United Nations auspices to secure their ultimate return to their former homes.

From the outset the Canadian delegation had supported the purposes of the four-power draft resolution and had helped in the committee stage to have it expressed in a simple form which would emphasize the essential purpose of keeping the Conciliation Commission in existence. As already seen, however, it was not a resolution in this simple form which the Committee adopted. In the interval between the adjournment of the Committee and the final vote in plenary session the Canadian delegation felt that a break-down could be averted if an active effort were made to return to a resolution in a simpler form. The Canadian Representative therefore offered amendments to this effect.

²See p. 65.