

27. After prolonged discussion, which was given very great publicity, the General Assembly recommended, by more than a two-thirds majority, that a plan based on the proposal of the majority of the Special Committee for partition with economic union should be adopted. This resolution of the General Assembly put the responsibility for implementing that recommendation on the Security Council, if the two parties were unable to agree on it. Canada voted with the majority in favour of a plan of partition with economic union, since the Canadian Government regarded it, in the words of the Canadian representative on November 26, 1947, "as the best of four unattractive and difficult alternatives". These four alternatives were partition, a unitary state, a federal state and no United Nations recommendation at all. In the discussions in the General Assembly, the Canadian delegation had urged that any study of the partition plan should include an examination of methods for implementation and enforcement. The Canadian representatives also urged that the responsibility for the maintenance of order in Palestine should devolve as quickly as possible on the people themselves. Above all, the Canadian delegation tried to ensure that there should be some provision for implementation included in the resolution of the General Assembly. It was, and still is, the Canadian position that the United Nations should not make recommendations in regard to Palestine without taking into account the problem of whether their acceptance can be secured. This position was recently reiterated by Mr. St. Laurent in his speech of April 29 in the Canadian House of Commons.

28. Shortly after the majority of the General Assembly had voted in favour of the plan of partition with economic union, it became apparent that the peaceful implementation of this plan was not practicable. On March 19, 1948, the United States representative drew the attention of the Security Council to the fact that, if the Assembly plan were not put into effect by May 15, the United Nations would have no administrative responsibility in Palestine after the mandate ended. In order that this responsibility might be definitely assumed, the United States proposed formally on March 30 that a second special session of the General Assembly should be summoned. The Canadian Government supported this proposal. It had in mind the desirability of enabling the General Assembly to consider whether, in the new and changed circumstances, alternative plans should be made for Palestine, particularly as there was hope that by these means processes of mediation and conciliation might be initiated and peace restored.

29. Accordingly, a special session of the General Assembly took place at Lake Success on the Palestine question. The results of this special Assembly were only meagre but, by means of the resolution establishing a Mediator, and by endorsement of the Security Council's efforts to bring about a truce, a basis, at least, was laid for possible conciliation of this very bitter dispute. The Canadian Government supported the appointment of a Mediator and also strongly supported in the Security Council the efforts to bring about a truce and, later, to continue the truce. Renewed hostilities broke out after the termination of the Mandate and a truce was gradually brought about by the efforts of the Security Council and, in particular, those of the Mediator, the late Count Bernadotte.

30. The Palestine question has now become one of the most explosive issues in contemporary international affairs. The attitude of the Canadian Government has consistently been, and still is, to support any constructive proposal which might lead to a practicable and equitable solution of this question by pacific methods. The overwhelming concern of Canada in this matter is to see peace return again to Palestine.