

REPORT ON THE FIRST PART OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

SECTION I

INTRODUCTION

On June 26, 1945, the Charter of the United Nations was signed at San Francisco. This act concluded the first stage in the creation of the United Nations.* The fundamental principles of the organization designed to maintain peace and to promote co-operation among the nations had been agreed upon by the fifty states assembled at the San Francisco Conference.

The second stage in creating a functioning organization began immediately. On the day the United Nations Charter was signed, the same fifty nations signed an Agreement on Interim Arrangements establishing machinery to bring the Charter into effective operation. The Agreement provided for the setting up of a Preparatory Commission, consisting of all the Members of the Organization, and of an Executive Committee of fourteen members to exercise the functions and powers of the Commission when the latter body was not in session.

Subsequently, the Executive Committee recommended that the First Session of the General Assembly should be divided into two parts. The first part, which was held in London from January 10th to February 14, 1946, completed the organizational work for the United Nations, in order that the second part of the First Session, which will begin early in September of this year, should be free to deal with main problems of policy.

This report contains an account of the three organizational stages in the setting up of the United Nations. The work of the Executive Committee, the Preparatory Commission and the first part of the First Session of the General Assembly is discussed in Section II as one continuous process, under headings which correspond in the main to the titles of the technical committees of the Preparatory Commission. Section III of the report contains an account of the elections in the General Assembly to the various organs of the United Nations. Section IV deals with the main problems of policy which came up at the first part of the First Session of the General

*The Report of the Canadian delegation to the San Francisco Conference has been published as Conference Series 1945, No. 2. Copies may be obtained from the King's Printer, Ottawa.