

# CANADA AND THE UNITED NATIONS

## PALESTINE

During May, the United Nations General Assembly concluded its special session on Palestine by recommending the appointment of a U.N. mediator for Palestine; the United Kingdom mandate came to an end; the Jews declared the State of Israel in existence; warfare between Arabs and Jews broke out in Jerusalem and throughout the country; and, after five unsuccessful attempts to bring about a truce, the Security Council passed a further truce resolution - which was later accepted by both sides.

When it became clear that the Assembly's November 29 recommendation for partition with economic union (which had been supported by Canada) would not become effective automatically, a special session was called at the request of the United States to consider trusteeship for Palestine as a temporary measure. The session met from April 16 to May 14. While the Assembly discussed ways of bringing about a settlement, the Security Council established a Truce Commission in Palestine (consisting of the United States, Belgian and French consuls already there) and debated possible measures for the maintenance of peace and the Trusteeship Council studied the security situation in the City of Jerusalem.

At the special session the trusteeship proposal failed to obtain general support and was dropped before being put to the vote. The Assembly agreed that the mandatory power should appoint a municipal commissioner for Jerusalem, acceptable to both Arabs and Jews. The final resolution of the session was that the five great powers appoint a U.N. mediator for Palestine to promote peace and assist in maintaining the operation of necessary services.

When widespread fighting broke out after the British

withdrawal May 15, renewed attempts were made in the Security Council to obtain at least a cease-fire in Palestine. A move first by the United States and later by the U.S.S.R. to invoke sanctions against the Arabs failed to obtain the necessary support and a proposal for a four-week truce, with the provision that if the terms were violated by either side the use of sanctions would be considered, passed in the Council and was accepted by both Arabs and Jews.

During the General Assembly and Security Council discussions on Palestine, Canada took the stand that every effort should be made to obtain a negotiated settlement before any measures were taken to secure settlement by coercion. Canada therefore voted for the Assembly's final resolution for a United Nations mediator, supported all the proposals for truce and mediation but voted against the use of sanctions at this stage.

## OTHER SECURITY COUNCIL MATTERS

The other main items before the Security Council during May were the coup d'état in Czechoslovakia and the India-Pakistan dispute. The question of Czechoslovakia was originally raised by Chile which requested that a three-member sub-committee of the Council be set up to receive and hear evidence and then report back to the Council on whether or not external pressure had been used to bring about the change of government in Czechoslovakia. Canada supported the proposal to obtain the facts in the case and argued that as the Charter makes provision for the setting up by the Security Council of such subsidiary organs as it requires, the matter was procedural, requiring a simple majority, and not subject to the veto. The Soviet, however, vetoed this

interpretation and vetoed the Sub-committee proposal. Since no progress could be made, the matter was referred to the Interim Committee for re-examination.

After India and Pakistan referred their dispute over Kashmir to the Security Council, a five-member Kashmir Commission was set up to offer its services to both countries in order to work out a peaceful settlement. While India and Pakistan both agreed to confer with the Commission, there remained several issues which the Security Council was unable to settle. When the question was discussed May 26, the Canadian delegate expressed the view that all remaining points at issue should be referred to the Kashmir Commission to consider "at its discretion." He further suggested that the Commission should be considered as first and foremost a Commission of Good Offices embracing not only the Kashmir dispute but all difficulties between the two countries which had been placed before the Security Council.

## ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

The Atomic Energy Commission agreed May 17 by a vote of 9 to 2 (the U.S.S.R. and the Ukraine in the negative) to suspend indefinitely its attempt to work out some international plan for the control of atomic energy.

When the Commission's Second Report (presented to the Security Council in September 1947) failed to obtain Soviet support, discussions continued on the form and scope of the international control organization which would be required if the proposals approved by the majority of the members were put into effect. A thorough re-examination of the Soviet position was made but it was still felt by the majority that no agreement could be obtained on the basis