

Canada and the United Nations

THE thirteenth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations convened in New York on September 16. In its first three weeks the Assembly elected a new president (Dr. Charles Malik, of Lebanon), and other officers, approved an agenda of 72 items and their allocation to plenary meetings and the main Committees, decided once again not to seat representatives of the People's Republic of China, and elected Argentina, Italy and Tunisia to two-year terms in the Security Council, beginning January 1, 1959.

During the general debate, which began on September 18 and ended on October 7, 83 speakers representing 72 member states expounded their countries' view on the international situation and on items on the Assembly's agenda of particular interest to them. The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Sidney E. Smith, spoke for Canada on September 25.*

The composition of the Canadian Delegation is as follows: *Representatives*—Mr. Sidney E. Smith, Secretary of State for External Affairs (Chairman of the Delegation); Mr. W. J. Browne, Minister without Portfolio (Vice-Chairman of the Delegation); Mr. G. S. Thorvaldson, Senator; Dr. R. P. Vivian, M.D., Member of Parliament for Durham; Mr. C. S. A. Ritchie, Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations. *Alternate Representatives*—Mr. H. W. Macquarrie, Member of Parliament for Victoria; Mr. J. N. Tremblay, Member of Parliament for Roberval; Mrs. W. T. Hayden; Mr. Jean Morin, Q.C.; Mr. J. W. Holmes, Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Advisers for the Delegation are drawn from the Department of External Affairs, the Department of Finance, the Canadian Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York and the Canadian Embassy in Washington.

Chinese Representation

The thirteenth session opened in a somewhat tense atmosphere as a result of the crisis that began on August 23, when the Chinese Communists started an intense artillery bombardment of Quemoy and other off-shore islands, and implied that they might attempt to seize these islands by force. The timing of the crisis raised the possibility that the UN might be asked to consider the question of the hostilities in the Taiwan Straits, a possibility that has not, however, materialized to date as a result of diminished tension. At the same time the crisis threw into sharp focus the question of Chinese representation in the United Nations.

The question of Chinese representation was discussed at the beginning of the session during the examination of the agenda, first in the General Committee and later in the Assembly, on the basis of a recommendation by India that the Assembly consider the representation of China in the United Nations, and of a United States draft resolution calling for another year's delay in consideration of the issue. On September 19 the Committee voted 12 to 7, with 2 abstentions, to recommend the United States proposal. On September 22, the Assembly approved the Committee's decision by a vote of 44 in favour, 28 against, with 9 abstentions. The United States, France, Canada, and all

*Text published in External Affairs Bulletin, October 1958.