

## **Future Constitutional Development**

President Ayub has insisted from the first that "our ultimate aim is to restore democracy, but of the type that people can understand and work". In subsequent interviews, he has elaborated his views on future developments by commenting that he does not consider parliamentary democracy workable so long as there is a predominantly illiterate population, and a proliferation of parties. He has also stated that he will appoint a commission of experts to draw up a constitution, and he inferred that he had in mind a presidential form of government with a strong president and a complete division of powers between legislative and administrative bodies. The people apparently would elect the president, either directly or through an electoral college.

These constitutional changes are not to be implemented, however, until the major problems of the country have been solved. In the meantime, the President considers that the country enjoys "the substance of democracy" including "the inalienable right to life, liberty, and security of person".

## **Foreign Policy**

On the important subject of Indo-Pakistan relations, the President commented on October 22: "We are going to try desperately to see that the Kashmir dispute and the canal waters dispute are settled justly and amicably but to our satisfaction . . . We shall be infinitely glad to have a settlement through peaceful means but if we are forced to adopt means other than peaceful, the blame will surely lie at the doorsteps of India. We do not want a conflict with India . . . The door for a peaceful and honourable solution will always be wide open on our side. These two questions must be solved . . . Then an era of better understanding and even friendship between the two countries will be ushered in."

The new Government has made no changes in Pakistan's traditional policy of friendship and co-operation with the free world. Pakistan continues to belong to the Baghdad and SEATO Pacts, and Foreign Minister Qadir recently acted as Chairman of the Baghdad Pact Ministerial Council meeting held in Karachi. Pakistan has retained its membership in the Commonwealth and the Colombo Plan, and indicated the importance which it attaches to these associations when it warmly welcomed Prime Minister Diefenbaker and other Commonwealth figures who recently visited there.