

The debate on this subject at the sixth session of the Assembly lasted for two weeks, but it was not much more successful than the Law Commission's discussions had been. The Canadian Delegation, together with the Delegations of Belgium, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the United States and others, stressed the fact that the question of the definition of aggression had now become a purely political issue and that it was unrealistic to try in the present circumstances to define aggression. Several other representatives, however, particularly those from the Latin American and Arab countries, held the firm belief that a definition of aggression would contribute to assuring international peace and security. The Western powers as a result found themselves in the unfortunate position of appearing to be opposed to defining aggression while the delegations of the Soviet bloc joined with some of the Latin American and Arab countries and thus pretended to be defenders of international peace and security and of the territorial and political integrity of the small nations.

The resolution on this question which was finally approved by the General Assembly did not take any decision on defining aggression, but referred the matter to the seventh session of the Assembly to be considered at the same time as the draft code of offences against the peace and security of mankind. The Assembly resolution, however, contained a paragraph stating that a definition of aggression was "possible and desirable with a view to ensuring international peace and security and to developing an international criminal law". The Canadian Delegation and others considered that this prejudged the whole question and did not take into account the actual history of the problem. Nevertheless the Assembly accepted this recommendation by a vote of 30 to 12 (including Canada) with 8 abstentions. The Assembly also instructed the Secretary-General to submit to the seventh session "a report in which the question of defining aggression shall be thoroughly discussed in the light of the views expressed in the Sixth Committee at the sixth session of the General Assembly and which shall duly take into account the draft resolutions and amendments submitted concerning this question". It remains to be seen whether the seventh session of the Assembly will be more successful than its predecessor in defining aggression to the satisfaction of the majority of members of the United Nations.

## International Crimes and Criminal Jurisdiction

In the period under review further progress was made in the direction of defining international crimes and establishing an international criminal court.<sup>1</sup> The International Law Commission submitted a draft code of offences against the peace and security of mankind but the sixth session of the General Assembly decided to postpone consideration of it until the seventh session in 1952. At the same time an *ad hoc* committee, which had been established by the General Assembly, met in 1951 and drafted the text of a statute

<sup>1</sup>See *Canada and the United Nations 1950*, pp. 139-143.