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## GENERAL SURVEY

The moderately hopeful trend which had begun to appear in United Nations affairs toward the very end of 1961 continued in the early part of 1962. Having recovered from such severe shocks as the autumn outburst of fighting in the Congo, the sudden death of Dag Hammarskjold and the strain of the prolonged Soviet assault on the Secretariat, the organization began to show signs of adjusting to the new problems of enlarged membership and the increasingly heavy burdens which resulted from the broadening scope of United Nations activity in all fields. The organization had shown remarkable resilience under the impact of sharp blows and this was attributable in the main to the determination of a large majority of the membership to preserve the United Nations as an instrument for conciliation and co-operation.

This approach was illustrated soon after the new year began, when the General Assembly met in resumed session to deal with the future of one of the few remaining territories, Ruanda-Urundi. At this session, which after a recess re-convened in June, the Assembly devised satisfactory arrangements for the transfer of power. Notwithstanding apparent risks that bloodshed and confusion might result from action taken too soon, the new states of Burundi and Rwanda gained independence in July and, at the seventeenth session, were admitted to the United Nations. In this way, the Trusteeship Agreement was honourably discharged and one more milestone was passed on the path toward sovereign freedom for all dependent people.

The success of this evolution was mainly the result of close consultation and co-operation involving the local authorities, the administering power (Belgium), and the United Nations. With United Nations assistance, not only was the transfer of power effected smoothly but the infant governments were given much-needed technical advice and help in getting on their feet. The event demonstrated the desirability of perseverance and patience on the part of all concerned in working out programmes for independence and of turning a deaf ear to the calculated criticism and impatient demands from extremists and mischief-makers.

Those events also symbolized the strong sentiment swelling in Africa and in the United Nations against further delay in bringing the colonial era to an end. Colonial issues have been considered in the United Nations almost since its inception but by 1962, with African-Asian states comprising