

which the French accepted and which was approved by all members. The final resolution, in fact, served the best purpose which a United Nations Assembly can serve. It allowed members to blow off a certain amount of steam and eventually to compromise and, as a result, to produce an atmosphere more conducive to fruitful negotiations between the conflicting parties.

(2) CYPRUS

The British, like the French, had agreed this year to put their case to the Assembly rather than deny its right to consider the question at all as ultra vires the Charter. The debate was far from one-sided and served, in fact, to expose the fallacy of some of the more extreme anti-British positions. Although the Greeks, the Turks and the British had insisted that they could not accept any compromise, they were quite happy in the end to accept a mild and, I hope, useful resolution.

(3) WEST NEW GUINEA

On this other "colonial" issue, the results were somewhat different. A resolution supported by almost all the Asian and African countries as well as some South American countries and the Soviet bloc did not secure the requisite two-thirds majority vote in the Assembly and, therefore, lapsed. The Dutch spoke firmly but moderately and reasonably, and they undoubtedly profited in goodwill from this approach. As no decision was taken by the Assembly, no requirement was made of the Dutch to take any action at all. The intervention of the United Nations, therefore, did not, because of the provisions of the Charter result in any interference with the rights of a Western country. It is doubtful, furthermore, whether the debate which took place fanned the flames of anti-colonialist nationalism any higher than they would have been driven through the usual channels.

(4) DISARMAMENT

The debate on this subject ended in unanimous agreement on a purely procedural resolution after a somewhat routine discussion. While there is clearly not very much agreement among the Great Powers on the substance of this question, they do agree that although this subject must be considered within the framework of the United Nations, the full Assembly is no place for serious discussion. The Russians started off with the usual propaganda attack, but they subsided quickly and stuck to an understanding reached with the Americans before the debate that there would be no examination of the substance of the subject in the unwieldy full Assembly, and that it would be referred again to the Sub-Committee.