

then submitted his own proposal providing for a set date on which Pakistan troops would be withdrawn, a subsequent withdrawal of Indian forces and finally the disbanding of pro-Indian and pro-Pakistan native units. The Prime Minister of India had, however, rejected this proposal on several counts. After further efforts at demilitarization had proved unavailing, the United Nations representative explored the possibility of partition—first, of the whole area excepting the Vale of Kashmir (within which a plebiscite would be held) and later, of the state as a whole. The lengthy and intricate negotiations on the question of partition had also been unproductive, as neither side had been willing either to accept his suggestions or to offer any alternative solution.

In summary, Sir Owen, in describing his own inability to bring the disputants into agreement, declared that throughout the history of the dispute both India and Pakistan had consistently failed to agree and had thrown the entire responsibility for settling the controversy upon the Security Council and its representatives. As a consequence, he had come to the conclusion that the initiative should now pass back to the parties and that the best hope of agreement lay in partition and in some means of allocating the Vale of Kashmir, rather than in an overall plebiscite. He advocated that at the same time the Security Council retain the United Nations military observers in Kashmir and that it urge the two parties to reduce their forces on their respective sides of the cease-fire line to numbers which would suffice for normal protection of a peace-time frontier. In this report, Sir Owen Dixon also requested the formal termination of his position as United Nations representative for India and Pakistan.

The Kashmir issue had not subsequently been discussed by the Security Council by the end of 1950.

### Indians in the Union of South Africa

On May 14, 1949, during the second part of its Third Session, the General Assembly adopted a resolution calling upon South Africa, India and Pakistan to hold a round-table conference for the purpose of settling their dispute over the treatment of people of Indian origin in the Union of South Africa.<sup>1</sup> This avenue towards an amicable solution, however, was closed in June 1950 when the Government of India stated that it was no longer prepared to participate in direct discussions in view of the enactment by the South African Government of the "Group Areas Bill" under which the various racial groups in the Union would be restricted to specific areas of residence and economic activity. The Indian Delegation, in the course of the debate on this item during the Fifth Session of the General Assembly, contended that the policy upon which this Bill was based represented a flagrant contravention of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Accordingly the Delegation of India, in conjunction with Burma, Indonesia, and Iraq, introduced a draft resolution recommending that South Africa

<sup>1</sup>See *Canada and the United Nations, 1949*, p. 75.