

During the 1947 session, the Indian delegation introduced a resolution calling on India, Pakistan and South Africa to hold round-table discussions on the basis of the 1946 resolution. This failed to obtain the necessary two-thirds majority in the General Assembly. A proposal calling on the governments concerned to hold a conference to continue their efforts to reach conciliation (but without reference to last year's resolution) and, failing that, to submit the question to the International Court of Justice, was defeated. The Assembly therefore took no action in the matter since none of the resolutions secured the necessary majority to ensure adoption.

#### Canadian Position

The policy of the Canadian delegation at the Second Session of the General Assembly as regards the treatment of Indians in South Africa was to encourage a friendly settlement of the dispute between the two parties. It was the Canadian view that any resolution passed by the Assembly should not contain a judgment against either party since neither the facts nor the legal position in dispute had been established by an impartial tribunal. Canada therefore voted against the Indian resolution which implied such a judgment against South Africa, but supported a counter proposal which called upon the two governments and the Government of Pakistan to continue their efforts to reach an agreement through conference, mediation or conciliation and, failing that, to submit the question to the International Court of Justice. This resolution was defeated.

#### PALESTINE

The question of Palestine was referred to the General Assembly in April, 1947, by the United Kingdom, which asked for recommendations concerning the future government of the country. A special session of the Assembly set up a Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP) consisting of the representatives of 11 countries, including Canada, which visited Palestine in June and July. It prepared a report incorporating majority (for partition) and minority (for federal state) proposals of how a Palestinian settlement could be achieved. The Arab states from the first gave no assistance to UNSCOP and maintained that Palestine should be a unitary state.

The General Assembly gave its support by a vote of 33 to 13, with 10 abstentions, to the plan of partition with economic union. Details of the partition plan were worked out by a sub-committee made up of countries, including Canada, which had declared themselves in favour of partition in principle. Under this plan, there would be separate Arab and Jewish states, with Jerusalem and its environs an international zone under the Trusteeship Council.

A second sub-committee made up of Arab supporters, all opposed to partition and in favour of a single government, recommended that a provisional government representing all important sections of the people in proportion to numerical strength be set up. This proposal was rejected.

The minority proposal for a federal state received no support from either Jews or Arabs and was not discussed seriously at the session. On the closing day, a Lebanese proposal for a federal state with separate Arab and Jewish cantonal governments was introduced, but as partition was voted on first, and adopted, no further consideration was given to this proposal.