

GENERAL SURVEY

The attitude of the delegations which assembled for the Second Session of the General Assembly in September, 1947, reflected the desire of many Member States of the United Nations to give substance to the work of organization which had been carried out during the previous two and a half years.

An elaborate and complicated structure of international legislative and executive machinery had been established. The constitution had been written; the various organs had been set to work; the responsibilities had been apportioned and accepted; officials had been appointed. On the other hand, however, there were grave misgivings because, in regard to its main function as an instrument for the maintenance of peace, the United Nations had not fulfilled the expectations of those who drafted the Charter at San Francisco.

The record of activities was indeed impressive. The General Assembly itself had, during the two parts of its First Session in 1946 and during the special session on Palestine in 1947, shown an encouraging willingness to perform the functions of an international legislature. The agenda for 1947 was even longer than that which the Assembly had considered in 1946, and many of the items gave support to the theory that the Assembly is a body in which laws governing the relations among states will be written.

Encouragement could also be found in the fact that the structure of the United Nations, as it had originally been designed, was now almost complete. All the principal organs—the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice and the Secretariat—were now in operation. Each had undertaken the tasks for which it had been designed, and had begun to work out techniques and procedures for fulfilling its functions.

In the Economic and Social Council, in particular, an energetic attempt was being made to develop an agency capable of being of great assistance to the nations of the world in their efforts to resolve