

8. On the emotionally charged issues of Cyprus and Algeria the results were hardly less lamentable. The lengthy and often bitter debate on Cyprus did little (at the time at least) to modify the rigid positions of the parties to the dispute. Efforts to reach agreement on a compromise resolution ended in failure and the only thing that could be agreed was an anodyne declaration by the President of the Assembly. However, it was probably during the later stages of these acrimonious debates over Cyprus that the main protagonists laid the foundation in private for the later fruitful negotiation which has brought about the present settlement. If so, this may be an example of the usefulness of the United Nations as a meeting place for negotiators in contrast to the sterility of public debate in the General Assembly.

10. On the question of Arab refugees also, the uncompromising stand of the Arab delegations blocked serious consideration of the future of UNRWA after 1960 and limited Assembly action to a continuation of the Agency for another year. Similar lack of compromise stultified the Assembly's consideration of the question of South West Africa, but on the other South African questions (apartheid and the treatment of Indians) the anti-colonial delegations acted with commendable moderation and thereby gained in breadth of sympathy and support.

11. One of the refreshing exceptions to this pattern was the treatment of the atomic radiation item. Although this question involved conflicts of political orientation and scientific interpretation, much of the desire to air these conflicts had been exhausted in the disarmament debate, and the Assembly in a rare show of conciliation agreed unanimously to continue the useful work of the Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (work that is likely to become increasingly important in the future).

12. In the economic and social fields the impression was largely the same. The deliberations in the Second Committee were disagreeably contentious and frustrating. The two most encouraging achievements were the establishment on reasonably sound lines of the Special Fund and the setting up of the International Administrative Service. In the Third Committee there was prolonged wrangling, with very little result, over the questions of self-determination and freedom of information in particular, on which the Western delegations were unable to make their views prevail.

13. In the Fourth Committee the outstanding events were the announcement of the imminent independence of most of the trust territories and the unanimous resolution terminating the trusteeship agreement for Togoland. It was also encouraging that the able exposition of British colonial policy seemed to make a favourable impression and that there appeared to be developing a new confidence among some of the anti-colonial delegations in the good intentions of a majority of the colonial powers. On the other hand, the Committee often acted irresponsibly and, with the diminution of the Assembly's trust responsibilities, showed an increasing inclination to lump together its treatment of both the trust territories and the non-self-governing territories.

14. The conflicts and frictions noted above also took their toll in the Fifth and Sixth Committees. The operations of UNEF were continued for a further year but the failure to face up to the problem of financing the Force was discouraging. Examination of the United Nations information budget was influenced more by "cold war" considerations than by sound financial principles. The Sixth Committee's debate on the Law of the Sea, by far the most important item on the Committee's agenda, unfortunately served mainly to inject the divisions of the Assembly into this already complicated issue. A further conference was approved, but not for as early a date as we should have liked.