

(4) the local authorities to be responsible for administration in Azad Kashmir;

(5) the safeguarding of fundamental rights in the state.

Although this committee produced an optimistic report in December 1953, subsequent developments appear to have caused some delay in the completion of its work. The plebiscite administrator has not yet been named.

Following Pakistan's decision early in 1954 to accept military assistance from the United States, India voiced objections to the continuance of United States military personnel as members of the United Nations Military Observer Group in Kashmir on the grounds that they could no longer be considered neutral. The Secretary-General has pointed out that agents of the United Nations in their actions for the United Nations are assumed to be neutral and when acting for the United Nations should not be regarded as nationals of any state. Despite the delay in progress towards settlement by direct negotiation, there has been no formal change in the status of the dispute and both countries remain pledged to continue their efforts to reach agreement by direct negotiation.

Canada continues to provide nine officers to the United Nations Military Observer Group for India and Pakistan.

## Palestine

A variety of questions relating to Palestine came before organs of the United Nations during the year 1953-54. Assistance to Palestine refugees continued to be regulated by the General Assembly and administered by the Relief and Works Agency.<sup>1</sup> Resolutions adopted by the Assembly between December 1948 and January 1952 continued similarly to guide the activities of the Palestine Conciliation Commission, which was created for the triple purpose of planning a permanent international regime for the Jerusalem area, facilitating the repatriation or compensation of Palestine refugees and helping Israel and the Arab states to reach a final settlement of outstanding issues.<sup>2</sup> In 1953, for the first time since the establishment of the Commission, a discussion of its work was not inscribed on the agenda of the General Assembly. The Security Council, on the other hand, was asked to consider ten separate complaints concerning non-observance of armistice agreements and met almost continuously from October until May for this purpose. The Truce Supervision Organization, whose Chief of Staff reports to the Security Council on observance of the cease-fire and whose members serve as chairmen of the Mixed Armistice Commissions and military observers along the armistice lines, had a busy year under General Bennike of Denmark, whose period of service lasted from June 1953 to September 1954.

### Palestine Conciliation Commission

The most important work done by the Palestine Conciliation Commission in the year under review was in connection with plans for compensating Arab refugees for property abandoned in Israel.

<sup>1</sup>See below pp. 58-59.

<sup>2</sup>See *Canada and the United Nations 1952-53*, pp. 8-10.