

in many quarters there was a commendable effort in the end to compromise, the causes of controversy were not removed and are likely to plague future sessions.

On another issue there was no compromise. It had been supposed that the item on the political complexities of the Palestine question would not be touched upon. These illusions were shattered shortly before the tenth session began because of the renewal border violence along the Gaza strip and by the announcement that Czechoslovakia under U.S.S.R. direction had negotiated with Egypt for the supply of arms. These developments provoked sharp reactions in the Middle East and elsewhere, and by the time the Palestine refugee question came up for discussion in the *Ad Hoc* Political Committee, Arab-Israeli tension was as grave as at any time since 1948. And so this debate was a prolonged and bitter exchange of invective and accusation encompassing every aspect of the Palestine impasse.

A further source of misunderstanding was the deadlock in the election of the third non-permanent member to the Security Council. Differences of view on this issue still existed at the end of the session and it became necessary to decide by lottery the stalemate between the Yugoslav and Philippine candidates.

The question of seating in the United Nations a representative of the Government of the People's Republic of China, rather than a representative of the Nationalist Government of China, is still unresolved. While there was majority support for the contention that no change in that representation should take place during 1955, the problem may again be present, in an even more acute form, at the eleventh session in 1956.

The questions discussed above, mainly political and security ones, occupied much of the time and energy of the 1954 and 1955 Assemblies. These were the questions too which were publicized in newspapers, magazines, over the radio and on television. Meanwhile, the quiet, valuable and constructive work of the Economic and Social Council, the Specialized Agencies, and their affiliated organs and subsidiary bodies was continued. The Regular as well as the Expanded Programmes of Technical Assistance have developed in scope and efficiency and are two of the most successful efforts by the United Nations to achieve world-wide reduction of hunger, malnutrition, illiteracy and illness. The World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization, to mention only two of the ten Specialized Agencies, are working steadily, also with little fanfare and few headlines, to conquer the timeless enemies of mankind. In this aspect of United Nations work it is regrettable that there has never been much assistance or co-operation from the communist countries.

How then should the period July 1, 1954 - December 31, 1955 at the United Nations be assessed? On the whole, there was some willingness to seek compromise, to abandon the more disruptive cold war tactics, and to reach agreement on limited, practical proposals for co-operation. True, there was no tranquillity; but there was no war. It may be that this will be the *leit-motif* for many years to come and that competitive co-existence, even at the United Nations, will be a long, hard road to travel.