

question concerned the participation of neutrals generally. The Communists continued to favor India and three other Asian neutrals attending; the United States emissary suggested the participation as non-voting observers of some or all of the governments which had been actually working in Korea or which had current experience there. Such governments could be those belonging to the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission, i.e. India, Sweden, Switzerland, Poland and Czechoslovakia.

By December 8 both sides had put in writing their proposals for the Conference. These differed concerning time and place as well as the other matters. The Communists wanted the Conference convened on December 28, 1953; the United States emissary, Mr. Dean, proposed that the Conference meet not less than 28 days or more than 42 days after the termination of the Panmunjom talks. According to the Communists, the Conference should be held in New Delhi, India; according to Mr. Dean, in Geneva, Switzerland.

At the meeting of December 12, the Communists questioned whether Mr. Dean had authority to speak for the Republic of Korea in the negotiations. They went on to accuse the United States of conniving with the Republic of Korea in the release last June of some 27,000 Korean prisoners of war, and termed this alleged action perfidious. Mr. Dean denied the charge, stated that he would treat it as notification that the Communists wished the talks recessed indefinitely and left the conference room. He has since returned to Washington for consultation.

General Assembly

This is the fourth consecutive report summarizing the work of the eighth session of the General Assembly, which met in New York from September 15 to December 9, 1953, under the presidency of Madame Pandit of India.

The session was the first held since 1949 which did not take place against the background of fighting in Korea. On the whole, it was a quiet session. Because of the Korean negotiations, which were being conducted simultaneously but outside the Assembly, and the imminence of conferences among the Great Powers to discuss the most important topics of international concern, the Assembly was, in some respects, marking time. Progress was achieved, however, and useful work done on such issues as Chinese Nationalist troops in Burma, amendments to the staff regulations of the United Nations, the High Commissioner for Refugees, technical assistance, Korean reconstruction, the Special United Nations Fund for Economic Development (SUNFED), Charter revision and UNICEF, which are the subjects of separate sections in this or previous articles. In addition, President Eisenhower's address to the General Assembly on his new proposals concerning atomic energy provided a moving and hopeful climax to the session, an assurance that, although the powers principally involved may negotiate privately among themselves, any constructive new plans resulting will be implemented through and by the United Nations.

In her concluding address to the Assembly, the President noted "how earnestly great powers and small have tried to achieve a real meeting of minds." Madame Pandit declared that "the purpose of the United Nations is not only to solve specific international disputes but to lead mankind into a new age of constructive co-operation for the common good of all peoples everywhere. To this task the present Assembly has made a contribution, not spectacular perhaps, but adequate for greater success in the coming months and years."