

CANADA AND THE UNITED NATIONS

(This section covers the period from December 1 to December 31, 1949)

General Assembly

On December 10, the General Assembly completed the work on the longest agenda in the four years of its existence, only ten days later than the target date of November 30 which had been set early in the session. Much of the credit for the speedy completion of the heavy agenda can be attributed to the efficient manner in which the debates were conducted under the skilful guidance of the President in the plenary sessions, and of the chairmen of the seven working committees. These officers seem to have grasped the import of the Legal Committee's recommendations on methods and procedures and to have made a determined effort to implement the much needed reforms, as far as possible, at the fourth regular session.

In a broadcast on December 18 the Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs listed the following as the five most important subjects discussed at the recent session of the Assembly:

1. The great debate on the issues between communism and free democracy;
2. The open quarrel which broke out between Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union;
3. The decisions taken on the future of the former Italian colonies;
4. The resolution adopted on technical assistance to underdeveloped areas; and
5. The effort to reach a solution concerning the problem of Jerusalem.

All but the last of these subjects have already been discussed in detail in previous issues of *External Affairs*, as well as a number of other significant items on the agenda. The Assembly's decision on the internationalization of Jerusalem is the subject of a separate article appearing in this issue.* Accordingly, what appears in the following paragraphs is an attempt to assess in broad terms the accomplishments of the fourth regular session.

On September 20 the Assembly opened in an atmosphere of subdued optimism. The threat of a major war, which had overshadowed the discussions at the third regular session in Paris, if not removed, had become more remote after the Council of Foreign Ministers had managed to ease the tension created by the Berlin blockade. The establishment of a government in Western Germany in September offered the hope that some degree of stability would be restored in the dangerous vacuum created in Central Europe by the defeat of the Nazis. The North Atlantic Alliance was firmly established and provided the Western World with the sort of assurance against aggression which, under the existing state of international relations, the United Nations was unable to provide. In the Far East the successes of the Chinese Communists were offset to some extent by the likelihood of a settlement in Indonesia and by the stabilizing

*See page 7.