

Since many members were reluctant to take action on this resolution because they found it difficult to determine what might usefully be done, the Interim Committee did not discuss the substance of the question. Apart from the distribution of a letter from the Chinese Delegation containing additional charges of Soviet aggression, no further action was taken until September 15, when the Interim Committee referred the question back to the General Assembly where it was placed on the agenda of the Political Committee.

On November 17, the Chinese Delegation introduced a draft resolution calling for the appointment of a United Nations commission of enquiry. Support for this resolution was not forthcoming, however, and it was withdrawn on November 23. The final outcome of the debate was that the General Assembly, on December 1, referred the question once more to the Interim Committee.

The Canadian position was re-stated in the Political Committee of the Assembly on November 22. While the Canadian Representative agreed that Chinese charges made in 1949 and 1950 were "indeed an eloquent accusation of bad faith in the conduct of the Soviet Government towards a state to which it was bound by an agreement of friendship and alliance", he opposed the new Chinese proposal for the establishment of a special commission at this stage, explaining the Canadian attitude in the following terms: "We are not proposing that all accusations and evidence be buried. We are merely saying that little practical result can come from surveying them once again before a commission formally established by the United Nations". The Canadian Delegation also opposed the suggestion that the Interim Committee should again be asked to consider this question. The Canadian attitude on this aspect of the problem was that the Interim Committee "should not be expected to resolve problems which the First Committee itself cannot resolve, or to act when the First Committee is unwilling to act".

The Assembly also adopted during its consideration of this item, a resolution on the promotion of stability in international relations with the Far East, including a reference to the independence and territorial integrity of China. This resolution was supported by the Canadian Delegation.

Peace and Security Proposals

The President of the Fourth Session of the General Assembly, Brigadier-General Carlos Romulo, expressed the hope in September 1949 that the session over which he was about to preside would become known as the "Peace Assembly". One year later Mr. Nasrollah Entezam, the new President, stated his hope that the Fifth Session would come to be described as the "Assembly of Collective Security". The difference in emphasis between these descriptive titles illustrated the increasing concern felt in the United Nations as the organization approached and passed its fifth anniversary in the atmosphere of a grave international crisis. The year which had intervened had marked an abrupt transition from the cold war to a new and more menacing phase in world affairs.