

continued to give moral and material assistance to the Greek rebels. Guerrilla aid from Yugoslavia, according to the Commission, had considerably diminished during the latter period covered by their report. As regards Greek children removed from Greece, the governments which had received them had not cooperated in returning them to their families. In some instances UNSCOB reported that these children had been made to fight in the ranks of the guerrillas. UNSCOB concluded that the present situation in Greece still constituted "a threat to the political independence and territorial integrity of Greece and to peace in the Balkans".

At its Fourth Session, the Assembly decided to resume the informal efforts at conciliation which had so nearly succeeded during the first and second parts of the Third Session. It therefore appointed a Conciliation Committee consisting of the President of the Assembly (General Romulo of the Philippines), the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the First Committee (Mr. Pearson of Canada and Mr. Sarper of Turkey), and the Secretary-General. After three weeks of concentrated effort, however, this Conciliation Committee had to report to the Assembly that it was "unable to develop a basis of conciliation on which an agreement could be reached between the Governments of Albania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia and Greece". The main reason for this lack of agreement was Albania's insistence that the Greek Government recognize the present boundaries between the two states as final and definitive. While Greece would not do this, the Greek Representative was prepared to accept a formula whereby the two parties would agree "not to use force or the threat of force for the purpose of changing the existing boundaries between them". This was not acceptable to Albania.

Having failed in its efforts to resolve the Greek problem in this informal way, the Political Committee then debated this question at great length. The discussion was marked by violent propaganda statements from the members of the Soviet bloc against the present Government of Greece, which they referred to as a "monarcho-fascist" regime. At the outset, the Soviet Representative, supported by the other Communist delegates, attempted to have the Assembly demand that the Greek Government suspend death sentences which a military tribunal had imposed on certain captured Greek guerrillas. The majority of the Political Committee decided that it was not competent to do this. The Canadian Representative spoke against the Soviet proposal on the grounds that it raised a matter which was essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of the Greek Government and that, even if this were not the case, the Political Committee was not equipped to act as a court of appeal regarding the sentences imposed on the eight persons named. Following this discussion, the Political Committee adopted an Ecuadorian proposal asking the President of the Assembly to "ascertain the views (of the Greek Government) concerning the suspension of death sentences passed by military courts for political reasons". The Greek Government replied that it had already decided to refer all cases of capital punishment to a Court of Appeal.

In addition to launching violent attacks on the alleged repressive measures being taken by the Greek Government against the guerrillas, the representatives of the Soviet bloc did everything possible to discredit the testimony of the witnesses interrogated by UNSCOB and of its observation groups. Their purpose was to refute UNSCOB's conclusions regarding the rendering of assistance to the guerrillas by Albania and Bulgaria. Representatives of these two latter states were invited to appear before the Political Committee where, on November 2, 1949, they made statements