

Somalia for the first time. The representatives of the new and developing states played an important role in the work of the conference and brought home to all delegations the need to assist these countries in taking their full place in the community of nations.

The tone of the conference was also influenced by the recent catastrophe that struck Skopje, the capital of one of Yugoslavia's constituent republics. Representatives of every delegation visited Skopje and returned to the conference to pay a moving tribute to the courage and dignity of the survivors of the earthquake. A resolution was passed unanimously inviting the parliaments represented, as well as national and international organizations, "to do everything in their power before winter makes further victims, to speed up the action of human solidarity already undertaken on a world scale . . . to aid in the reconstruction of Skopje."

### **Other Conference Values**

Since the conferences of the Inter-Parliamentary Union are not meetings between representatives of governments but rather representatives of parliaments, their resolutions are in no way binding on the governments of the countries they represent. Their resolutions do, however, carry considerable weight, for they place a moral obligation on influential groups of law-makers from 60-odd nations of the world. On their return to their respective countries, the parliamentarians are expected to work for the implementation of policies in keeping with the ideals expressed in their resolutions. The conferences do more, of course, than pass resolutions. They offer parliamentarians a relatively informal opportunity to meet their colleagues from every corner of the world, to hear at first hand the other side of every story. Indeed, it may be that it is in the development of mutual understanding of each other's national problems and aspirations that the greatest value of the conference lies, and its greatest service to humanity.

Next year the Inter-Parliamentary Union will meet in Copenhagen. During this year's conference, the Council met to consider, and approve overwhelmingly, the invitation of the Canadian group to hold the 1965 conference in Ottawa. As host to that gathering, Canada will have a gratifying opportunity to welcome distinguished law-makers from all over the world and to further the valuable work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.