

South African Questions

On questions of apartheid and treatment of Indians, South Africa lost ground. The lack of sympathy to South Africa shown by many European and Commonwealth countries has perhaps contributed slightly to diminishing the Asian resentment against them. On the question of South West Africa, however, the anti-colonialists, by rejecting without consideration the study of a solution by partition, indicated a discouraging unwillingness to look at practical proposals.

United Nations Special Fund

Although the debate was acrimonious, the Second Committee managed to hammer out a reasonably satisfactory establishment for the United Nations Special Fund. Funds, however, are not forthcoming in amounts to match the rhetoric.

International Administrative Service

Provision of this service for technical assistance to needy countries was one of the small but concrete achievements of this session.

French Togoland

A resolution bringing to an end the trusteeship agreement for Togoland was unanimously adopted, and by next year almost all the trusteeship territories will have been liquidated as such. The fighting in the Fourth Committee, however, over the future of French Togoland, was not very well calculated to make the best out of these happy signs of progress.

Law of the Sea

The Assembly was able, by a very narrow majority, to plan another conference on the Law of the Sea, although the date is much later than we should have liked. During the debate in the Assembly, there was a drawing of lines on the substance of the issue which does not augur well for a solution. Whereas at Geneva countries were divided largely on grounds of varying national interests, they tended in the Assembly to divide along conventional United Nations political lines, with the less powerful nations lining up against the major Western Powers — an unhappy example of the way in which the United Nations' own cold wars can poison international relations.

UNWRA

Although UNWRA was continued in being, the Assembly failed, because of strong Arab opposition, to grapple with the urgent problem of the future of the Agency after 1960, when it is scheduled to close down unless something is done.

Hungary

Perhaps not much harm was done over Hungary this year. The Assembly did strive to maintain its moral position while recognizing the practical limits to United Nations action. The appointment of Sir Leslie Munro, although unlikely to achieve anything positive, did prevent the Assembly from abdicating its interest in the issue without, on the other hand, setting out to accomplish what would be bound to fail.

UNEF

The continuation of UNEF was accomplished in a reasonably satisfactory manner, although the problem of general financial support remains highly unsatisfactory.

3. In addition to these issues which were discussed, one might mention two broad and important matters which were not considered in substance.