

about the early restoration of civil liberties and the release of political prisoners. The communications of the fourteen powers were transmitted by the President to the French Minister of Foreign Affairs.

For the remainder of the period under review, no further constitutional reforms were introduced in Tunisia and Morocco. Conditions in the former territory remained unsettled.

Greece and its Neighbours

In 1952-53 the United Nations had before it three questions relating to Greece — the situation on the northern frontier and the repatriation both of abducted children and of members of the Greek armed forces carried off during the disturbances of 1945-49.¹

The presence in northern Greece of the Balkan Subcommittee of the Peace Observation Commission made possible the prompt investigation of incidents on the Albanian and Bulgarian borders of Greece, where there was some loss of life during the year. In July 1952 and May 1953 incidents arising from a dispute over the ownership of small islands in the Evros (or Maritza) River on the border between Greece and Bulgaria were followed by suggestions from the Greek Government that a boundary commission should be set up, with or without United Nations participation, to determine the ownership of the islands and restore boundary pillars along the rest of the frontier. On June 22, 1953 Bulgaria agreed for the first time since the war to the creation of a boundary commission, composed of Greeks and Bulgarians only, to which both governments then named their representatives.

To date only Yugoslavia has co-operated in repatriating Greek children abducted from northern Greece during the disorders in 1948. Thus far 578 children have been returned to their homes but several thousand still remain scattered through Eastern Europe. Although during the sixth session of the General Assembly the Czechoslovak Government offered to let international Red Cross personnel come to Prague to discuss the cases of 138 Greek children, the conversations proved futile. On the strong recommendation of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies, the General Assembly adopted a resolution on December 17, 1952 agreeing to the suspension — except in Yugoslavia — of the work of these two voluntary bodies until practical operations should become possible. The Assembly condemned the harbouring states, other than Yugoslavia, for their failure to co-operate and disbanded its own Standing Committee on Repatriation of Greek children. The resolution was adopted by 46 affirmative votes, including Canada's vote, to 5 against, with 6 abstentions.

A resolution was adopted by the Assembly on March 17, 1953 by 54 votes to 5, with 1 abstention, which appealed to governments of states harbouring members of the Greek armed forces abducted during the disturbances to repatriate those who wish to return, in

¹See *Canada and the United Nations 1951-52*, pp. 21-23.