

Kashmir

The Kashmir dispute first came before the United Nations on December 30, 1947 when India complained to the Security Council that the State of Jammu and Kashmir, which had shortly before acceded to India, had been invaded by Muslim tribesmen. Pakistan laid a counter-charge that the Hindu ruler of the State had acceded to India contrary to the wishes of the predominantly Muslim population.

The United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP) was established in 1948. Both parties were asked to submit to it their plans for the withdrawal of their armed forces from Kashmir prior to the holding of a plebiscite. The Commission made some progress, and established a cease-fire line to be supervised by the United Nations Military Observer Group (UNMOG) to which Canada contributed a nine-man team. However, neither side withdrew its troops.

From 1948 to 1953, various United Nations mediators made sustained but unavailing attempts to settle the issue. Late in 1953, the Prime Minister of India, Mr. Nehru, agreed through direct negotiations, to appoint a plebiscite administrator and to set up a joint committee which would study the problems involved. The plebiscite administrator has not yet been appointed.

Following an announcement early in 1954 that the United States would give military aid to Pakistan, India voiced the opinion that United States military personnel on UNMOG in Kashmir could no longer be considered neutral. Further talks were suspended and UNCIP has not met since that time.

The Kashmir dispute was not raised at either the ninth or tenth sessions of the General Assembly.

Burmese Complaint Against Chinese Troops

In accordance with resolutions adopted at the seventh and eight sessions of the General Assembly, the evacuation of 6,470 Chinese Nationalist troops from Burma to Formosa was effected between November 7, 1953 and May 9, 1954 under the supervision of a Joint Military Commission composed of Nationalist China, Thailand and the United States. This disposed of all the troops who were willing to be evacuated. The Commission remained in Bangkok until September 1, 1954, when it was dissolved.

The Burmese Government submitted a report to the Secretary-General on September 27, 1954 in which it gave an account of the evacuation, thanked Thailand and the United States for their good offices and drew attention to the fact that there were still approximately 5,000 foreign troops in Burmese territory. The Burmese Government hoped to receive the moral support of the United Nations in its attempts to secure the removal of these troops. Subsequently, a resolution co-sponsored by Canada was adopted by the General Assembly on October 29, 1954, commending Thailand and the United States for their efforts and noting the continued presence of a large number of foreign troops in Burma. The resolution urged these troops either to leave Burmese territory or to submit themselves to disarmament and internment and called on all member states to prevent any assistance being given to them.

Burma has now apparently decided that the foreign troops remaining within its territory are not receiving assistance from Chinese Nationalist or other sources and is therefore willing to treat the problem as an internal matter. This subject was not discussed at the tenth session of the General Assembly in 1955.