

Recess of the Eighth Session of the General Assembly

The eighth session of the General Assembly recessed on the evening of December 9, 1953, after taking up 73 items on its agenda. In the closing meeting, the Canadian Delegation paid tribute to Madame Pandit in her role as President. Mr. Vyshinsky took advantage of this occasion to deplore the fact that Communist China had not been accepted as the representative of China in the United Nations, and the fact that the Soviet disarmament proposals had not been adopted.

By the adoption of a resolution on December 8 sponsored by India and Brazil, under the UNCURK item, the Assembly recessed instead of adjourning. No action was taken on the substance of the UNCURK item. Under the terms of the resolution adopted, the Assembly can be called back into session by the President with the concurrence of the majority of members if, in her opinion, developments concerning Korean matters warrant re-convening of the eighth session or if for the same reason she is requested to take such action by one or more members. This resolution was carried in a plenary meeting on December 8 by a vote of 55 in favour (including Canada), no abstentions and 5 against (the Soviet bloc).

Security Council

Observance of Armistice Agreements between Israel and its Neighbours

On November 24 the Security Council adopted a resolution relating to the Palestine question submitted to it on October 17 by the United Kingdom, the United States and France, the three Powers which had declared on May 25, 1950, their intention of intervening within and outside the United Nations should they find any of the Arab States or Israel preparing to violate existing frontiers or armistice lines. As finally formulated by the Security Council, the question under discussion was that of "compliance with and enforcement of the general armistice agreements with special reference to recent acts of violence, and in particular to the incident at Qibiya on 14-15 October", when more than two score Arabs were killed during a night attack by Israelis on a Jordanian village.

The Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, General Bennike, described to the Council the state of security along the armistice lines between Israel and its four Arab neighbours and listed serious incidents which had occurred along part of the armistice line between Israel and Jordan after the abrogation by Israel in January 1953 of two local agreements designed to check illegal border-crossing.

The representative of Jordan attributed the frequent infiltration into Israel by Arabs to the fact that Israel had occupied a good deal more territory than the United Nations had intended it to control. This had increased the number of refugees and intensified the pressure of the Arab population against the armistice line. Jordan's police force had done much to reduce Arab infiltration into Israel. Half the Jordanian jail population had been imprisoned for crossing the armistice line illegally. If Israel would police its side of the armistice line and withdraw military personnel from the vicinity the number of border incidents could be further reduced.