

became more frequent and perhaps less restrained than earlier in the session, but on the whole the debates continued to be moderate. Clearly distinguishable however, in the Assembly proceedings after the Foreign Ministers' talks, was the acute disappointment of many delegations at the rapid evaporation of the Geneva spirit in which the tenth session had been launched.

Admission of New Members

Measured by any yardstick the admission of the sixteen new members was, for the United Nations, by far the most important achievement of the tenth session. Not only was a deadlock of long-standing broken; not only was new blood injected at a time when the Organization was debilitated from many years of cold war; but the General Assembly was able to reassert its claim to be a centre for harmonizing international action. In the immediately preceding years, a number of international arrangements had been negotiated outside the United Nations: the Indochina settlement, the Bandung Conference, and the Geneva talks were signs of the draft away from United Nations diplomacy.

This trend was broken by the failure of the Foreign Ministers to agree in November. They had apparently tried and failed to reach agreement on the admission of new members, as a by-product of their Geneva talks. Unwilling to accept this particular failure because of the high hopes which had been raised, the majority of the General Assembly doggedly pursued the move initiated by Canada to admit eighteen new members. The pressure of opinion became so strong that it finally proved irresistible. There can be little doubt that the Soviet Government was strongly influenced by this pressure not to let the opportunity pass. Thus, by a sudden change of position they allowed admission of sixteen countries, after the original motion for the admission of eighteen had been vetoed by Nationalist China in the Security Council.

Colonial Issues

The determination of the new nations of Africa and Asia to press for the political and economic independence of all dependent peoples was evident at the tenth session at which they campaigned energetically both in the political committees and in the Third and Fourth Committees where the questions of self determination and colonial administration arose in several forms. And it was perhaps paradoxical that the session which succeeded in breaking the deadlock on new members should also have witnessed the withdrawal from the General Assembly of the French and South African delegations, by way of protest against Assembly consideration of matters which they held to be exclusively of national concern. Nevertheless, although the Afro-Asian countries undoubtedly feel it is the duty of the United Nations to deal with the urgent problems of colonialism, there were signs that they recognized that a succession of withdrawals from the General Assembly of important member countries would seriously weaken the effectiveness of the organization. Painstaking negotiations were therefore undertaken to bring about the return of the French, an accomplishment which required the co-operation, perseverance and tact of many delegations. The Afro-Asian delegations also displayed a spirit of accommodation on the questions of Morocco and West New Guinea, the plebiscite in British Togoland and the treatment of people of Indian origin in South Africa. In general, these delegations showed themselves willing to make temporary concessions in the interests of wider harmony without abandoning in any