

The feeling of frustration which characterized the work of the General Assembly was generally absent from the proceedings of the Specialized Agencies and functional commissions which continued constructive work in their respective fields of interest. However, those Agencies which met towards the end of the year were not entirely unaffected by Soviet political initiatives and its demands for reorganization in international bodies. Consequently those technical bodies tended to become more and more involved in political discussion.

Thus, the year which began with such promise ended in considerable uncertainty as to the direction in which the United Nations was developing. A number of fundamental questions had been raised about the Organization's future role and about its present structure. The main sign of encouragement in this time of crisis for the Organization is that States, recovering from the shock, and surprises of last autumn, have rallied to the support of the United Nations and the Secretary-General, showing a widespread awareness of the importance of maintaining a strong and effective instrument for peaceful social and economic evolution under the terms of the United Nations Charter. In the months ahead, the main tasks of the United Nations members may well be to give practical expression to the resolve of those members who wish to sustain and strengthen the United Nations at a time of trial.