

*External Affairs*

different parts of the world under the chairmanship of Sir Leslie Munroe, the chairman of the New Zealand delegation. The great hall was overcrowded on that opening day. I believe there were 58 foreign ministers in attendance, together with several hundred delegates, observers and advisers from the five continents.

The meeting opened with a minute of silence for prayer and meditation and then Sir Leslie Munroe, who was retiring from the office of president, addressed the assembly. One thing he said which I remember was that "it was not so much in what they said but in what they did that the members of the United Nations would prove that they adhered to their charter undertakings". The assembly then elected Dr. Charles Malik of Lebanon as its president. Dr. Charles Malik has been a delegate to the United Nations for many years, and I am sure most hon. members have heard him on the radio from time to time. He is well equipped by knowledge and experience, as well as ability, to fulfil competently the requirements of this exalted office.

The assembly then proceeded to a general debate much like a debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne. Our Secretary of State for External Affairs spoke vigorously at considerable length on various important international matters which were to come before the organization during the thirteenth session. A general committee was then appointed to consider the items on the agenda. There were 73 different items, and the duty of the general committee was to allot them to various committees.

There are seven committees, and most of the work, after the general debate has taken place in the general assembly, is done in these seven committees. There are two political committees, the first committee and a special political committee. Then there is the second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth committee. The first committee deals with political matters and so does the special committee. The second committee deals with questions of technical aid to countries who need it and economic assistance to the same countries. The third committee deals with economic and social organization, with refugee problems and with drafting the covenant for human rights and fundamental freedoms. The fourth committee deals with trusteeships and the non-self-governing territories in Africa. The fifth committee deals with financial and budgetary questions, and I might say that that is a very difficult committee on which Mr. Tremblay served so well. The sixth committee deals, amongst

other matters, with the question of the law of the sea, a subject in which Canada was greatly interested.

In addition to the members of the delegations and the observers from the House of Commons, we were accompanied by expert advisers from the Department of External Affairs. Canada, as the hon. member for Kootenay West pointed out this afternoon, has a permanent mission to the United Nations like other countries. Mr. Charles Ritchie is our present ambassador there, and he and his very competent staff joined with those who came from Ottawa to constitute the Canadian delegation.

Here I should like to do as the hon. member for Kootenay West did and pay a well deserved tribute to the diplomatic and general ability of the external affairs officials for the keen and well informed interest they are taking in international affairs. I am sure all members of the House of Commons who formed part of the delegation will endorse what I am now saying. I should also like to thank the other members of the delegation for the excellent manner in which they performed their duties.

Canada was honoured by having the hon. member for Durham elected vice-chairman of the second committee. Some of the delegates had to work harder than others. I am referring especially to the hon. member for Queens. His committee worked mornings, afternoons, nights and sometimes late into the next morning on the very contentious problems which arose in connection with the trusteeships and the non-self-governing territories in Africa. Personally, being a newcomer to the scene, I thought I would devote my attention to the work of the special political committee, and with your permission, Mr. Speaker, I would like to make some observations on the problems which were considered there.

We dealt with the policy of apartheid of the government of the Union of South Africa. I will explain that in a moment. We dealt with the United Nations emergency force, with the progress report by the secretary, and also with the summary study to which reference has been made by previous speakers. We dealt with the report of the director of the United Nations relief and works agency for Palestine refugees in the Near East, as it is called. We dealt with the very interesting academic question of measures aimed at implementation and promotion of peaceful and neighbourly relations among states. We also dealt with the question of the treatment of people of Indian origin in the Union of South Africa. That question was very much