

Because of its ponderous composition, the result of this decision may well be the further divorce of the United Nations from the active work of disarmament negotiation and intensification of the reliance on ad hoc meetings beyond the jurisdiction of the Assembly. The Assembly has never dealt, of course, and should not properly deal with the details of negotiation. Its principal purpose, if any, is to reach conclusions which will assist negotiations held elsewhere. This year all efforts to achieve a unanimous resolution and thereby give a useful fillip to the Geneva negotiations failed. The Western Powers won a meaningless victory by ballot in the Assembly, but neither they nor the Russians were able to gain the vote of the uncommitted.

### *Outer Space*

The only accomplishment in this field was to introduce the notion of United Nations interest in, and possible control of, peaceful uses of outer space. The launching of this programme, however, was spoiled by the failure of the USSR and the Western Powers to agree on the composition of an ad hoc committee; even though this committee was intended only as an investigatory body which would report back to the next session on how the United Nations should deal with outer space. Again the West won a majority in the vote, but as the ad hoc committee will be boycotted not only by the Soviet Union but also by some of the uncommitted countries, it is doubtful if it can accomplish any of the purposes intended.

### *United Nations Force*

Proposals sponsored by President Eisenhower and other Western leaders for a modest beginning at setting up a United Nations force had to be abandoned because of the flat opposition of the Soviet Union, which has always opposed a United Nations force of any kind; by India and the Arab countries, who saw in the suggestion an attempt to give a cloak of international legality to such Western military enterprises as the intervention in Lebanon and Jordan; and by the Latin Americans, who did not want to foot the bill. The Secretary-General, who advocated an examination of the possibilities, was forced to withdraw his proposals or risk a permanent break in his relations with the Soviet Delegation.

### *Cyprus*

This was the only subject on which the Assembly managed to produce a unanimous compromise result in the manner which has become standard practice for items of this kind in the past few years. This, however, was a particularly broad and empty unanimity, achieved by declaration of the President in a plenary session after efforts on the part of a number of countries neutral in the issue to achieve agreement on a compromise resolution in Committee had ended in lamentable failure.

### *Algeria*

Although at the previous session a compromise resolution on this subject had been achieved, this year it was hardly even attempted. A resolution supported primarily by the anti-colonialist countries not only achieved a majority in the committee but came one short of a two-thirds majority in plenary.

### *Korea*

Another American-sponsored resolution on unification achieved a majority in the Assembly but is unlikely to have any more effect than its predecessors. There was perhaps some value in the debate. Somewhat more dissatisfaction with the American approach was expressed by member states, including Canada, all of which might have had some slightly unsettling and therefore beneficial effect on United States policy.