

# CANADA AND THE UNITED NATIONS

## ASSASSINATION OF PALESTINE MEDIATOR

The assassination of Count Bernadotte, United Nations Mediator in Palestine has cast deep shadows over the Third Assembly of the United Nations. Delegations gathered in Paris for the Assembly were deeply shocked. Over the Palais de Chaillot, where the Assembly meets, the United Nations flag flew at half-mast. The Security Council was called in special session. In Ottawa, the Acting Prime Minister, the Right Honourable L. S. St. Laurent, issued the following statement to the Press:

"The Canadian Government is shocked to learn that the United Nations Mediator in Palestine, Count Folke Bernadotte, has lost his life by assassination. It wishes to pay tribute to the selflessness and devotion with which the Mediator undertook and carried out his most difficult task. In endeavouring to bring about a peaceful settlement in Palestine under the conditions prevailing in that land, Count Bernadotte and his associates have not spared themselves in the cause of Peace. By the sacrifice of his life as the climax of tireless efforts, Count Bernadotte has set an example of the highest public service to all nations. The Canadian Government hopes that the United Nations will continue the work of Count Bernadotte, inspired by his example and by his faith in human reason and moderation.

"The Canadian Legation in Stockholm has been asked to convey to the bereaved family of Count Bernadotte, through the Swedish Government, an expression of the sympathy of the Canadian Government and people."

## THREATS TO TRUCE

When there were reports in mid-August that the Palestine truce might be broken, the question of continuing the

truce established on July 15 was discussed in the Security Council. The Canadian representative, General A.G.L. McNaughton, warned that failure by either Jews or Arabs to comply with the terms of the truce would mean that the Security Council would have to consider the possibility of further action under Chapter VII of the Charter - the chapter providing for diplomatic, economic or possibly military sanctions. He emphasized that it had been agreed that the truce was to remain in force until the future situation in Palestine was settled peacefully, that it could not be terminated by either of the parties concerned and that only the Security Council was competent to decide what measures should be taken against a violator of the truce. He asked the Council to give its full support to the Mediator in trying to effect a lasting settlement through negotiation. Other countries spoke in the same vein and both the Jews and Arabs gave assurances that they would continue to observe the truce.

## COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Threats to the peace in the city of Jerusalem resulted in a resolution, sponsored jointly by Canada, France, the United Kingdom and the United States, holding the two parties responsible for actions of all regular or irregular forces under their authority in the city. The resolution was introduced and adopted after the Mediator, Count Folke Bernadotte, cabled the Council that the situation was "gradually getting out of hand" and warned that a worsening of affairs in Jerusalem might lead to resumption of war throughout the country. The resulting resolution, in direct response to the Mediator's request, was not intended to fix responsibility but rather to put the whole weight of the authority of the Security

Council behind efforts to bring peace to the Holy City.

## CEYLON

Ceylon, the most recent applicant for membership in the United Nations, was blocked by the Soviet veto in the Security Council on August 18. When the application was considered six weeks previously in the Council's Committee on the Admission of New Members, Canada spoke in favour of Ceylon. The Canadian representative again gave his support to Ceylon in the Council. It was Canada's opinion that Ceylon, which became a self-governing member of the Commonwealth on February 4, had fulfilled the provisions of the Charter relating to new members of the United Nations that the applicant be a state, be peace-loving, accept the obligations of the Charter, be able to carry out these obligations and be willing to do so.

The Council rejected a Soviet proposal to postpone consideration of Ceylon's admission until full information was received from the island on the status of its government and on its constitution "as well as sufficient proof that Ceylon is a sovereign and independent state." Canada and other countries pointed out that Ceylon had submitted a paper giving the requested information and that a representative of Ceylon was available to answer any questions. Ceylon's application, when put to the vote, received the support of nine members of the Council but was voted against by the U.S.S.R. and the Ukraine on the grounds that it remained a British Colony and puppet state.

## I. T. O.

Canada's Minister to Switzerland, L. Dana Wilgress, was elected chairman of the contracting parties of the International Trade Organization which opened a ten-day session in Geneva on August 16. The