



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 54/6

SURVEY OF WORLD AFFAIRS

Statement by the Parliamentary Assistant to the
Secretary of State for External Affairs
Mr. Roch Pinard, made in the House of Commons
on January 29, 1954.

(See also "Statements and Speeches" No. 54/5,
for the statement on world affairs by Mr. Pearson.)

Mr. Speaker, although on past occasions I have had the opportunity of discussing matters concerning international affairs, this is the first chance I have had to do so as Parliamentary Assistant to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I am indeed grateful to him for this opportunity which he has given me to express certain views on this important subject.

As he suggested this afternoon, I shall deal briefly with the activities of the United Nations at the last session of the General Assembly last fall. As I had occasion to attend only the latter part of that session, I must say that I had to depend upon the assistance and co-operation of the members of the Canadian Delegation in order to form an opinion as to what was going on. Afterward I could follow with ease the developments that were taking place.

While Korean developments outside the United Nations itself held the spotlight of public attention, the General Assembly concerned itself during its eighth session with other matters reflecting a vast range of problems of concern to the international community. The eighth session was shorter than preceding sessions. In fact it began in mid-September and lasted only until the early part of December. In spite of that fact, the agenda was quite lengthy and in every field--political, economic, social, administrative and legal--there was issues pressing for solution. The delegations applied themselves to the work of the various committees in a businesslike manner under the guidance of the chairmen of the committees, including our own Dr. George Davidson, who acted with great competence as chairman of the Social Committee. The various delegations carried on the work at a good pace.

Glancing back at the eighth session of the Assembly, one cannot be aware of much in the way of really constructive achievement. Nonetheless there is evidence of a generally high level of progress on the varied questions with which the Assembly was concerned. This session was something of a transitional one, spanning the period between the termination of the Korean conflict and the post-Korea relationships that may develop in its wake. The Assembly made some progress on problems of long standing, but did not