

It was in the domain of disarmament, where the urgency of the issues has been emphasized by successful launchings of earth and moon satellites and intercontinental ballistic missiles, that the "new spirit" first showed results. Mr. Khrushchov had proposed to the General Assembly the renunciation by all states of any kind of armed force apart from a minimum necessary for internal security. Subsequently, a resolution on general and complete disarmament was, for the first time in United Nations history, co-sponsored by all member states and in consequence adopted unanimously. That resolution provided for action to be taken by the ten-nation Disarmament Committee, and for the Committee to report to the Disarmament Commission, to which belong all members of the United Nations. Canada is a member of the Disarmament Committee, and is represented at the Geneva meetings by Lieut-General E. L. M. Burns, who has already contributed much to the United Nations as former Commander of UNEF in the Middle East.

A widespread feeling of anxiety over the hazards to the health of humanity was reflected in four resolutions aimed at preventing countries now without nuclear weapons from acquiring them, and at stopping further nuclear test explosions. These resolutions were adopted by large majorities. Canada also took the initiative in encouraging the work of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation by sponsoring a resolution to make available facilities for collecting and analysing radiation samples from all areas. This resolution received very wide support, even including, after lengthy negotiations, that of the Soviet bloc, and was eventually adopted unanimously by the Assembly.

Another resolution adopted unanimously established an *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, consisting of 24 members (including Canada). It was also decided to convene an international scientific conference in 1960 or 1961, under United Nations auspices.

Among the various political questions under review by the General Assembly, those concerning Korea and Algeria were, although debated more moderately than in previous years, inconclusive. Debates on the items of Tibet and Hungary, however, were reminiscent of the old "cold war" atmosphere. But the item which occasioned the most serious threat to the generally improved climate of international relations concerned the election to the East European seat on the Security Council. Fifty-one inconclusive ballots were held before the compromise favoured by Canada was accepted by which Poland and Turkey split the two-year term. The Canadian Delegation played an active role in bringing about the solution which finally obtained majority support.

Another subject which aroused great interest at the Assembly was that of economic and technical assistance to the less developed countries. In the social and humanitarian field a considerable contribution was made by the unanimous adoption of a Declaration on the Rights of the Child. The continuing problem of resettlement of refugees was recognized in a resolution on World Refugee Year urging all states to make additional contributions to assist these unfortunate people.

In the Fourth Committee, dealing with United Nations Trust Territories and colonial questions, debates took place against the background of the rapid emergence of independent states in Africa. In 1960 the French Cameroons, French Togoland, the Belgian Congo, Italian Somaliland and Nigeria will all gain their independence, and by 1961 the British Cameroons and some of the African members of the French Community will be added to their number. All will undoubtedly apply for membership in the United Nations, which has consistently fulfilled its responsibility to them to assist and promote a smooth transition to independent status.