

CANADA AND THE UNITED NATIONS

(Proceedings Of Third Assembly Summarized From the Day Of Opening to September 30, 1948, inclusive)

The Third General Assembly of the United Nations opened at the Palais de Chaillot, Paris, on September 21. Dr. Herbert Evatt, Deputy Prime Minister of Australia, was elected President on the second ballot. On the first ballot, Dr. Evatt got 25 votes against 23 cast for Dr. Juan Atilio Bramuglia, Argentine Foreign Minister, but fell short of the necessary simple majority of 29. On the second ballot, Dr. Evatt was declared elected on a vote of 31 to 20.

Mr. Dana Wilgress, Canadian Minister to Switzerland, was unanimously elected chairman of the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary). Chairmanship of the Fifth Committee, which is one of the main Assembly committees, carries with it membership of the General or Steering Committee. This consists of fourteen members: the President of the Assembly, the seven vice-presidents and the six committee chairmen. Mr. Wilgress was the only chairman to receive an acclamation.

Vice-presidents and committee chairmen elected are:

VICE-PRESIDENTS

Dr. Ang Shih-chieh, China; Robert Schuman, France; Dr. Luis Padillo Nervo, Mexico; Zygmunt Modzelewski, Poland; Andrei Y. Vishinsky, U.S.S.R.; Ernest Bevin, United Kingdom; George C. Marshall, United States.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

1. Political and Security: Dr. Paul-Henri Spaak, Belgium.
2. Economic and Financial: Dr. Herman Santa Cruz, Chile.
3. Social, Humanitarian and Cultural: Dr. Charles Malik, Lebanon.
4. Trusteeship: Nasrallah Entezam, Iran.

5. Administrative and Budgetary: Dana Wilgress, Canada.

6. Legal: Dr. Ricardo J. Alfaro, Panama.

For the first time, no member of the Soviet bloc was elected to the chairmanship of any of the six main committees. Representatives of the U.S.S.R. and Poland were however elected vice-presidents. The six main committees are composed of representatives of all member states of the United



L. DANA WILGRESS
Canadian Minister to Switzerland

In the voting for chairman of the six main committees, United Nations Assembly, Mr. Wilgress was the only one to be elected unanimously. (N.F.B. Photo)

ed Nations.

In the opening debate of the General Assembly, Mr. Marshall, United States Secretary of State, said the United States would not "compromise the essential principles" nor "barter away the rights and freedoms of other peoples". There was no plot among members of the United Nations to keep any nation or group of nations in a minority. The minority position was self-imposed. "Any Government, he added, which by deliberate action cuts itself off from the rest of the world becomes incapable of understanding the

problems and policies of other Governments and other peoples. It would be a tragic error if, because of such misunderstanding, the patience of others should be mistaken for weakness."

U.S.S.R. PROPOSAL

Mr. Andrei Vishinsky (U.S.S.R.) charged that not only had the United States carried on intense preparations for aggressive steps against the Soviet Union and the new democracies but was helping a number of Western European countries to prepare for war, supplying their armies with American armaments.

Mr. Vishinsky introduced a resolution providing that:

1. The United Nations General Assembly should call upon the five great powers to reduce their armed forces by one-third in one year as a first step towards disarmament.

2. The General Assembly should recommend the prohibition of atomic weapons as weapons intended for aims of aggression and not for those of defence.

3. The General Assembly should recommend the establishment, within the framework of the Security Council, of an international control body for the purpose of the supervisions of and control over the implementation of measures for the reduction of armaments and armed forces and for the prohibition of atomic weapons.

MR. BEVIN ON RUSSIA

Mr. Ernest Bevin, United Kingdom Foreign Secretary, referring to the Soviet Union said: "If the black fury, the incalculable disaster of atomic war should fall upon us, one power, by refusing its cooperation in the control and development of these great new forces for the good of humanity, will alone be responsible for the evils which may be