

of the Charter of the UN (and which could have been much more useful had it been voted upon at a later date in view of the tense atmosphere which prevailed in the Committee last night) was voted on next. It was rejected by a vote of 11 in favour (including Canada), 22 against with 48 abstentions.

6. The item then passed to the plenary session of the Assembly. In the meantime steps were taken to inspire an unobjectionable sponsor for an unobjectionable procedural resolution to attract support from all sides. Before this tactic could succeed, however, it was necessary to change last night's atmosphere.

7. Fortunately this was achieved before the plenary session met this afternoon. The Mexican representative took two minutes to present an agreed resolution of which the operative paragraph read as follows: "The General Assembly expresses its confidence that continued efforts will be made by the parties to reach a peaceful, democratic and just solution in accordance with the Charter of the UN". The Chairman gave the meeting a few seconds to raise objections and when none was forthcoming declared the resolution passed unanimously.

SUBDIVISION IV/SUB-SECTION IV

APPRÉCIATION
ASSESSMENT

30. DEA/5475-DW-58-D-40

*Projet d'une note du sous-secrétaire d'État adjoint aux Affaires extérieures*²³
*Draft Memorandum by Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs*²³

CONFIDENTIAL

[Ottawa], January 27, 1959

THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

There is a strong impression among most of those who attended the last session of the Assembly that it was a disagreeable session which accomplished little and displayed trends which could lead to a serious decline in the force and prestige of the Assembly and of the United Nations as a whole. An examination of the record of the Assembly does little to dispel these doubts. It seems important, therefore, to identify the reasons for failure so that remedial action, if possible, may be taken in time, or, at any rate, so that our policy in and towards the United Nations may be suitably adjusted.

2. First, let us look very sketchily at the record of the Assembly on some of the principal items under consideration:

Disarmament

The only concrete result of the disarmament debate was the establishment of a Disarmament Commission of the whole. Its establishment represents the victory of a Soviet proposal made first at the previous session. However, this unsatisfactory body may never meet.

²³ Holmes avait joint la note manuscrite suivante adressée au sous-secrétaire :/Holmes attached the following handwritten note to the Under-Secretary:

This is a rough effort at a paper which is intended to provoke an examination of our U.N. policy not to settle it. We intend to carry on the examination among those directly involved in Assembly matters in the hope of producing some solid recommendations. If you would like to make any comments at this stage, we should be most grateful. J.W. H[olmes]