

upon the United Kingdom, France and Israel to withdraw their forces from Egypt. Canada joined in condemning Soviet intervention in the internal affairs of Hungary and supported resolutions calling for the immediate withdrawal of Soviet forces from the country and the admission of United Nations observers.

During the year Major-General E. L. M. Burns continued his distinguished service as Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in Palestine under conditions of increasing difficulty as tensions in the area rose, until in November he was entrusted with the organization and command of the United Nations Emergency Force established by the General Assembly.

The membership and achievements of the Specialized Agencies continued to expand in 1956 and Canada played an active part in their work and development. In May Canada was elected to a 3-year term on the Executive Board of the World Health Organization (WHO) from which it had retired in 1955. Preparations are being made for the Congress of the Universal Postal Union, which meets every five years, to assemble in Ottawa in August 1957.

In September Canada signed a Supplementary Convention on Slavery which was drafted by a Conference of Plenipotentiaries meeting in Geneva. The signatories of the Convention pledge the support of their governments for the abolition of institutions and practices analogous to slavery which are not covered by the International Slavery Convention of 1926.

United Nations technical assistance to underdeveloped countries and the establishment of the International Atomic Energy Agency are discussed in the chapter on Economic Affairs. Canada's participation in the work of UNESCO and attendance at the ninth session of the General Conference in New Delhi are dealt with in the chapter on Information and Cultural Activities.

2. Disarmament

The Sub-Committee of the Disarmament Commission, consisting of representatives of Canada, France, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom and the United States, met in London from March 19 to May 4. Continuing along the lines of their original initiative of June 1954, the United Kingdom and France submitted on March 19 a working document which was a synthesis of earlier proposals providing for a comprehensive disarmament programme. The synthesis included all the measures of disarmament, both conventional and nuclear, which in the present state of scientific knowledge were considered susceptible of effective control. The first stage of the programme was designed to be implemented in current circumstances and subsequent stages would follow as international confidence grew and political settlements were reached. On March 27 the Soviet Union tabled a proposal providing for reductions in armed forces and conventional armaments only. The force levels proposed were those advocated earlier by the Western Powers for the final levels in a comprehensive programme. The Soviet proposals on control reflected two important advances over previous positions: they defined in general terms the "objects of control" and they prescribed that the international control organ should be in position before disarmament measures began. The United States circulated on April 4 a working paper