

Three resolutions were considered at the eighth session of the Assembly:

- (1) an initial Soviet proposal for a "package deal" whereby the Assembly would request the Security Council to reconsider the applications of 14 countries; this "package" included the same countries (one of them Outer Mongolia) as an identical proposal submitted to the seventh session of the Assembly by Poland;
- (2) a second Soviet proposal — replacing the first — under which the Security Council would be requested to reconsider the applications of the five countries (Bulgaria, Hungary, Roumania, Finland and Italy) with which treaties of peace had been signed after the Second World War;
- (3) a Peruvian proposal for the establishment of a three-member Committee of Good Offices empowered to consult with members of the Security Council and report back to the General Assembly.

The Peruvian proposal was put to the vote first and carried unanimously; it later received unanimous approval in a plenary meeting. In its final form this proposal called for Peru, Egypt and the Netherlands to form the Committee to report to the ninth session of the General Assembly. When it became clear that the Peruvian proposal had widespread support, the Representative of the U.S.S.R. did not put either of his proposals to a vote.

The Canadian Representative, discussing the first Soviet proposal, said that the General Assembly was clearly in favour of an enlargement of membership and that the Canadian Delegation regarded it as very important to find means to solve the problem. It was not however possible to ignore the qualifications of individual countries, and in this case Canada could not accept Outer Mongolia as an independent state while excluding other states fully qualified for membership. Nor could Canada agree to any proposal which would circumvent the Charter by eliminating the necessity for recommendations by the Security Council. Canada voted in favour of the Peruvian resolution.

## The Problem of Prisoners of War

The *Ad Hoc* Commission on Prisoners of War, composed of three qualified and impartial persons appointed by the Secretary-General, was established by the General Assembly in December 1950 to determine whether there was reasonable ground for believing that prisoners captured during the Second World War had not been returned or otherwise accounted for.<sup>1</sup>

It appears from the last report of the Commission that the Governments of the Soviet bloc and the Peking regime have consistently refused to supply it with information. The Soviet bloc at the eighth session continued to affirm that no prisoners except criminals and the sick were now held in the U.S.S.R., and proposed

<sup>1</sup>See *Canada and the United Nations 1950*, pp. 39-41.