

## SECOND U.N. ASSEMBLY CONCLUDES

**PALESTINE PARTITION APPROVED:** The second regular session of the U.N. General Assembly concluded Nov. 29 after the partition plan for Palestine had been approved by 33 votes to 13 with ten abstentions and one absentee.

The necessary two-thirds majority of those present and voting was secured. Canada, as in the ad hoc Committee, voted for partition.

By countries, the vote was:

**For partition (33):** Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, White Russia, Canada, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, Guatemala, Haiti, Iceland, Liberia, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Sweden, Ukraine, South Africa, Soviet Russia, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela.

**Against partition (13):** Afghanistan, Cuba, Egypt, Greece, India, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, and Yemen.

**Abstaining (10):** Argentina, Chile, China, Colombia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Honduras, Mexico, Britain, Yugoslavia.

**Absent (1):** Siam.

### THE PARTITION PLAN

Under the partition plan, independent Jewish and Arab states are to be established in Palestine not later than Oct. 1. Britain is to withdraw from Palestine by August 1, giving up her mandate before then. A United Nations commission, consisting of Bolivia, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Panama and the Philippines, will supervise the transition from British administration to government by the independent Jewish and Arab states.

The six Arab states represented in the Assembly walked out of the auditorium in protest against the vote for partition. They charged that the U.N. Charter had been murdered.

Before the Assembly divided, Camille Chamoun (Lebanon) submitted six principles which, he declared, could serve as a basis for an eventual middle-of-the-way solution, namely:

1. An independent federal state to be established in Palestine not later than August 1, 1948.
2. The government of this state to be composed of a federal government and of governments for the Arab and Jewish cantons.
3. The boundaries of the cantons to be determined in such a way as to include as small Arab and Jewish minorities as possible in each of the respective cantons.
4. The population of Palestine to elect, by direct universal suffrage, a constituent assembly which would draft the constitution of the federal state of Palestine. The sections of the population of Palestine would be represented in the consti-

tuent assembly in proportion to their numbers.

5. In determining the functions of the federal government and of the governments of the cantons as well as the relationship between the federal and cantonal governments, the constituent assembly would derive its main inspiration from the constitution of the United States.
6. The future constitution of Palestine would provide, among other things, for the protection of the holy places and for freedom of worship.

Andrei Gromyko (USSR) said the Lebanon proposal did not produce anything new, susceptible of changing the situation at all. Federal government for Palestine, Mr. Gromyko added, was discussed during the early stages of the proceedings and, at that time the Arabs had refused even to consider it.

In a Press interview subsequent to the vote, Justice Minister Ilsley said the Canadian Government still considered the partition plan the best of four "unattractive alternatives". He had stated this previously before the Assembly.

If a constructive proposal had been made for conciliation between the Jews and Arabs we would have voted for further adjournment, he added.

But no good reason was advanced in this last meeting for departure from the decision we so painfully and laboriously arrived at.

Several delegations felt as we did. We didn't come here this afternoon with our minds made up. We looked for substantial grounds for an agreed settlement but it didn't come.

**SECOND ASSEMBLY IN REVIEW:** In the 75 days of the session, which was convened September 16, the Second Assembly adopted 93 resolutions, representing action on an agenda of 66 items there were 49 plenary meetings and 445 meetings of Committees and Sub-Committees. More than 1,200 hours were spent in these meetings.

Simultaneous interpretation is estimated to have saved about 1,000 hours of meeting time.

Keen public interest in the Assembly was evidenced by 72,000 confirmed reservations for seats at the meetings. In addition, some 12,000 reservations had to be cancelled because of the cancellation of meetings, and about 30,000 people came to the buildings at Flushing Meadows and Lake Success without reservations to tour the buildings and listen to the proceedings through the loudspeaker in the Economic and Social Council Chamber. Thousands more applied unsuccessfully for seats.

An average of 124 news correspondents covered the proceedings daily, according to records of the U.N. Press office. Representatives of 211 foreign and 138 United States publications were accredited. Upwards of 200,000 words of news copy were filed daily from

Lake Success and Flushing by these correspondents to newspapers throughout the world.

### RADIO NETWORK FOR PEACE

The United Nations radio division broadcast the actual proceedings of 116 plenary sessions and Committee meetings by shortwave to countries throughout the world. In addition, news, interviews and extracts of the proceedings were broadcast daily by shortwave in 13 languages. American listener interest in the Assembly led to the development of a voluntary "network for peace" comprising more than 100 U.S. stations which used a special daily programme, "the U.N. today" on Mondays through Fridays during the Assembly.

Seventy radio correspondents from 17 countries broadcast regularly direct from Lake Success and Flushing.

Working a 24-hour shift, the documents division produced upwards of 5,000 documents pertaining directly to the work of the Assembly. These included the texts of resolutions, amendments, reports, verbatim transcripts, and so on.

Representing the 57 member nations were 254 delegates with 724 alternates, advisors and other staff. The United Nations transportation service arranged transport to New York for 520 people and made hotel reservations for 1,150, including some wives and children.

The largest delegation was that of the United States, with 63 members. Other large delegations were China, with 61; France, with 55; United Kingdom, with 52; and the U.S.S.R., with 23. Smallest delegation was that of Paraguay, with 3 members.

As its final major action, the Assembly, by a vote of 33 to 13, with 10 abstentions, adopted the plan for the partition of Palestine into independent Jewish and Arab states. A United Nations Commission will supervise the transition from British administration to government by the new states.

### SPECIAL COMMISSIONS NAMED

The Assembly named two Special Commissions to deal with troublesome situations in widely separated parts of the world. One, the Special Committee to observe compliance of Greece, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia and Albania with recommendations of the Assembly, is already in Athens, enroute to Salonika where it will maintain headquarters. The other, the United Nations temporary Commission to facilitate and expedite the election of a national government in Korea, is expected to leave about the first of the New Year.

To consider matters concerning international peace and security, the promotion of international cooperation in the political field and the peaceful adjustment of situations likely to impair the general welfare or friendly relations among nations, the Assembly created an Interim Committee which will function between the close of this session and the opening of the next. This Committee will hold

its first meeting within six weeks of the close of the session.

Other significant actions taken at the session included:

A unanimous condemnation of "war-mongering" propaganda and a request that all member nations take appropriate steps to encourage the dissemination of peace promoting information.

Another resolution urged the member nations to study ways of preventing the spread of slanderous statements detrimental to good relations between nations. A third resolution called upon member nations to undertake the teaching of U.N. purposes and principles in their schools.

The next session of the Assembly, in accordance with a decision taken at this session, will be held in Europe in September 1948, in a city to be chosen by the Secretary General and a Special Committee of nine member nations.

Two new member states -- Yemen and Pakistan -- were admitted to membership in the organization bringing the total of U.N. members to 57. The Assembly also called upon the Security Council to reconsider the applications of six other states -- Eire, Italy, Portugal, Finland, Austria and Transjordan -- which had failed to receive Security Council's recommendation.

The Assembly approved a budget of \$34,825,195 for the work of the organization in 1948 and adopted a proposal for \$65,000,000 loan from United States government for construction of the new headquarters building in Manhattan.

Previous meetings of the General Assembly were:

- 1) The first session (first part), London, January 10 to February 14, 1946;
- 2) The first session (second part), New York, October 23 to December 16, 1946.
- 3) The special session on Palestine, New York, April 28 to May 15, 1947 (U.N. Press Division).

**ENLISTMENT AGE LOWERED TO 17:** Seventeen-year-olds will now be accepted for enlistment in the Canadian Army, it was learned in Ottawa this week. Until now, minimum enlistment for both the Army and the Air Force has been 18 years. The Navy has always accepted recruits of 17½ years.

Between the wars the Canadian Army did enlist youths under 18 years but such recruits were paid only at "boy's" rates of pay and not as regular soldiers. Seventeen-year-olds now enrolling in either the Army or Air Force will be paid at full rates and be afforded every privilege granted seasoned soldiers.

**AIR TRAINING FOR NAVAL OFFICERS:** Air Training Courses with the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force successfully completed, seven officers of the Royal Canadian Navy have returned to Canada and are now on leave, prior to taking up new appointments with the R.C.N.