

CANADA AND THE UNITED NATIONS

PALESTINE

The main discussions on Palestine in the Security Council during June centred on the implementation of the four-week truce which had been accepted by both Arabs and Jews and went into effect June 11. The U.N. mediator, Count Folke Bernadotte, was given a free hand to work out with both sides details of the truce arrangements and to try to effect some agreement for the period after the truce's end. While methods for handling the explosive questions of immigration of fighting personnel and the movement of supplies during the truce were agreed on, the basic problem of the Arabs' refusal to discuss any solution which might admit of partition and the Jews' refusal to consider a unitary state remained to be settled. During the month the mediator negotiated with representatives of both sides on the Island of Rhodes and on June 28 submitted to the Arab states and the Jews proposals which he hoped would be the basis for solution.

To assist him in his work in Palestine, the mediator invited the three countries which make up the Security Council's Truce Commission (Belgium, France and the United States) to provide military observers. In the Security Council a U.S.S.R. proposal that the Council allow any of its members wishing to do so to send military observers was not adopted. Speaking on the proposal, the Canadian delegate, General A.G.L. McNaughton, said that the task of providing such assistance was the duty of the members of the Truce Commission, all of whom had already agreed to send observers, and that there was no question of the "right" of a country to participate as had been suggested by the Ukraine's representative. Only the U.S.S.R. and Ukraine voted

in favour of the Soviet proposal; the remaining nine members of the Council abstained.

All member states were asked by the mediator to report on the steps they had taken to implement the truce resolution of May 29. The Canadian Government reported through the Secretary-General that Canada was doing whatever has been possible by administrative measures to discourage persons of military age from proceeding from Canada to Palestine, Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Transjordan and Yemen. The report further emphasized that the export of war material required the approval of the Canadian Government and that no such approval had been given at any time during the past several years, nor would it be given during the truce period, to the export from Canada of war material to Palestine or any of the Arab League countries.

ATOMIC ENERGY

When the third report of the Atomic Energy Commission came up for discussion in the Security Council, the United States proposed that the Council should approve the general findings and recommendations of the Commission's first report, and the specific proposals of the second report as constituting the necessary basis for establishing an effective system of international control. This resolution also proposed that the Council should approve the report and recommendations contained in the third report and that the three reports be referred to the General Assembly. This resolution, however, was not approved because of the veto applied by the U.S.S.R. The Canadian representative then proposed that the reports simply be transmitted to the General Assembly, together with the record of the Council's

deliberations on the subject, "as a matter of special concern". As this proposal was ruled by the President as procedural and therefore not subject to the veto, the resolution passed by a vote of 9 to 0, the U.S.S.R. and the Ukraine abstaining.

The Canadian representative, General McNaughton, argued that as the Atomic Energy Commission was established by the General Assembly, the Assembly should be fully informed of the situation in which the Commission now found itself. (The Commission on May 17 agreed to suspend indefinitely its attempt to work out an international plan for the control of atomic energy.) He further noted that those of us who have worked out in good faith the proposals contained in the majority report will thus be enabled to test our conclusions "in the wider forum of the General Assembly". He expressed the hope that the representatives of the U.S.S.R. and the Ukrainian S.S.R. "will come to appreciate the sincerity and the conviction of those who framed the majority proposals, and that they will come also to recognize that their conclusions are inescapable".

SPAIN

The question of whether or not the General Assembly's resolution on Spain should be included on the agenda of the Security Council was discussed briefly. This resolution of November 17, 1947, expressed confidence that the Security Council would exercise its responsibilities "as soon as it considered that the situation in regard to Spain so required". The President of the Council, Faris el Khouri of Syria, suggested that as there were no new elements to be considered, the Council should just take note of the Assembly resolution. The Soviet Union