

in a field of international relations where in recent years unilateral action by states and ensuing international disputation has become all too frequent. Following up this final report by the International Law Commission, the General Assembly decided to convoke in the spring of 1958 an international conference to examine the law of the sea in its legal, technical, biological, economic and political aspects.

The great interest in the problems of dependent peoples was again in evidence during the discussions of the eleventh session. Many members of the United Nations, particularly those which have themselves achieved independence in recent years, continued to support the cause of all territories seeking independence. But there were indications at the eleventh session of a desire by most members of the international organization to be more realistic and constructive: on the one hand there was a greater disposition on the part of the administering countries to discuss in the United Nations the problems of the territories for which they are responsible; on the other hand there seemed to be recognition by the countries which are opposed to colonialism in any form, that strongly condemnatory speeches and resolutions may not be the best way of helping the dependent peoples themselves. However it cannot be claimed that there was a meeting of minds at the eleventh session on many issues concerned with dependent territories. But there was more candour and less rancour than in the past, and some compromise resolutions acceptable to both sides were adopted giving the General Assembly's blessing to negotiations between the dominant powers and their respective dependent peoples, with a view to achieving, by peaceful means, just solutions to the many difficulties in front of them.

In retrospect, the fourteenth-month period January 1, 1956 to March 8, 1957 was of compelling interest to Canada. It encompassed some gains for the cause of peace and security, and some reverses. A modified cold war still goes on. But, just as in 1955 there was no tranquillity, so in 1956 there was no abiding calm; in fact, it was a year which came perilously close to the Third World War which is the nightmare of all peoples.