

United Nations General Assembly

EIGHTEENTH SESSION — THE SECOND MONTH

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY completed the second month of its eighteenth session on November 15. During this period, the Assembly concluded its general debate and proceeded to give detailed consideration to the 84 items on its agenda. By November 15, it had adopted resolutions dealing with such diverse subjects as: Assistance for the victims of the earthquake-devastated city of Skopje; the question of Southern Rhodesia; the United Nations Operation in the Congo; aid to the victims of the recent hurricane in the Caribbean; the Security Council's report of its activities for the period July 16, 1962, to July 15, 1963; the prohibition of nuclear weapons in outer space; the implementation of the agreement entered into by the Netherlands and Indonesia with respect to the transfer of sovereignty over West New Guinea; the effects of atomic radiation; and the improvement of the methods of work of the Assembly.

During the second month, reports and resolutions relating to some 12 items had also passed committee stage and awaited the Assembly's consideration. Included among these were such subjects as: The participation of women in national, social and economic development; a draft declaration on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination; the eradication of illiteracy throughout the world; the transformation of the Special Fund of the United Nations into a Capital Development Fund capable of both pre-investment and investment activities; and the role of patients in the transfer of technology to developing countries.

Elections to the Councils and to the International Court of Justice

At each regular session the General Assembly holds elections to fill three of the non-permanent seats on the Security Council and six of the seats on the Economic and Social Council.

Bolivia and the Ivory Coast were both elected to the Security Council on October 18, but the contest between Malaysia and Czechoslovakia for the remaining seat carried on through 11 ballots. A working arrangement was finally arrived at on November 1 whereby these two countries would occupy the seat for one year in turn, with Czechoslovakia to serve during the period January 1 to December 31, 1964.

On October 18 also, Algeria, Chile, Ecuador, France, Iraq and Luxembourg were elected to serve three-year terms of office on the Economic and Social Council.

Finally, on October 21, five vacancies on the International Court of Justice were filled on joint election by the Security Council and the General Assembly. The new judges are Sir Gerald Fitzmaurice of Britain, André Gros of France,