

### CANADA AT THE UNITED NATIONS

**PLAN FOR PALESTINE:** On November 29, 1947, the General Assembly of the United Nations, on a vote of 33 to 13, with ten abstentions and one absentee adopted an ad hoc committee report recommending: (1) partition of Palestine into an Arab and Jewish state, (2) an enclave for the City of Jerusalem administered by a Special International Regime, (3) an economic union of all Palestine.

The two independent states are to be established not later than October 1. Britain (which holds a League of Nations mandate for Palestine) is to withdraw her forces by August 1. A United Nations commission consisting of Bolivia, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Panama and the Philippines supervises transition from British administration to government by the two independent states.

**COMMISSION ASKS FOR HELP:** The five-member Commission on Palestine submitted to the U.N. Security Council, February 16, a unanimous report asking for adequate military force to prevent bloodshed in Palestine.

The report, which ran to 4,500 words, concluded:

"The pertinent facts in support of the commission's unavoidable decision to call upon the Security Council for assistance in the discharge of its duty to the General Assembly are evident. The United Nations has taken a firm decision regarding the future government of Palestine. Following that decision the General Assembly created this commission as its agent in the matter and charged it with responsibility, under the guidance of the Security Council, for implementing the assembly's recommendations.

#### COMPELLING NEED FOR ACTION

"The commission has decided to refer to the Security Council the problem of providing that armed assistance which alone would enable the commission to discharge its responsibilities on the termination of the mandate, because it is convinced that there is no step which it can take under the resolution of the assembly to improve the security situation in Palestine between now and the termination of the mandate.

"The commission must emphasize the compelling need for prompt action, in order to avert great bloodshed and human suffering in Palestine, and to assist the implementation of the resolution, which the commission, notwithstanding all difficulties, is exerting every effort to carry out.

"In the view of the commission, a basic issue of international order is involved. A dangerous and tragic precedent will have been established if force, or the threat of the use of force, is to prove an effective deterrent to the will of the United Nations."

The Security Council postponed consideration of the Palestine Commission's report till February 24 to enable delegates to acquaint their governments with contents of the report and secure instructions.

**CANADA'S ATTITUDE:** M. J. Coldwell, C.C.F. leader, in the House of Commons, February 17, asked the Secretary of State for External Affairs Mr. St. Laurent whether, in view of the grave warning from the Palestine Commission, the Government was prepared "to accept its share of responsibility in such action as may be taken by the Security Council with a view to averting further bloodshed in Palestine and implementing the Assembly decision?"

Mr. St. Laurent: I listened with care to the question the hon. member has just put, because it was not quite in the terms of the notice I was handed just before I came into the House. In answer, I can only state that Canada accepted full responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations and has at all times been pressing to have all the organs of the United Nations set up in accordance with the Charter and in such a manner as to make the Charter fully effective. There is no intention of not complying with the requirements both of the letter and the spirit of the Charter.

**NEXT ASSEMBLY IN PARIS:** The Third General Assembly of the United Nations will meet in Paris, France. The French Government will make the Palais de Chaillot near the Eiffel Tower, site of the 1947 Paris World's Fair available to the U.N.

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL:** During the second week of its session, the Economic and Social Council concentrated chiefly on economic items of the agenda. Following are highlights:

Report of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East referred to the Council's Economic Committee.

Question discussed of establishing an Economic Commission for the Middle East. Referred to ad hoc committee for further study.

Resolution adopted requesting the Secretary-General to proceed with plans for a U.N. scientific conference on conservation and utilization of resources (as outlined in the Secretary-General's report) but limiting the task of the conference to exchange of information on techniques of conservation and utilization of resources.

Questions of equal pay for equal work for men and women workers and of genocide referred to social committee for further study.

By 8 votes to 7, Council confirmed decision taken at Council's fifth session and subsequently approved by General Assembly to hold

the seventh session of the Council in Geneva next July.

The Council's Economic Committee decided that membership of the Economic Commission for Latin America (C.W.B. February 13 P. 10) will be open to all of the United Nations in North, Central and South America and the Caribbean area and to France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. The committee also decided on the terms of reference of the commission, which follow the lines of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East.

**KOREA BEFORE LITTLE ASSEMBLY:** The Interim Committee of the General Assembly (Little Assembly) met at Lake Success yesterday to consider the situation in Korea.

Korea is divided into two zones of occupation. North of the Thirty-Eight parallel is the Russian zone; south of the parallel, the American zone.

On November 14, last, the General Assembly adopted a resolution declaring that national independence of Korea should be re-established and all occupying forces then withdrawn as soon as practicable. The resolution recommended that elections should be held in Korea not later than March 31, 1948. And the Assembly established a U.N. Temporary Commission with powers to travel, observe and consult throughout Korea.

The Commission met in Seoul in the American zone but, in view of the "negative attitude" of Russia in the Northern zone, decided to consult the Little Assembly.

#### RESULTS OF DIVISION DISASTROUS

Before the Little Assembly yesterday, Dr. Menon (India) chairman of the commission, said that in Korea there was a "restless, intuitive and all-pervasive rebelliousness against military occupation." The 38th parallel was obstructing the progress of Korea to an independent state. Results of dividing Korea into two zones had been disastrous.

To re-establish the integrity of Korea, Dr. Menon continued, the Commission made special efforts to obtain at least the partial cooperation of the Soviet authorities in Northern Korea. When these efforts produced a negative result, the Commission decided to ask the Interim Committee for advice and guidance. The Commission had been unanimous in rejecting one of the alternatives before it, namely "to throw up our hands" and "to shake the snow of Korea off our feet," but was of the view that a national government in the whole of Korea "cannot be established in the present circumstances."

Unfortunately, Dr. Menon said, the Commission had been unable to meet any important Leftist leaders as the North was barred to the commission and, in the South, the Leftists "were mostly underground." On the whole, most members of the Commission felt that formation of a separate sovereign state in South Korea,

under present conditions, would not facilitate the twin objectives laid down in the General Assembly resolution, namely, attainment of the national independence of Korea and withdrawal of the occupying troops. The Commission was not unanimous on the advisability of holding separate elections in South Korea.

Referring to Press reports that an independent government has been formed in North Korea under Soviet auspices, Dr. Menon said: As far as we can ascertain, from the opinions and reports of U.N. officials, there has been no change in the regimes of either North or South Korea.

Further discussion of Korea was adjourned till Tuesday.

Lester B. Pearson (Canada) said it was unfortunate that the next meeting would be held only Tuesday as many delegates had come from very far. The Korean question had been before the United Nations for quite a while and Mr. Pearson thought the discussions could have begun right away.

### EXCHANGE CONSERVATION CHANGES

**REVISION OF SCHEDULES:** Amendments to Exchange Conservation Measures, in force as of February 17, are outlined by the Minister of Finance, Mr. Abbott, as follows:

- 1) Six items are transferred from the prohibited list to the quota list. These cover coffee substitutes; green decaffeinated coffee beans; toilet soap; Castile soap; shoe blacking, leather dressing and knife polish; and toilet or dressing combs.
  - 2) Two items are dropped from the prohibited list. They cover fireworks and paintings, respectively.
  - 3) Tariff item 362 (silverware and manufactures of gold or silver, n.o.p.) is inserted in quota category 4. Some goods classified under this item were previously prohibited while others were unrestricted.
  - 4) Several items in the prohibited list are re-worded. These revisions have the effect of excluding from prohibited classifications passion fruit pulp (an Australian product), china or porcelain ornaments (a British specialty), certain glassware parts, industrial humidifiers, and non-propelling lead pencils. On the other hand, the item covering oysters is expanded to include preserved oysters, and the items relating to paper products are expanded to include multi-coloured, embossed or decorated papers and fancy paperboard boxes. The restrictions will apply to any goods not actually in transit to Canada Feb. 16.
- Most of these changes, Mr. Abbott says, involve the deletion from the prohibited schedule or the transfer from the prohibited list to the quota list of items in which the United Kingdom has an interest. During the war shipments of such British products as soap,