

items of business normally dealt with in the main committees. In addition, the admission of seventeen new members in the early days of the session had the effect of prolonging the proceedings. The angry outbursts of Mr. Khrushchov and others, moreover, contributed to the atmosphere of tension, confusion, and disillusionment which characterized the early part of the session.

The other main political questions discussed at the fifteenth session were disarmament and colonialism. Moreover, the Soviet attack on the Secretary-General and the Secretariat was pressed vigorously on several fronts, although no specific debate on the matter took place. By the end of the session in December, it had become evident that in the prevailing East-West tension no agreement could be reached on the many disarmament resolutions submitted in the First Committee, including the Canadian draft resolution which sought to facilitate the resumption of disarmament negotiations and to formalize the ultimate responsibility of the United Nations for disarmament matters, and at the same time to give an opportunity to non-negotiating powers to make their views known in detail. Disarmament was therefore put forward to the resumed session in March 1961.

The question of colonialism pervaded much of the discussions during the fifteenth session and led to the adoption of an African-Asian resolution on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples which is considered an important declaration of principles on the movement of colonies to independence. Soviet attempts to make a cold war issue of this item were rejected. The concern of African and Asian members with colonial questions was also reflected in their approach to other questions concerning dependent territories. On the recommendation of its Fourth Committee, the Assembly adopted a number of resolutions dealing with non-self-governing territories aimed at facilitating their progress towards independence. It also directed its attention to South Africa and its mandated territory of South West Africa. While the Assembly deferred consideration of the question of *apartheid* in South Africa to its resumed session, it adopted a number of resolutions on South West Africa which, in effect, recognized the impossibility of negotiating with the South African Government on this question.

During the debates, the Congo crisis proved to be much in the minds of delegations and a number of occasions were provided for delegations to express views on the most recent developments. The full debate on the Congo situation, however, did not take place until after the Security Council had held another series of meetings and had failed to reach agreement on a clarification of the terms of reference of the Congo operation and the Secretary-General's interpretation of his mandate. The Assembly debates reflected the growing differences of opinion on the United Nations action in the Congo; and in the pre-Christmas period no resolution gained sufficient support for adoption.