

demonstration of its anxiety, the Assembly, by a vote of 34 (including Canada) to 6, with 9 abstentions, adopted a resolution expressing its deep concern at the grave accusations made against the Governments of Bulgaria and Hungary, noting with satisfaction the steps already taken by several signatories of the relevant Peace Treaties (the despatch of notes of protest) and drawing the attention of the Governments of Bulgaria and Hungary to their obligations under the Peace Treaties. By the same resolution the Assembly retained the question on the agenda of the Fourth Session of the General Assembly. The Canadian Representative supported the resolution in a statement given in the Ad Hoc Political Committee on April 20.\*

During the summer the protesting signatories took appropriate steps under the Peace Treaties. Hungary, Roumania and Bulgaria, however, refused to co-operate in appointing members to Commissions to consider these disputes, and in fact denied that disputes existed. Thus the attempts by the Western Powers to invoke the relevant clauses of the Peace Treaties failed. In accordance with the terms of the previous General Assembly resolution, the United States and the United Kingdom thereupon informed the Secretary-General of the steps which they had taken to comply with the procedures laid down in the Peace Treaties. Canada, Australia and New Zealand were associated with the United Kingdom action.

Prior to the opening of the Fourth Session of the General Assembly, the consideration of charges against Roumania was added to its agenda and the title of the item was simplified to "observance in Bulgaria, Hungary, and Roumania of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

The General Assembly discussed the question at some length. The representatives of the U.S.S.R. and other Eastern European governments questioned the moral qualifications of the accusing states and argued that the interpretation of the Peace Treaties was a matter to be decided by the signatories themselves. They denied that there had been a violation of human rights and considered that by debating this matter the General Assembly was intervening in the internal affairs of these countries in violation of the United Nations Charter.

The non-Communist majority repudiated these views. They repeated charges which they had previously made and which they supported with evidence to the effect that the Governments of Bulgaria, Hungary and Roumania had in fact violated the human rights articles of the Peace Treaties. In addition, the majority charged that these countries had also violated those clauses of the Treaties which set forth the procedures to be followed should a dispute arise between the parties as to whether or not a treaty had been violated. This alleged violation of the Peace Treaties, in the view of the majority, was a matter of international concern and was therefore clearly outside the domestic jurisdiction of the accused governments. It was this procedural aspect which was emphasized by the Canadian and United States delegations.

On October 4, the Canadian Representative in the Ad Hoc Political Committee outlined the Canadian position.\*\* He reviewed the steps already taken by Canada through diplomatic channels and in public statements to express its abhorrence of the policy of repression and persecution followed

\*For the text of the Canadian statement, see Appendix 8, pp. 242-244.

\*\*For the text of the Canadian statement, see Appendix 9, pp. 244-246.