

II

THE UNITED NATIONS

1. General

The past year has been a critical one for the United Nations, which was called upon to deal with major crises both in the Middle East and in Hungary and to take action for the first time under the "Uniting for Peace" Resolution passed by the General Assembly in 1950. However, as the eleventh session of the General Assembly did not convene until November 12, 1956, two months later than usual, and is scheduled to continue until February 1957, a substantial part of its activities will fall outside the scope of this report. Nevertheless, as the year closed, it was evident that the United Nations, and more particularly the General Assembly and the Secretary-General, had gained greatly in prestige and acquired renewed significance as international instruments for the preservation of peace.

Canada was represented at the General Assembly by a delegation led by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L. B. Pearson. During the past year Canada served on a large number of United Nations bodies; the detailed list is provided in Appendix D, "International Associations and Organizations of which Canada is a Member".

The Security Council unanimously recommended the application for membership in the United Nations of Japan and of three new states, Sudan, Tunisia and Morocco, and approval was subsequently given to their admission by the General Assembly, bringing the total membership of the United Nations to 80. One of the matters of major concern to the Security Council during the year was the Arab-Israeli conflict, which erupted into open hostilities in late October with an Israeli invasion of the Sinai Peninsula and the intervention in Egypt of the armed forces of the United Kingdom and France. A second matter of the gravest importance was the armed conflict in Hungary in which the Soviet Army was directly involved. Both subjects were considered by the Security Council, which was prevented from taking action by the vetoes of the United Kingdom and France in the first instance and the veto of the U.S.S.R. in the second. As a result these problems were brought before the General Assembly under the terms of the 1950 "Uniting for Peace" Resolution and two emergency special sessions of the General Assembly were convened, the first from November 1-10 to consider the situation in the Middle East, the second from November 4-10 to consider the situation in Hungary. Subsequently both problems were placed on the agenda of the eleventh regular session.

Details of Canada's position on the crises in the Middle East and in Hungary may be found in the chapters on the Middle East and Europe. With regard to the Middle East, Canada took the initiative in proposing that a United Nations Emergency Force be set up to secure and supervise cessation of hostilities, and subsequently supported a resolution calling