

CANADA AT THE UNITED NATIONS

LITTLE ASSEMBLY: The Interim Committee of the U.N. General Assembly (Little Assembly) meets at Lake Success N.Y. February 19. On the agenda will be the situation in Korea and consideration of proposals for the implementation of article 11 (1) and 13 (1a) of the U.N. Charter dealing with the general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and with the promotion of international peace in the political field.

So far, the only proposal received is from Lebanon, namely, establishment of a permanent committee of conciliation.

USSR ATTITUDE IN KOREA: The temporary Korean Commission is consulting the Interim Committee of the General Assembly in consequence of the "negative attitude" of the Soviet authorities towards the Commission's work in Northern Korea which is occupied by Russian troops.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA: The Economic and Social Council, February 9, concluded general discussion of the report of the ad hoc committee on the proposed Economic Commission for Latin America. The report was referred for study to the Council's Economic Committee.

Dr. George Davidson (Canada) said that while not disagreeing with the recommendations of the report, he thought the Council should differentiate between economic reconstruction of war devastated areas and development programmes of non-devastated areas. He agreed that it was necessary for the Council to encourage the Latin American countries to maintain their economic progress, but the needs of Europe and Asia were more vital.

A.A. Arutimian, Russian delegate told the Council that because of the war United States capital has been pushing British capital out more and more and that the struggle in Latin America has become grave. He said some countries had been reduced to a "semi-colonial dependency status."

Both the United States and Britain denied the Russian charge. Britain's C.P. Mayhew declared it was "based on false assumptions supported by distorted facts and wholly irrelevant to the agenda."

APPLICATION OF MONACO: By 11 votes to 2, the Economic and Social Council, February 5, accepted a Canadian resolution, as amended by France, stating that the Council has no objection to the admission of Monaco to UNESCO and suggesting that UNESCO, in taking its decision, should consider the general problem of admission to membership in UNESCO of diminutive states and states not fully sovereign.

CHILD WELFARE PROGRAMME: The Social Committee of the Economic and Social Council, Feb. 10, set up a sub-committee to study the Social Commission's resolutions on a child welfare programme and amendments proposed by the U.S.S.R. and Lebanese delegations.

The Soviet amendment urges the Economic and Social Council to recommend urgent measures to return to their homeland children left in foreign countries as a result of the war.

The Lebanese amendment asks that the Secretary-General be empowered to undertake a study and to report to the Economic and Social Council at its next session to enable it to decide on the advisability or necessity for the repatriation of these children.

JERUSALEM CHARTER: A draft statute for the international regime of the city of Jerusalem will be submitted to the Trusteeship Council when it reconvenes February 18. The Draft statute provides for the organization, administration and protection of Jerusalem. The internationalized city will be a "corpus separatum" under the administration of the United Nations, acting through the Trusteeship Council and the Governor to be appointed by the Council.

Some of the main provisions:

The United Nations would guarantee the territorial integrity of the city and maintenance of the special international regime. In case of aggression or threat of aggression, "or any other attempt to alter by force" the special regime, the Security Council would be informed.

The city itself would be demilitarized, with no "para-military" formations, exercises or activities permitted within its borders. However, a special police would be organized to assist in the maintenance of internal law and order, and especially for the protection throughout the city of the holy places, religious buildings and sites. This special police force would be selected as far as possible without regard to nationality, except that no citizen of Jerusalem or of the Arab or Jewish state would be eligible.

The governor would have supreme executive authority, subject only to the instructions of the Trusteeship Council. There would also be a Legislative Council composed of citizens of Jerusalem over 25 years of age.

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION: Committee 2 (Control) of the Atomic Energy Commission, February 9, heard George C. McDonald, vice-president of the Quebec Hydro-Electric Commission and Bernard Lacasse, secretary of the Commission, speak on "Organization and Administration of the Quebec Hydro-Electric Commission." These statements were the second of a series of

expert hearings before Committee 2 which is currently engaged in the discussion of the composition of the international agency for the control of atomic energy. On January 26, the committee heard Chester I. Barnard, president of the New Jersey Bell Telephone Co.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION: A series of important decisions, including the site of the World Health Assembly, the agenda for this assembly, a long programme for World Health Organization (WHO) and the first year's budget for the permanent organization were reached at the fifth session of the WHO Interim Commission which met in Geneva from January 22 to February 7, reports the U.N. Information Centre, Geneva.

The session, under the chairmanship of Dr. Andrija Stampar, president of the Yugoslav Academy of Sciences and Arts, was attended by representatives of the following countries: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, France, India, Netherlands, Norway, Ukrainian SSR, USSR, United Kingdom, US and Yugoslavia. Representatives of Liberia, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela were not present at the meeting. (These 18 countries comprise the membership of the Interim Commission).

Observers from the United Nations, the International Labour Organization, the UNESCO also participated in various meetings of this session.

The WHO constitution, already signed by 64 nations, must be ratified by 26 members of the United Nations before coming into force. To date 21 UN members and 8 non-members have ratified. Eight other member nations have completed the legislative process and deposition of their instruments of ratification is expected early this spring.

SECURITY COUNCIL

INDIA AND PAKISTAN: The Security Council has had under discussion during the week an Indian request for adjournment of the Kashmir question until the middle of March to allow the Indian delegation to return home for consultation with its government.

The president of the Council, General McNaughton (Canada) February 10 reported to the Council on the results of his consultations with the representatives of India and Pakistan and submitted to the Council documents relating to the proposals made by him to both parties as well as the exchange of letters on the Indian adjournment request between him and the Indian representative.

During subsequent discussions, China submitted a resolution which called for adjournment till March 1 while reserving the right of the Council to resume consideration of the Kashmir question in case of emergency.

The Indian request was still under discussion when the Council rose on February 11.

IN PARLIAMENT BRIEFLY

PRICES COMMITTEE APPOINTED: After a week-long debate, the House of Commons, February 10, adopted the Prime Minister's motion for appointment of a special fact-finding committee to investigate increases in the cost of living. The Prime Minister's motion carried on a division of 119 to 80, a Government majority of 39. The Social Credit group and five Independent members voted with the Government. Progressive-Conservatives and the C.C.F. voted against.

Closing the debate, the Prime Minister said the House had been forced to listen to a lot of declamation and ridicule from the Opposition, to many opprobrious threats, to anger, to threats of boycotting.

We have had amendments moved to this simple resolution, the Prime Minister continued, and we have had appeals from the Speaker's ruling in regard to these amendments. On what ground can these actions be defended? There is only one explanation that can be given. Hon. gentlemen opposite have recognized that this step which the government is taking is one which the people of the country want and want quickly. Because it has been taken by the Government, they are doing all in their power to obscure the importance of the step . . .

DIVERGENT POLICIES

The amazing part of the whole thing is that their policies are as divergent as it is possible to have them. The minute it comes to the vital question of discussing the policies of hon. gentlemen opposite, the minute they begin to fight with each other like Kilkenny cats. They have no agreement whatever in the matter of policy but when it comes to an opportunity, as they see it, or trying to embarrass the government they are ready enough to join hands and dance together merrily enough."

A tendency has been revealed, Mr. Mackenzie King continued, of continuously appealing from rulings of the Speaker. If there was one rule followed at Westminster above all others, it was that the ruling of the Speaker should be respected by the House. Someone had to have the final decision.

APPEALS FROM RULINGS

The Prime Minister added: Where it is obvious that the Speaker is deciding in accordance with rules which hon. members themselves have made for the protection of freedom of discussion and debate, then every time the Speaker's ruling is challenged and every time an effort is made to have it appear that the Speaker has not given a just and fair ruling, to that extent correct procedure in the House of Commons suffers a heavy blow in the course of time which will have far reaching reactions.

I wish to say this to hon. members about this matter of appealing from the Speaker's rulings. I venture to say that every hon. mem-