

## II

### THE UNITED NATIONS<sup>1</sup>

#### I. General

Again, in the year of its tenth anniversary, the United Nations reflected the lack of general agreement among the great powers, but there were positive achievements in a number of fields. Controversial proposals affecting the administration of certain African territories led to the withdrawal from the General Assembly of France and the Union of South Africa, though a later compromise enabled France to return. The admission of sixteen new members further extended the influence and prestige of the United Nations.

Canada was represented at the General Assembly by a delegation headed by the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Paul Martin, and at the anniversary meeting in San Francisco by the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It remained an active member of the Disarmament Commission and its Sub-committee; the Collective Measures Committee; the Advisory Committee of the Korean Reconstruction Agency; the Negotiating Committee for Extra-budgetary Funds; and the Population and Narcotic Drugs Commissions of the Economic and Social Council. It was re-elected to the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund and to the Statistical Commission. Mr. J. R. Marshall of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics was elected chairman of the Population Commission.

Not having held a seat in the main councils of the United Nations since 1952, Canada stood for election to the Economic and Social Council and was successful.

Apart from its consideration of the General Assembly's resolution on new members and of the Palestine question, the Security Council was relatively inactive. Major-General E. L. M. Burns has continued his distinguished service as Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, and a number of other Canadians are also serving with this organization in Palestine and with the United Nations group of observers in Kashmir.

In accordance with the provisions of Article 109 of the United Nations Charter (which Canada had sponsored in 1945) the Assembly was required to consider a proposal to call a general conference for the purpose of reviewing the present Charter. It approved a revised draft resolution submitted jointly by Canada, Ecuador, Iraq, Thailand, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Uruguay, which provided that a Charter Review Conference should be held at an appropriate time and set up a committee of all the members of the United Nations to make recommendations to the twelfth session of the Assembly on the question of fixing a time and place for the conference and its organization and procedures.

<sup>1</sup> Fuller information is contained in the departmental publication *Canada and the United Nations, 1954-55*.