

1945, and completed its work on October 27th. Its recommendations and studies were embodied in a detailed report which was submitted for consideration to the full Preparatory Commission. On October 24, 1945, the Charter came into force following the deposit of the required number of ratifications, and the Preparatory Commission met a month later, on November 24th. The Commission subjected the Report of the Executive Committee to detailed study and debate, as a result of which a number of substantial amendments were made in its recommendations. Then the revised Report of the Executive Committee became the Report of the Preparatory Commission. On December 23, 1945, the Preparatory Commission terminated its labours.

The first part of the First Session of the General Assembly, was held from January 10th to February 14, 1946. The Report of the Preparatory Commission was the basic document before the Assembly, and for the most part the latter adopted the recommendations of the Report with little change.

An encouraging aspect of the meetings of the Executive Committee, the Preparatory Commission and the first part of the First Session of the General Assembly was the steady progress made by the various committees in resolving the many difficult technical issues with which they had to deal. This was made possible by the readiness of all the delegations to recognize the validity of the points of view of other delegations, and by their determination to seek solutions which would be generally acceptable. Complete freedom of discussion prevailed even on such delicate issues as the advantages and disadvantages of locating the permanent headquarters in the United States. This was one of the most valuable features of the meetings. It did much to convert the United Nations from a blue print into an effective international centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of their common ends.

Throughout these meetings the United Nations enjoyed the generous hospitality of the United Kingdom Government. The excellence of the arrangements was all the more remarkable in view of the fact that the resources of London had been so severely strained by enemy bombing. The admirable manner in which Mr. Gladwyn Jebb, Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission, and the temporary secretariat of the United Nations discharged their onerous duties contributed greatly to the success of the meetings. Their competence, devotion and fairness have set a high standard for future sessions of the United Nations.