

the Cominform. Recently, moreover, the Cominform and its agents within the territories of other states had turned their propaganda attack not only against the West but against even Communist states whose leaders refused to submit to the dictates of the Kremlin. Many of the speakers for the West urged the Soviet Representative to consider whether, if his Government really wanted peace, it should not, as an evidence of its good intentions, dissolve the Cominform and call a halt to the campaign of abuse against the Western world.

The joint United Kingdom-United States resolution was adopted, both in the Political Committee and in the General Assembly, by the same overwhelming majority of 53 in favour, 5 against, with Yugoslavia, significantly, abstaining. In each case, the Canadian Delegation participated in the debate and voted with the majority. On November 15, 1949, the Canadian Representative, Mr. Paul Martin, contrasted in detail the non-cooperative and expansionist actions of the Soviet Union with the protestations of peace which had been so frequently and so freely given by Soviet spokesmen. He emphasized that by its system of censorship the Soviet Government had denied to the peoples of the free world "the right to speak to the Russian people and tell them of our great and genuine desire to live at peace with the people of the Soviet Union". On December 1, 1949, in the full Assembly, Mr. Pearson further elaborated the Canadian view in a statement which condemned the activities of the Cominform in its attempts to overthrow and undermine the governments and institutions of other countries.* Mr. Pearson reminded the members of a maxim coined by Mr. Vishinsky: "Ideological intervention is wont to become military", and added that "the statement was only too true and embodied the greatest threat to peace which existed today".

Berlin

The blockade of Berlin was lifted on May 12, 1949, as a result of lengthy negotiations which took place among representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom, the U.S.S.R., and France. The United Nations did not formally discuss the Berlin question in 1949, although at the end of that year the Security Council still retained this item on its agenda.

On October 25, 1948, the Soviet Delegation in the Security Council at Paris vetoed a resolution, of which Canada was one of the sponsors, designed to reconcile the conflicting requirements of the parties to the dispute and thus to restore communications without any surrender of rights in the city of Berlin. One important difference between the stand of the Soviet Government and that of the three Western powers was that the U.S.S.R. was not willing to raise the blockade of Berlin until a unified currency, based on the German mark of the Soviet Zone, had been established in all sectors of Berlin. Conversely, the Western powers were not willing to negotiate terms by which the Soviet currency might be introduced into Western Berlin while their sectors of Berlin were still under blockade. There then followed in November 1948 an unsuccessful appeal on the part of the President of the Assembly in his personal capacity, and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to bring the parties together to settle their differences.

*For the text of the Canadian statement, see Appendix 6, pp. 235-240.