

All these recommendations from the First Committee were examined by the Assembly at its plenary meeting of November 4. They were then rapidly approved with little or no change, by about the same votes as in Committee.

The discussion on the question of the peaceful use of outer space started in the First Committee on November 11. After several days' discussion the Committee adopted a resolution sponsored by the United States and 19 other countries, including Canada, by a vote of 54 to 9 (the Soviet bloc), with 18 abstentions. The resolution recommended the establishment of a United Nations Committee to study how outer space may be best utilized for peaceful purposes. The Soviet objections to the proposal were mainly concerned with the composition of the Committee and, following the adoption of the resolution, their representative stated that the Soviet Union would not participate in a Committee so constituted. Final disposal of the question awaits discussion in plenary session.

### **Middle East**

In contrast with previous sessions, relatively little attention has been devoted thus far to Middle Eastern questions. Thanks largely to relative calmness in this area during recent weeks, the possibility envisaged late in the summer that Middle Eastern questions might come up before the Assembly in urgent form has not materialized to date.

By a resolution adopted at the Special Emergency Session of the General Assembly in August, the Secretary-General of the United Nations was called upon to make "practical arrangements" in the Middle East which would, amongst other things, facilitate the early withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon and Jordan. Upon return from the journey he made to the Middle East to implement his task under that resolution, Mr. Hammarskjold presented on September 30 a report to the General Assembly on developments under the resolution. The report mentioned the United States and United Kingdom intention to withdraw their troops from Lebanon and Jordan within a short time, if conditions permitted. The report also announced the appointment of a United Nations Representative in Jordan to assist in the implementation of the Arab States' resolution, specifically in upholding the principles of the Charter in relation to Jordan, and the plan to appoint a high-level representative at United Nations headquarters to keep in touch with other governments of the area. Mr. Gromyko called for the immediate withdrawal of United States and British troops in an obvious attempt to provoke for propaganda purposes a separate debate on this question. However a number of delegations, including several from the Arab States, re-acted unfavourably and, as a result, the issue was disposed of, without the inscription of a separate item.

Thanks to the improved situation in the Middle East, the United States and the United Kingdom were able to complete the withdrawal of their troops on October 25 in Lebanon, and November 4 in Jordan. Moreover, the Secretary-General decided to liquidate and evacuate by December 10 the United Nations Observation Group in Lebanon (UNOGIL) created by the Security Council in June. This decision was in accordance with a recommendation by UNOGIL based on the absence for some time of any reports of infiltration or arms-smuggling into Lebanon and on the improvement in the security situation in Lebanon and in relations between Lebanon and the United Arab Republic.

The question of the financing and further continuation of the United Nations Emergency Force (established in November 1956, chiefly to help