

proposals for a disarmament convention as a basis for further negotiations was welcomed, despite the significant qualifications attached to it and the continued refusal of the Soviet Union to accept the Western concept of effective international control. After detailed negotiations, the five countries which had worked on the sub-committee—Canada, France, the United States, the United Kingdom, and the U.S.S.R.—agreed to co-sponsor a procedural resolution which Canada had submitted to set the stage for renewed discussions in the sub-committee; and this resolution was unanimously adopted by the Assembly.

This display of Assembly unanimity was repeated in respect of a resolution, co-sponsored by Canada and a number of other Western countries, which provided for continued negotiations leading toward the establishment of an agency to further co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy, and for the convening in 1955 of an international conference of scientists interested in nuclear and related fields.

Besides a number of recurring items, including such questions as race conflict in South Africa and the political difficulties in Tunisia and Morocco on which little or no progress was made, new and difficult issues concerning Cyprus and West New Guinea were included on the agenda for the ninth session. In neither case, however, did the Assembly decide that any action should be taken, a conclusion which was in accordance with the preferences of the Canadian delegation. The usual propaganda items sponsored by Iron Curtain countries were also considered. Among these was an appeal for a ban on propaganda favouring a new war, which was approved only after it had been amended in accordance with the wishes of non-Communist delegations. Allegations advanced by the Soviet Union that acts of aggression had been committed against the People's Republic of China were not accepted by the Assembly, and Soviet charges of piracy in the China seas were referred to the International Law Commission for further study. In the absence of any change of view on the part of the major powers, the general question of admission of new members, and the particular request for the admission of Laos and Cambodia raised during the session, were referred to the Security Council for further consideration.

In the expectation that a decision on convening a conference to review the United Nations Charter may be taken at the next session of the Assembly, a preparatory departmental study of the complicated questions involved has been set in train.

Among the many legal problems reviewed by the Assembly was the question of defining aggression. Although not opposed in principle to the idea of a definition of aggression, Canada continued to doubt that a suitable definition could be agreed upon or that it could have any practical value at the present time. The question was referred for further study to a Special Committee which will report to the General Assembly at its eleventh session in 1956. Because this is closely linked with the problems of revising the Draft Code of Offences against the Peace and Security of Mankind, and the proposal to establish an International Criminal Court, further consideration of these matters was postponed until after the submission of the Special Committee report.

With respect to the study of the Continental Shelf, the International Law Commission was asked by the Assembly to complete its work on the régimes of the high seas and territorial waters and all related subjects