

that action should be taken by the Assembly on a number of urgent problems which threatened the peace of the world. As a specific proposal he added an offer on the part of the United States to limit by voluntary action the use which it would make of its privileged voting position in the Security Council, in the hope that other permanent members of that body would accept a similar self-denying ordinance. The United States delegate said also that his Government desired the Assembly to take action in relation to Greece, Korea and Palestine, and that it would propose that the Assembly seek means to increase the effectiveness of its own authority through the establishment of a new subsidiary body.

This desire to strengthen the United Nations through an increased use of the powers of the Assembly was shared by many delegations. It found expression in a series of important political debates and was embodied, in particular, in three resolutions, those affecting Greece, Korea and the establishment of an Interim Committee. The action taken was not in every case adequate or wise, and the Assembly at times seemed to grope in an uncertain and experimental manner toward the objective of increasing the effectiveness of its authority.

The decision taken in regard to Greece had the most demonstrable results. The reports of the Balkan Commission of the Security Council and the circumstances concerning Greece, brought out in debate during the Assembly, gave clear indication of the danger in which the Greek Government stands as a consequence of external intervention. The Security Council was incapable of coming to the assistance of the Greek Government because of the exercise of the veto by the Soviet member of the Council. The action taken by the Assembly was unquestionably of assistance to Greece in helping to prevent interference in its affairs from across its borders.

In the case of Korea, the Assembly was asked to intervene in an area where the situation was governed by a wartime agreement among the great powers. The refusal of the U.S.S.R. to permit action by the United Nations within territory occupied by its armed forces had the effect of carrying the Soviet veto into the Assembly, although it did not become certain that this would be the result until