

government of people depended on the ability of the General Assembly to reach practicable decisions. The subject of Italian Colonies came to the General Assembly by reversion from the four Great Powers which signed the Italian Peace Treaty. It was the first occasion on which the General Assembly had the legal authority to determine rather than merely to recommend a political settlement. The subject consumed a great deal of time in the Assembly, and a special session in the spring of 1949 failed to produce a solution. Though there was some disappointment over this initial failure, it was generally agreed in the end that the additional consideration which the Assembly was able to give to Italian Colonies by holding the subject over until its Fourth Session had produced a better solution than any of those proposed when the Assembly met in the spring. The resolutions finally adopted represented a compromise amongst many points of view, and at the same time gave promise of producing a workable and effective settlement. The decision in regard to Jerusalem was similarly precise and well-developed, though many members, including Canada, doubted whether an international city could be established on the basis of the plan supported by the majority. There was, however, no lack of opportunity for thorough discussion. The situation had been extensively canvassed in a special commission appointed by the Assembly, in committee, in sub-committee, and in plenary session. It now remains for the Trusteeship Council to determine in what form the Assembly's recommendation can be put into effect.

In regard to two other questions also—the Balkans and Korea—the General Assembly has shown its ability to take practical steps in difficult political circumstances. The Assembly had no initial responsibility in regard to either of these questions, both of which were brought to it because of difficulties which had arisen between the Great Powers in the areas concerned. In both cases, however, the threat to peace and freedom was recognized and accepted as the basis for discussion in the Assembly of the two subjects. The commissions which were set up to keep watch in both areas were generally regarded as having had sufficient influence in preventing any attempt to resolve these two problems by sudden acts of violence, that the Assembly readily decided to re-establish them.

The General Assembly was also finding ways of carrying out practical policies on economic and social as well as political questions. The most striking example of a practical decision in the economic field is to be found in the resolution, prepared in the Economic Committee, for technical assistance to underdeveloped territories. This resolution grew out of the realization that the economic stability upon which peace must eventually rest was jeopardized by the existence of underdeveloped areas incapable of providing either a secure or decent standard of living for their inhabitants. The course of action for which this resolution provides a modest first step looks forward to the general acceptance of international responsibility for economic stability in the free world.

Similarly, in the Social Committee practical measures in regard to the problem of refugees were recommended, and further progress was made in the process of working out international legislation in the field of social welfare. In the Trusteeship Committee, a vigorous effort is being made to claim for the General Assembly authority in regard to colonial territories which goes far beyond the intentions expressed in the Charter. Through a special committee set up to examine information concerning non-self-governing territories, a majority of members of the Trusteeship Committee