

On the third point at issue, the question of refugees, the Canadian delegation supported on humanitarian grounds the initiative of the United Kingdom delegation in pressing for inclusion of the item as a matter of urgent importance. This was supported by the Preparatory Commission. (For the discussion of the problem of refugees in the General Assembly, see page 52 below.)

### *Languages*

Another matter which produced a lengthy debate was the problem of languages to be used by the General Assembly. In the end the General Assembly supported the recommendation of the Executive Committee that the language rules should be based on the practice of the San Francisco Conference. As a result, English and French are the working languages of the Organization, while Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish are the official languages. Speeches may be made in any language and are translated into English and French.

## 2. THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The main issue debated in the Executive Committee was the extent of the preparatory work which should be done for the Security Council. It was argued by some delegations, particularly those of the Soviet Union and the United States, that since the Security Council, unlike the General Assembly, was so organized as to be able to function continuously, the preparatory work for the Council should be confined to drawing up a provisional agenda limited to the initial organizational stage of its first meeting, and to the drafting of a bare minimum of rules of procedure.

The Canadian representative on the Executive Committee urged that the documentation for the initial meetings of the Security Council should be expanded. Otherwise, in view of the key position of the Security Council, as the organ to which is given, under Article 24 of the Charter, "the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security," the Council might be called upon to deal with urgent political questions before it was thoroughly documented or had worked out its rules of procedure. The absence of adequate rules for the conduct of business alone might involve the Council in lengthy debates on procedure which would reduce its authority and effectiveness. Moreover, the Security Council had to be set up and in operation before some of the other organs of the United Nations could be established. For example, the Security Council must nominate the Secretary-General, while the election of the judges of the International Court of Justice had to be carried on simultaneously by the Security Council and the General Assembly. The Canadian representative urged, therefore, that a set of provisional rules of procedure be worked out as completely as possible, and presented as a recommendation to the Security Council. The Australian representative took the same line.