

CANADA AND THE UNITED NATIONS

Conclusion of the Fifth Session of the General Assembly

The Fifth Session was adjourned in Paris on November 5, 1951. One agenda item still remained to be disposed of, the report of the Special Committee of the Assembly on the representation of China. The Committee had submitted a report that it was unable to make any recommendation in the present circumstances. Mr. Entezam, the President of the Fifth Session, proposed that the report be "noted"; however, the representatives of the U.S.S.R. and Czechoslovakia objected and asked that the item be placed on the agenda of the Sixth Session. This proposal was defeated and the report of the Special Committee was then adopted. The President then declared the Fifth Session concluded.

Sixth Session of the General Assembly*

On the following day, November 6, the Sixth Session of the General Assembly was opened at the Palais de Chaillot, Paris. Representatives of sixty countries heard an address by the retiring president, who reviewed the events of the past year and expressed the opinion that the period of the Fifth Session had seen a lessening in world tensions. The President of the French Republic, M. Vincent Auriol, then addressed the Assembly. He welcomed the Delegation to Paris and appealed to the heads of the great powers to seek to lessen world conflicts through informal meetings in Paris during the period of the Assembly.

The representative of the U.S.S.R. again proposed that the question of Chinese representation be placed on the agenda. This proposal, however, was defeated by a decisive majority in a later plenary session.

Election of Officers

At the first meeting of the Assembly, Dr. Luis Padilla Nervo of Mexico was elected President. Representatives of the following countries were elected to the seven Vice-Presidencies: France, the United States, the United Kingdom, the U.S.S.R., China, Yugoslavia and Iraq.

The following were elected Chairmen of the seven main committees: First (Political and Security) Committee, Mr. Finn Moe of Norway; Second (Economic and Financial) Committee, Prince Wan Waithavakon of Thailand; Third (Social) Committee, Sra. Ana Figueroa of Chile; Fourth (Trusteeship) Committee, Dr. Max Henriquez-Urena of the Dominican Republic; Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary) Committee, Mr. Thomas A. Stone of Canada; Sixth (Legal) Committee, Dr. Manfred Lachs of Poland; Ad Hoc Political Committee, M. Selim Sarper of Turkey. The above officers together with the President of the Assembly and the seven Vice-Presidents constitute the General Committee.

Agenda

The General Committee recommended an agenda of sixty-eight items. Several of these gave rise to protests by the Cominform representatives, including items on Nationalist Chinese and Yugoslavian charges against the U.S.S.R. and on the proposed German elections commission. The General Assembly nevertheless voted in favour of including all these items on the agenda, and approved the General Committee's report. The General Assembly decided that a Christmas recess should be held which would last from December 23 to January 1, inclusive.

* For the Agenda, see *External Affairs*, October 1951, page 344; for the composition of the Canadian Delegation, see *External Affairs*, November 1951, page 389.