

Sponsors of the original four-power draft resolution found that in the interests of harmony Arab and Israeli representatives alike were now willing to modify the positions they had adopted in committee. Israel acquiesced in the proposal that the Conciliation Commission should continue to be made available to the parties, while the Arab states and their supporters agreed to Canadian amendments eliminating references to the implementation of past Assembly resolutions. These were now merely recalled in the preamble. The proposal that the Conciliation Commission should be increased to seven members was withdrawn. No mention was made of the future location of the headquarters of the Commission.

The resolution thus amended was adopted by the General Assembly in plenary session on January 26, 1952, by the votes of 47 members in favour to 5 opposed (the Soviet bloc), with only Iraq abstaining through doubt of Israel's sincerity in accepting the resolution. The other Arab states, however, supported the amended resolution, as did Israel, in a desire to be co-operative.

In April and May 1952 the Conciliation Commission met in New York and turned its attention to the possible release of blocked accounts of refugees and the consideration of the next step toward securing compensation for abandoned refugee properties.

### Observance of Armistice Agreements

Meanwhile the Security Council had been called upon twice in 1951 to consider situations growing out of alleged violations of the armistice agreements. On the first occasion it was a question of the agreement between Israel and Syria. The second time the agreement between Egypt and Israel was involved.

On April 17 the Security Council had before it five complaints from Syria and three from Israel relating to a dispute over drainage operations which Israel maintained it had a right to conduct with a view to facilitating an early return to normal living conditions in the demilitarized portion of the Lake Huleh area and Jordan Valley. Syria complained of the forced evacuation of Arab villagers from the drainage area without the consent of United Nations truce observers appointed under the armistice agreement to supervise the demilitarized zone. When clashes occurred Israel refused to comply with rulings of the Chairman of the Mixed Armistice Commission, arguing that he had exceeded his authority, and there were complaints of violence and loss of life on both sides. On May 8 the Security Council found it necessary to adopt an emergency resolution calling for cessation of fighting, with which the parties complied on May 11.

On May 18 the Security Council adopted by 10 votes to none (the U.S.S.R. abstaining) a resolution which endorsed previous requests of United Nations representatives on the spot that, pending an agreement, Israel should stop all drainage operations in the demilitarized zone. The general authority of United Nations representatives in the demilitarized area was upheld and Israel was asked to comply with their requests. Evacuated Arab civilians were to be returned to their villages forthwith. Aerial action taken by Israel was condemned as a violation of the Security Council's truce