

furnish from their economic resources the means to save the Korean people from the worst hardships of war and help them to repair the inevitable damage to their country and its economy. In spite of a generous response from some members, particularly the United States, which has so far in addition to its own bilateral arrangements furnished 65 per cent of the funds contributed to Korean relief and rehabilitation, the United Nations Korean Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Agency is now in the utmost financial difficulty. Its mandate was extended by the eighth session of the General Assembly to June 30, 1955, and it is to be hoped that the response of member governments to renewed appeals for support will be such as to re-affirm the determination of the United Nations to meet this pressing humanitarian call upon its resources.

Progress made during the past year in the development of ever more terrible weapons of mass destruction, what President Eisenhower has called "the awful arithmetic of the atomic bomb", has underlined the need for unflagging effort in the search for an acceptable means of controlling the use and abuse of both conventional and nuclear weapons. In a speech before the eighth session of the General Assembly, President Eisenhower made a proposal to discuss with the powers principally concerned means by which international co-operation in the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes might be furthered. His frank and statesmanlike offer did not meet with the response it deserved from the U.S.S.R. The United States is therefore now exploring the feasibility of pursuing the plan without the co-operation of the Soviet Union.

The sub-committee of the Disarmament Commission, which met last spring to re-open discussion of disarmament in general, has not been able to report agreement with the Soviet Union. The Representative of the U.S.S.R. brought nothing new or constructive to the sub-committee's work, merely reiterating the shopworn proposals of the last few years. The discussions nevertheless served a useful purpose by leading to a comprehensive review and reformulation of the Western position on disarmament which may yet prove to have narrowed the gap between the two sides and have certainly given fresh force and point to the Western powers' approach to the problem.

The Palestine question was not included in the agenda of the eighth session of the General Assembly, and there has thus been no fundamental review by the United Nations of progress towards a general settlement of the Palestine problem. During the year, conditions did not show the hoped-for improvement. The reintegration or resettlement of the Arab refugees who are at present the care of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees continues to lag owing to the complex political problems and intense feeling involved. It is, however, encouraging that Israel and Jordan have reached agreement in principle on the equitable international use of the waters of the River Jordan. An increase in the number of serious incidents occurring on the borders of Israel and Jordan, several of which were brought before the Security Council, led to an enlargement in the numbers of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization and to a review and recommendations by the retiring Chief of Staff, Major-General Vagn Bennike,