

Canadian proposal of December 1949, the United Nations Commission in Indonesia was under instructions to continue its work in accordance with the resolution of January 28, 1949, an omnibus resolution regarding the Indonesian problem which included provisions setting up the Commission and determining the scope of its activities.

Relations between Indonesia and the Netherlands within the framework of the Netherlands-Indonesian Union continued to improve during the year, despite the difficulties involved in the attempt to find a solution to the problem of Indonesian claims to Dutch New Guinea (Irian). Additional problems were raised by the decision of the Indonesian Cabinet to adopt a unitary form of government in place of the federal system provided for by the Round Table Agreements. The Republic of Indonesia, which replaced the Republic of the United States of Indonesia, was proclaimed on August 16, 1950. This constitutional change was not accomplished without an intensification of internal disorder, culminating in an attempt by the inhabitants of the island of Amboina to set up an independent Republic of the South Moluccas.

Offers by the United Nations Commission to endeavour to bring about a cessation of hostilities and to mediate in the conflict were refused by the Indonesian Government on the ground that the Amboinese revolt was a matter of purely domestic concern. During the military operations against the South Moluccan dissentient forces, however, the Commission has been able to assist in localizing the fighting, preventing its spread to other parts of the islands where former Netherlands East Indian troops of Amboinese origin were awaiting dispersal. This contribution was recognized in November, when both Indonesian and Netherlands authorities expressed the desire to achieve, with the assistance of the Commission, the settlement of continuing problems relating to the demobilization and repatriation of the troops of the disbanded Royal Netherlands East Indies Army.

Indonesia's unanimous election to the United Nations on September 28, warmly supported by Canada, was quickly followed by increased interest in international affairs on her part. Indonesia was one of the Asian co-sponsors of the thirteen-power resolution of December 14 which set up a three-man committee to determine the basis on which a cease-fire in Korea might be arranged.

### **Repatriation of Prisoners of War Detained in Soviet Territory**

When the Second World War ended, large numbers of German and Japanese prisoners of war were in the hands of the Allied Powers both in Europe and the Far East. Subject to certain arrangements agreed upon at Potsdam whereby, as a part of German reparations, a labour force of German prisoners of war was to be employed in countries devastated by the German Army, it was agreed that the repatriation of the bulk of the prisoners, both German and Japanese, should be completed as rapidly as possible. Accordingly, an agreement dated December 19, 1946, between the U.S.S.R. and the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers in Japan (SCAP), set