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ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

ELEVENTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(For use of information media -- not an official record)

42 p.

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE ELEVENTH
REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly's rules of procedure stipulate that the provisional agenda for a regular session shall be drawn up by the Secretary-General and communicated to the members of the United Nations at least 60 days before the opening of the session.

For the eleventh regular session of the General Assembly, scheduled to convene at UN Headquarters at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, 12 November, a provisional agenda containing 66 items was issued on 13 September (Doc. A/3191).

Provisional agenda

According to the rules of procedure, the provisional agenda of a regular session shall include: (a) a report by the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization; (b) reports from the principal organs of the United Nations as well as subsidiary organs of the Assembly and certain specialized agencies; (c) all items which the Assembly, at previous sessions, has ordered to be included; (d) all items proposed by the other principal organs of the United Nations; (e) all items proposed by any member of the United Nations; (f) all items pertaining to the budget for the next financial year and the report on the accounts for the last financial year; (g) all items which the Secretary-General deems it necessary to put before the Assembly; and (h) all items proposed, under the Charter, by states not members of the United Nations.

Supplementary items

A list of five supplementary items was issued on 19 October (Doc. A/3205). A rule on supplementary items provides that any member or principal organ of the United Nations or the Secretary-General may, at least 30 days before the date fixed for opening of the regular session, request the inclusion of supplementary items on the agenda. These items are placed on a supplementary list, which is communicated to UN members at least 20 days before the date fixed for the opening of the session.

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Additional items

Another rule allows the inclusion of additional items "of an important and urgent character," proposed less than 30 days before the opening of a regular session or during the session, providing the Assembly so decides by a majority of the members present and voting. Such items may not be considered by the Assembly until a committee has reported upon the question concerned and until a period of seven days has elapsed after the inclusion of the item (unless the Assembly decides otherwise by a two-thirds majority).

Items for the Assembly's eleventh session are listed below in the order in which they appear in the provisional agenda and the supplementary list. This is not necessarily the order in which they will appear on the agenda as adopted by the Assembly. The notes on each item are given as background information.

ITEMS ON THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the session by the Chairman of the delegation of Chile

The Chairman of the delegation from which the President of the previous session was elected presides until the Assembly elects a President for the new session. Jose Maza, of Chile, was President of the Tenth Regular Session.

2. Minute of silent prayer or meditation

Rule 64 of the Assembly's rules of procedure provides that, "immediately after the opening of the first plenary meeting and immediately preceding the closing of the final plenary meeting of each session of the General Assembly, the President shall invite the representatives to observe one minute of silence dedicated to prayer or meditation."

3. Appointment of a Credentials Committee

This Committee consists of nine members appointed on the proposal of the temporary President. It examines the credentials of representatives and reports to the Assembly.

4. Election of the President

The President is elected by secret ballot and by simple majority. There are no nominations.

Past Presidents of the Assembly are: Paul-Henri Spaak, of Belgium (First Regular Session); Oswaldo Aranha, of Brazil (First Special Session and Second Regular Session); Jose Arce, of Argentina (Second Special Session); Herbert V. Evatt, of Australia (Third Regular Session); Carlos P. Romulo, of the Philippines

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(Fourth Regular Session); Nasrollah Entezam, of Iran (Fifth Regular Session); Luis Padilla Nervo, of Mexico (Sixth Regular Session); Lester B. Pearson, of Canada (Seventh Regular Session); Mme. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, of India (Eighth Regular Session); Eelco N. van Kleffens, of the Netherlands (Ninth Regular Session); and Jose Maza, of Chile (Tenth Regular Session).

5. Constitution of the main committees and election of officers

There are six main committees, generally known by their numbers: the First (Political and Security); the Second (Economic and Financial); the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural); the Fourth (Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories); the Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary), and the Sixth (Legal). All 76 United Nations member nations are represented on each of the main committees, to which are referred items falling within their fields of competence.

The Assembly, acting directly in plenary meetings, deals with items which, for any reason, are not referred to a committee. The main committees discuss proposals in detail and report to the Assembly with their recommendations. On these recommendations, the plenary Assembly takes final action. A two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting is required in plenary meetings for resolutions on important questions, but voting in the committees is by simple majority, except to reopen discussion on a question, for which a two-thirds majority is needed.

Since many agenda items are primarily of a political character, the Assembly has decided, at every session since the Second, to establish an ad hoc Political Committee to share the work of the First Committee. At the Seventh Session it was agreed that the Chairman of the ad hoc Political Committee should participate with a vote in the proceedings of the General (or Steering) Committee.

Each main committee is required to elect a chairman, a vice-chairman, and a rapporteur. Meeting in turn as each of its main committees, the Assembly itself elects the chairman of those committees by secret ballot. Candidates may be nominated from the floor, but voting is not confined to those so nominated. The other officers are similarly elected, generally at the next meeting of each committee. Rule 103 of the Rules of Procedure provides that committee officers "shall be elected on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, experience, and personal competence."

Chairmen of the main committees and the ad hoc Political Committee do not vote, but other members of their respective delegations may vote.

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6. Election of vice-presidents

The Assembly elects seven vice-presidents by simple majority and secret ballot. The President of the Assembly, the Vice-Presidents, and the chairmen of the main committees constitute the General Committee. In electing the vice-presidents, the Assembly pays regard to ensuring the representative character of the General Committee. Member countries are elected, not individuals. The heads of the delegations of the countries elected serve as vice-presidents.

7. Notification by the Secretary-General under Article 12, paragraph 2, of the Charter

This article of the Charter requires the Secretary-General, with the consent of the Security Council, to notify the Assembly at each session of any matters relative to the maintenance of international peace and security which are being dealt with by the Security Council.

8. Adoption of the agenda

All the items submitted for inclusion in the agenda are considered by the General Committee, which reports to the Assembly with its recommendations. The Assembly adopts the agenda by a majority of members present and voting.

9. Opening of the general debate

At the beginning of each session of the Assembly, there is a general debate in which the heads of delegations usually express the views of their countries on problems of common concern to the membership of the United Nations.

10. Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization

The Charter requires the Secretary-General to report annually to the Assembly on the work of the Organization as a whole. The report for the period from 16 June 1955 to 15 June 1956 (Doc. A/3137) deals with every aspect of United Nations activity under six broad headings -- political and security questions, developments in the economic and social field, questions concerning trusteeship and non-self-governing territories, legal questions, development of public understanding, and administrative and budgetary questions.

11. Report of the Security Council

The report (Doc. A/3157) covers the period from 16 July 1955 to 15 July 1956 and was adopted by the Security Council at a closed meeting on 6 September. The Charter requires the Council to submit such annual reports, and as in other years, the report is a summary of resolutions approved, adopted and an account of the

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broad lines of debate. The practice so far is for the Assembly simply to "take note" of the report.

12. Report of the Economic and Social Council

The report (Doc.A/3154) covers the period from 6 August 1955 to 9 August 1956, and comprises 11 chapters, each of which is designed to be referred in toto, should the General Committee of the General Assembly so recommend, to one of the main committees.

Chapter I deals with constitutional and organizational questions; Chapter II deals with the survey of the world economic situation and international trade and payments questions; Chapter III is devoted to the economic development of under-developed countries; Chapter IV deals with regional economic activities; Chapter V concerns other economic questions, including the relief and rehabilitation of Korea; Chapter VI deals with social questions; Chapter VII deals with human rights questions; Chapter VIII is concerned with some special economic and social questions; Chapter IX is primarily devoted to a general review of the development and coordination of the economic, social and human rights programs of the United Nations as a whole; Chapter X deals with non-governmental organizations; Chapter XI sets out the financial implications of the actions taken by the Council.

In his introduction to the report, the President of the Council for 1956, Hans Engen (Norway) points out that during the 12 months under review the Council focussed attention on the economic progress as well as the major economic problems of the postwar decade. He states that one of the main questions discussed was the harmful effect of violent fluctuations in the prices of primary commodities and the need for national and international action to bring about some stability in the prices of these commodities. He declares that greater attention than before was given to problems concerning natural resources and industrialization as well as to problems of energy, and that the question of financing economic development was approached on a wide front. The President also stresses the intensification of the work of the Technical Assistance Committee. In regard to social questions, he underlines the progress made by the United Nations in implementing the program of practical action in this field, the establishment of advisory services in the field of human rights, and the especially thorough review made this year by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the situation on the illicit traffic in narcotics.

13. Report of the Trusteeship Council

The Council's annual report (Doc. A/3170) on its activities under the international trusteeship system covers the period from 23 July 1955 to 14 August 1956.

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During this period the Council held its 5th special session, from 24 October to 14 December 1955; its 17th regular session, from 7 February to 6 April 1956, and its 18th regular session, from 7 June to 14 August 1956.

The report describes the Council's annual review of conditions in 10 trust territories: Tanganyika, Cameroons and Togoland under United Kingdom administration; Cameroons and Togoland under French administration; Ruanda-Urundi under Belgian administration; Somaliland under Italian administration; Western Samoa under New Zealand administration; Nauru and New Guinea under Australian administration. On the eleventh territory, the Pacific Islands under United States administration, the Council reports to the Security Council as it is a strategic trust territory.

Other chapters of the report deal with such questions as the examination of petitions; the organization of visiting missions to the trust territories in West Africa and in the Pacific; administrative unions affecting trust territories; offers of scholarships for the educational advancement of the people of the trust territories, and the question of attainment by the trust territories of the objective of self-government or independence.

14. Election of three non-permanent members of the Security Council

The Security Council consists of five permanent members (China, France, the USSR, the United Kingdom and the United States) and six non-permanent members elected by the Assembly for two-year terms.

The terms of Belgium, Iran and Peru expire at the end of 1956. Election is by two-thirds majority on a secret ballot. The Charter calls for attention to be paid to "the contribution of members of the United Nations to the maintenance of international peace and security and to the other purposes of the Organization, and also to equitable geographical distribution." Retiring members are not eligible for immediate reelection.

The three other non-permanent members now on the Council which will serve until the end of 1957 are Australia, Cuba and Yugoslavia.

So far, the following non-permanent members have served on the Council:

Argentina (1948-49)	Iran (1955-56)
Australia (1946-47, 1956-57)	Lebanon (1953-54)
Belgium (1947-48, 1955-56)	Mexico (1946)
Brazil (1946-47, 1951-52, 1954-55)	Netherlands (1946, 1951-52)
Canada (1948-49)	New Zealand (1954-55)
Chile (1952-53)	Norway (1949-50)
Colombia (1947-48, 1953-54)	Pakistan (1952-53)

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Cuba (1949-50, 1956-57)

Peru (1955-56)

Denmark (1953-54)

Foland (1946-57)

Ecuador (1950-51)

Syria (1947-48)

Egypt (1946, 1949-50)

Turkey (1951-52, 1954-55)

Greece (1952-53)

Ukrainian SSR (1948-49)

India (1950-51)

Yugoslavia (1950-51, 1956-57)

15. Election of six members of the Economic and Social Council

Six of the 18 members of the Economic and Social Council retire each year after completing three-year terms of office. Election is by secret ballot, and a two-thirds majority is required. Retiring members are eligible for immediate reelection.

The present members of the Council are Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Greece, Indonesia, the Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, the USSR, the United Kingdom, the United States and Yugoslavia.

The six whose terms of office expire at the end of this year are Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, Norway, Pakistan, the USSR and the United Kingdom.

16. Election of two members of the Trusteeship Council

The Trusteeship Council consists of United Nations members administering trust territories, permanent members of the Security Council which do not administer trust territories, and as many other non-administering countries, elected by the Assembly for three-year terms, as are required to ensure on the Council an equal number of countries which administer trust territories and of those which do not.

The present members of the Council are Australia, Belgium, France, Italy, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States (administering members); China and the USSR (non-administering permanent members of the Security Council), and Burma, Guatemala, Haiti, India and Syria. The two members whose terms expire at the end of 1956 are Haiti and India.

Elected members of the Council are eligible for immediate reelection when their terms expire. Election is by secret ballot and by a two-thirds majority.

17. Election of a member of the International Court of Justice to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Judge Hsu Mo

The Security Council, at a meeting on 6 September, adopted a resolution which noted with regret the death of Judge Hsu Mo, of the International Court of Justice, and decided that the election to fill the vacancy shall take place during the eleventh session of the Assembly (Doc. A/3185).

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According to the Charter, elections to the International Court of Justice take place simultaneously in the Security Council and the General Assembly. A list of candidates nominated by national groups to fill the vacancy can be found in Doc. A/3198-S/3662.

18. Election of the members of the International Law Commission

The International Law Commission, whose members serve in their individual capacity, and not as representatives of governments, was established by the Assembly in 1947. In 1948 the 15 members were elected by the Assembly to three-year terms, extended in 1950 for two more years. In 1953, the members were elected to three-year terms, but last year, the Assembly amended the Statute of the Commission to provide for five-year terms for members, with effect from the election to be held at this session.

The Commission's terms of reference are to promote the progressive development of international law and its codification. Present members are: F. V. Garcia Amador (Cuba), Chairman; Jaroslav Zourek (Czechoslovakia), First Vice-Chairman; Douglas L. Edmonds (United States), Second Vice-Chairman; J. P. A. Francois (Netherlands), Rapporteur; Gilberto Amado (Brazil); Sir Gerald Fitzmaurice (United Kingdom); Shuhsi Hsu (China); Faris Bey el-Khoury (Syria); S. B. Krylov (USSR); Luis Padilla Nervo (Mexico); Radhabinod Pal (India); Carlos Salamanca (Bolivia); A.E.F. Sandstrom (Sweden); Georges Scelle (France), and Jean Spiropoulos (Greece).

A list of candidates nominated by governments for membership on the Commission can be found in Docs. A/3155 and Add.1.

19. Appointment of the members of the Peace Observation Commission

In 1950, under the "Uniting for Peace" resolution, the Assembly established a Peace Observation Commission "which could observe and report on the situation in any area where there exists international tension the continuance of which is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security."

The terms of the 14 members of the Commission -- China, Czechoslovakia, France, Honduras, India, Iraq, Israel, New Zealand, Pakistan, Sweden, the USSR, the United Kingdom, the United States and Uruguay -- expire at the end of 1956 (Doc. A/3184).

20. Election of a United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Dr. G. J. Van Heuven Goedhart: item proposed by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General notes (Doc. A/3171/Rev.1) that the Statute of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, adopted by the Assembly in

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1950, at its Fifth Session, provides for the High Commissioner to be elected by the Assembly on the nomination of the Secretary-General. "Such nomination will be made in due course," the Secretary-General states in his note.

Pending action by the Assembly, the Deputy High Commissioner, James M. Read, has been exercising the functions of the office.

21. The Korean question:

(a) Report of the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea

The UN Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea was established by the Assembly on 17 October 1950. It consists of Australia, Chile, the Netherlands, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand and Turkey. One of its functions is to represent the United Nations in helping to establish a unified, independent and democratic government of all Korea.

The Commission's report to the Assembly (Doc. A/3172) deals mainly with the development of representative government in the Republic of Korea and in particular with elections of national scope, observation of which the Commission undertook on behalf of the United Nations; and with the economic progress made, especially through international aid. The Commission states that it has been conscious "of the increasing ability of the Republic to stand on its own feet in regard to its system of government and administration and it feels that the assistance possible by the Commission seven years or so after the establishment of the Republic is clearly limited."

With regard to the elections observed during the period covered by the report (7 September 1955 to 24 August 1956), the Commission states that in general they had been fairly and freely held.

Reviewing international aid to the Republic of Korea, particularly United States assistance and the "impressive" contribution of the UN Korean Reconstruction Agency, the Commission declares that "in view of the fundamental role that the United Nations has played in the establishment and then in the defense of the Republic of Korea, the responsibilities for continued assistance from the United Nations remain great, the needs still extensive and the continuing challenge one not to be ignored."

In its reference to the Korean question and the Armistice, the Commission observes that there has been no change in the basic position over the past 12 months, and that it has no responsibility in the implementation of the Armistice Agreement.

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Last year, in noting the Commission's report, the Assembly recalled that at its ninth session in 1954 it had expressed the hope it would soon be possible to make progress towards the achievement by peaceful means of a unified, independent and democratic Korea under a representative form of government and of full restoration of international peace and security in the area. It also noted that Paragraph 62 of the Armistice Agreement of 27 July 1953 provided that the Agreement "shall remain in effect until expressly superseded either by mutually acceptable amendments and additions or by provision in an appropriate agreement for a peaceful settlement at a political level between both sides."

(b) Problem of ex-prisoners of the Korean war: report of the government of India

At its session last year, the Assembly noted that, pending their final disposition, a number of ex-prisoners of the Korean war remained temporarily in India. It expressed its appreciation to Argentina and Brazil for offering to resettle as many of the ex-prisoners as opt to settle in the two countries, and requested member states to assist in bringing about a full solution of the problem.

The Assembly also asked the Indian government to report on the problem to the eleventh session. The report has not yet been circulated.

22. Regulation, limitation and balanced reduction of all armed forces and all armaments. Conclusion of an international convention (treaty) on the reduction of armaments and the prohibition of atomic, hydrogen and other weapons of mass destruction: report of the Disarmament Commission (resolution 914(X) of 16 December 1955

On 16 December 1955, the Assembly approved a resolution which recalled its resolution of 4 November 1954, adopted unanimously, calling for a further effort to "reach agreement on comprehensive and coordinated proposals to be embodied in a draft international disarmament convention..." The resolution expressed the hope that "efforts to relax international tensions, to promote mutual confidence and to develop cooperation among states, such as the Geneva Conference of the Heads of Government, the Bandung Conference ... will prove effective in promoting world peace."

The resolution further expressed the need to seek agreement on a comprehensive disarmament program which would promote international peace and security "with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources." It welcomed the progress made towards agreement on objectives made during the meetings in 1955 of the Subcommittee of the Disarmament Commission but noted at the same time that agreement had not yet been reached on the rights, powers and functions of a control system "which is the keystone of any disarmament agreement...."

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The resolution urged that states concerned, and particularly those on the Subcommittee, should:

- (a) continue their endeavors to reach agreement on a comprehensive disarmament plan in accordance with the goals set out in the General Assembly resolution of 4 November 1954;
- (b) should as initial steps give priority to early agreement on an implementation of such confidence-building measures as President Eisenhower's plan for exchanging military blueprints and mutual aerial inspection and Marshal Bulganin's plan for establishing control posts at strategic centers, and "all such measures of adequately safeguarded disarmament as are now feasible."

The resolution also suggested that account should be taken of the proposals by the French Premier for exchanging and publishing information regarding military expenditures and budgets, by the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom for seeking practical experience in the problems of inspection and control and by the government of India on the suspension of experimental explosions of nuclear weapons and an "armaments truce." It further called for a study by the Subcommittee of the proposal of the French Premier for the allocation of funds resulting from disarmament for improving the standards of living throughout the world and, in particular, in the less developed countries.

The resolution suggested that the Disarmament Commission reconvene its Subcommittee and that they should both pursue their efforts to attain these objectives.

The Subcommittee, composed of Canada, France, the USSR, the United Kingdom and the United States, resumed its meetings on 19 March 1956 in London and held 18 meetings, completing its work on 4 May. It submitted an interim progress report (Doc. DC/83) to the Disarmament Commission.

The Disarmament Commission considered this report in a series of meetings from 3 to 16 July. On 16 July, by 10 votes in favor, 1 against (USSR) and 1 abstention (Yugoslavia), the Commission adopted a resolution which considered that a joint draft resolution of Canada, France, the United Kingdom and the United States "sets forth the principles upon which an effective program for the regulation and limitation of all arms and armed forces can be based." While welcoming the narrowing down of differences on certain aspects of the disarmament problem, the resolution noted that "major difficulties remain to be solved." It expressed the conviction that a reconciliation of the opposing views was both possible and necessary. It asked the Subcommittee to study the proposals before the Disarmament Commission and to report back to the Commission.

The draft resolution of the four Western powers, and not voted upon by the Commission, reaffirmed six "basic principles" which, its sponsors said, should guide

the Subcommittee in its detailed consideration of the problem. These six principles are:

- (1) the disarmament program should proceed by stages;
- (2) this program should begin, under effective international control, with significant reductions in armed forces with corresponding reductions in conventional armaments and military expenditures;
- (3) the program should provide that, at an appropriate stage and under proper safeguards, the build-up of stockpiles and nuclear weapons would be stopped and all future production of nuclear material devoted to peaceful uses;
- (4) the program should provide for a strong control organization with inspection rights, including aerial reconnaissance;
- (5) the program must also include preliminary demonstrations of inspection methods on a limited scale;
- (6) provision should be made for the suspension of the program if a major state failed to carry out its obligations or if a threat to peace under Chapter VII of the UN Charter should occur.

No date has as yet been set for the resumption of the Subcommittee's work.

23. Report of the Director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (resolutions 302 (IV) of 8 December 1949 and 916 (X) of 3 December 1955)

Last year, the Assembly adopted a resolution directing the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to pursue its programs for the relief and rehabilitation of the refugees, "bearing in mind the limitations imposed upon it by the extent of contributions."

Expenditures for relief and self-support projects in the fiscal year ended 30 June 1956 totaled about \$32 million.

The operations of UNRWA are financed by voluntary contributions by United Nations members. On the Agency's rolls are more than 922,000 refugees, scattered over more than 100,000 square miles in Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan.

The Director of UNRWA, Henry R. Labouisse, is assisted by an Advisory Commission consisting of Belgium, Egypt, France, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States. The report of the Director to the eleventh session of the Assembly has not yet been circulated.

24. Treatment of people of Indian origin in the Union of South Africa: reports of the Governments of India and of Pakistan (resolution 919 (X) of 14 December 1955)

This question has been before the General Assembly since 1946. In 1954, the Assembly suggested to the governments of India, Pakistan and the Union of South Africa that they seek a solution of the question by direct negotiations. Last year,

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the Assembly noted that these negotiations had not been pursued, and urged the parties concerned to pursue them. The parties were invited to report as appropriate, jointly or separately, to the Assembly at its next session.

Both India (Doc. A/3186) and Pakistan (Doc. A/3188)/^{requested} inclusion of the item in the agenda so that they can submit reports to the Assembly at this session. Both countries stated, in their explanatory memorandums, that they had requested the government of the Union of South Africa to enter into negotiations, but that the South African government had declined to do so. "In the meanwhile, the position of persons of Indian origin in South Africa has further deteriorated," and the governments of India and Pakistan felt sure the Assembly would wish to "take further steps to bring about a peaceful and appropriate solution of this problem."

25. Admission of new members to the United Nations

At the end of its tenth session, the Assembly admitted the following 16 new members to membership in the United Nations, upon recommendation of the Security Council: Albania, Jordan, Ireland, Portugal, Hungary, Italy, Austria, Romania, Bulgaria, Finland, Ceylon, Nepal, Libya, Cambodia, Laos and Spain.

Since then, applications for membership have been received from the Sudan, Morocco and Tunisia (Docs. A/3117, A/3143 and Add.1, and A/3144), and the Security Council has unanimously recommended the admission of all three (Docs. A/3125, A/3152 and A/3153).

The following applicants have failed to obtain the recommendation of the Security Council: the Mongolian People's Republic, the Republic of Korea, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Vietnam, the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, and Japan.

Under Article 4 of the Charter, admission of a state to membership is effected "by a decision of the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council," requiring an affirmative vote of seven members of the Council including the concurring votes of the permanent members.

26. Programs of technical assistance

(a) Report of the Economic and Social Council

The report of the Economic and Social Council (Doc. A/3154) on programs of technical assistance deals with the activities of the Expanded Program and the UN Regular Program of Technical Assistance during 1955, as reviewed by the Technical Assistance Committee of the Council; the evaluation of the activities of the Expanded Program; and administrative, constitutional and organizational questions.

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Operations during 1955 were on the biggest scale since the Expanded Program started work in 1950. The year 1955 saw 2,108 experts, recruited from 69 countries, at work in the field, while 2,431 Fellowships enabled their holders to study abroad, in 94 countries and territories. Throughout 1955, an expenditure of \$25.8 million under the Expanded Program made it possible for 101 countries and territories to receive some form of technical assistance.

The Technical Assistance Board reported that the year 1955 had "witnessed a striking increase in the general level of the activities carried out," although the volume of assistance rendered through the Board by the United Nations and the seven participating specialized agencies is still small in relation even to the priority requirements of the less developed countries.

In its report, the Council recommends approval by the Assembly of certain amendments to the regulations governing the use of the Expanded Program's Working Capital and Reserve Fund. These amendments were approved by the Council at its 22nd session.

The Council also adopted a resolution on currency utilization. The resolution urges governments to make their pledges to the Expanded Program, as far as possible, in the form of, or convertible into, readily usable currencies. It sets out rules to be observed by the Technical Assistance Board and the participating organizations, to ensure that arrangements for the utilization of contributions will not conflict with the multilateral character of the program.

(b) Confirmation of Allocation of Funds under the Expanded Program of Technical Assistance (resolution 831 (IX) of 26 November 1954)

On 26 November 1954, the Assembly confirmed a Council recommendation that the annual program of technical assistance drawn up by the TAB on the basis of country-program requests received from governments must be submitted to the Technical Assistance Committee for its approval, and to the General Assembly for confirmation.

Under the terms of this resolution, the Assembly will consider the recommendation of TAC that it authorize the allocation of funds to the participating organizations to implement the 1957 Expanded Program of Technical Assistance.

27. Economic development of underdeveloped countries

(a) Question of the establishment of a Special United Nations Fund for Economic Development: Report of the Ad Hoc Committee (resolution 923 (X) of 9 December 1955)

At its last session, the Assembly invited member states of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies to submit their views on the establishment, role, structure and operations of a Special UN Fund for Economic Development (SUNFED).

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The Assembly further set up an Ad Hoc Committee composed of representatives of 16 governments to analyze the replies received and to submit an interim report to the Economic and Social Council at its 22nd session, and to the Assembly at its eleventh session. A final report was requested for the 23rd session of the Council, with the understanding that in making such reports the Ad Hoc Committee would not commit any government.

In its interim report (Doc. A/3134 and Corr.1), the Ad Hoc Committee states that an analysis of replies received from 46 governments shows that "there is support for the proposal to establish a Special Fund..." It goes on to observe that "from the answers of governments....there emerges a general pattern of the proposed Special Fund which brings together the most frequently indicated views on its various aspects." This pattern the report describes in detail.

At its last session, the Economic and Social Council invited the governments which had not yet sent in their replies to do so as soon as possible. It looked forward to the completion of the Ad Hoc Committee's final report and expressed the hope that, in the meantime, the Assembly will consider what further steps may be taken to promote the early establishment of the Fund.

(b) International tax problems: Report of the Economic and Social Council (resolution 825 (IX) of 11 December 1954)

At its ninth session, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, to continue his studies of taxation by capital-exporting and capital-importing countries on income from foreign investments, and to submit his studies to the Economic and Social Council.

The Secretary-General submitted to the 22nd session of the Council, a memorandum on "Taxation in capital-exporting and capital-importing countries of foreign private investment," as well as country studies on Belgium, Mexico, the Netherlands and the United States. He informed the Council that further studies were in preparation on Canada, France, Sweden and the United Kingdom. He noted that international double taxation of foreign investment had been greatly reduced through unilateral measures and the conclusion of some 150 bilateral income tax agreements. The major capital-exporting countries had, to a considerable extent, reduced or eliminated their tax claims over a large part of their income from investments abroad.

The Council has transmitted the Secretary-General's memorandum and the completed country studies to the General Assembly.

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(c) Industrialization of underdeveloped countries: Economic and Social Council (resolutions 597 A (XXI) of 4 May 1956 and 616 (XXII) of 6 August 1956)

At its 21st session, the Economic and Social Council, discussed two reports by the Secretary-General: "Survey of Current Work on Industrialization and Productivity" and "Proposals for a Program of Work on Industrialization and Productivity." It then proposed that an item entitled "Industrialization of underdeveloped countries" be placed on the agenda of the eleventh session of the Assembly.

At its 22nd session, the Council discussed a report by the Secretary-General containing proposals for implementation in 1957 and 1958 of a number of projects which had been selected for early action (Doc.E/2895). It recommended that the program of work should be executed, and that the Assembly should authorize the necessary credits.

The projects proposed for early implementation fall into the following six categories: operational characteristics of selected industries; special problems of small-scale industries; relationship of community development and cooperatives to the industrialization process; improvement of productive efficiency and management; financial and fiscal aspects of industrial development; social and demographic aspects of industrialization.

In his report, the Secretary-General points out that much of the new work program could best be undertaken by the use of ad hoc consultants who would serve either in their individual capacities or as members of working groups on specifically defined subjects in the field of industrialization and productivity. In addition, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs might be asked to increase its substantive servicing of the technical assistance activities in these fields. The total additional financial requirements for 1957 come to \$100,000.

28. Establishment of a world food reserve: Report of the Economic and Social Council (resolution 825 (IX) of 11 December 1954)

At its ninth session, the Assembly requested the Economic and Social Council, to consider the question of the establishment of a world food reserve on the basis of a report prepared by the FAO entitled "Functions of a World Food Reserve - Scope and Limitations" (Doc. E/2855).

The Assembly outlined four main objectives: to raise the low level of food production and consumption and fight chronic malnutrition; to relieve famine and other emergency situations; to counteract excessive price fluctuations; and to promote the rational disposal of intermittent agricultural surpluses.

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At its 22nd session, the Council, while affirming the objectives set forth by the Assembly, noted that it was not practicable to achieve all of them under a single organization. The Council concluded that the basic solution to the problems lay in rapid and balanced economic development, and that under appropriate circumstances, food reserves could usefully contribute towards that development, provided the principles established by the FAO on the disposal of agricultural surpluses were followed.

The Secretary-General was requested, in consultation with the FAO and other appropriate organizations, to submit a report on the possibility of further national action and international cooperation on the question. This report is to be submitted to the Council at its 24th session, and to the Assembly at its twelfth session.

29. Report of the Agent General of the United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency: (resolution 410 A (V) of 1 December 1950 and Economic and Social Council resolution 611 (XXI) of 24 April 1956)

The United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency (UNKRA) was set up by the Assembly on 1 December 1950 to help the Korean people relieve the suffering and repair the damage caused by the conflict in Korea. It is headed by an Agent-General, Lt. General John B. Coulter, who is assisted by an Advisory Committee consisting of Canada, India, the United Kingdom, the United States and Uruguay. Funds for UNKRA's operations come from voluntary contributions by governments, non-members as well as members of the United Nations.

In this year's report (Doc. A/3195), the Agent General states that since its inception UNKRA has provided materials or technical assistance for projects at 4,235 sites, and activities have been concluded at 3,249 locations. The cumulative effects of international aid to Korea, including the UNKRA projects, "are now evident," the report states. Coupled with the efforts of the Korean government and people, "they have resulted in a greater degree of relative economic stability at present than at any time since 1951."

The report calls special attention to the past year's progress in industrial projects including new cement and glass plants, expanded paper production facilities, and new or rehabilitated cotton, woollen and silk mills. With other UNKRA aid, more than 6,000 new housing units had been completed by 30 June 1956, 2,700 new classrooms constructed and 1,000 others repaired, some 1,400 fishing boats built or repaired, and 111 irrigation projects finished. Work on one of UNKRA's largest projects -- a National Medical Center aided by three Scandinavian governments -- began in 1956.

The Agent General reports that it appears likely that approximately \$146,000,000 will be the limit of funds available to the Agency. Much of UNKRA's work is expected to be completed by the end of 1956, and the majority of the remaining projects in 1957.

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Last spring the Economic and Social Council recommended to the Assembly that the Agent General's annual report no longer placed on the Council's agenda, since the time-table by which this report is issued each year for the Assembly makes impractical an effective review of UNKRA's work by the Council.

30. Report of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (resolutions 428 (V) of 14 December 1950 and 925 (X) of 25 October 1955)

The report of the late UN High Commissioner, Dr. G. J. van Heuven Goedhart, covers the work of his Office from May 1955 to May 1956 (Doc. A/3123/Rev.1).

The Assembly will also consider two addenda to the report: the first deals exclusively with the effect of the short-fall in governmental contributions to the UN Refugee Fund (UNREF); the second gives an account of the visit by the Late High Commissioner to Latin America last spring and of the situation of the refugees under his mandate who have settled in Latin American countries.

The UN Refugee Fund, established as a result of an Assembly decision in 1954, is financing a four-year program to help refugees who are living in camps or who have not yet been permanently established in their country of asylum. The financial target for the period 1955-1958 has been set at \$16,000,000, to be brought together by voluntary contributions from governments and private sources.

The addendum (Doc. A/3123/Add.1) to the High Commissioner's report states that on the assumption that governments would contribute to the Fund in each of the years 1957 and 1958 approximately \$2,500,000, the amount pledged for 1956, the total short-fall in governmental contributions could be expected to be approximately \$5,800,000 or 36.3 per cent of the total target of \$16 million. As a result, the report says, "there are likely to be at the end of 1958 approximately 147,000 non-settled refugees within the mandate of the UNHCR, including 23,000 refugees still living in camps, for whom it will not be possible to finance permanent solutions."

After discussing the problem at its 22nd session, the Economic and Social Council urged governments to do everything in their power to support the work on behalf of refugees in the spirit in which it had been carried forward by the late High Commissioner and, as a tribute to his memory, to bring it to a successful conclusion.

31. Draft Convention on Freedom of Information: Report of the Economic and Social Council (resolution 840 (IX) of 17 December 1954 and Economic and Social Council (resolution 574 C (XIX) of 26 May 1955)

When the Assembly takes up the question of approving an international convention on freedom of information, it will have before it a recommendation of the Economic and Social Council that consideration of the matter be deferred until 1957.

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At issue is a draft convention which was originally prepared by a UN conference in Geneva in 1948 and revised in 1951 by an ad hoc committee of the General Assembly. The revised text consists of a preamble and 19 articles.

In a resolution adopted last spring, the Council noted with regret that repeated discussions on the draft convention in various UN organs "have failed to produce agreement on a formula which would describe permissible limitations on freedom of information." The Council stated that "in the absence of a wide measure of agreement on the basic problems involved, an international convention would be unlikely to prove an effective instrument." The Council then concluded that "further action at this stage on the draft convention on freedom of information would be unprofitable," and recommended that the Assembly "consider the draft convention at its twelfth session in the hope that conditions will be more favorable at that time."

A note by the Secretary-General (Doc. A/3150) indicates the various documents and resolutions concerning the history of the draft convention on freedom of information.

32. Draft international covenants on human rights (decision of the General Assembly of 14 December 1955)

The draft covenants on human rights -- one on civil and political rights, the other on economic, social and cultural rights -- were prepared over a period of several years by the Commission on Human Rights, which completed its work on the texts in 1954. The two covenants, which include a total of 83 draft articles, deal with virtually every aspect of the individual's life in society.

In 1954, the Assembly's Third Committee devoted 30 meetings to a general debate on the covenants. Last year, it was the intention of the Committee to discuss the covenants, article by article, "with a view to their adoption at the earliest possible date." Although 45 meetings were devoted to the discussion of the item, the Committee was able to adopt only the preambles to the covenants and the first article, identical in both instruments.

This article deals with the right of peoples and nations to self-determination and its inclusion and contents have been for years one of the major political controversies surrounding the draft covenants. After several weeks of debate, the Committee approved, by a vote of 33 to 12 with 13 abstentions, a text for the article presented by a special working group. The Assembly took note of the Committee's report and decided to continue its consideration of the draft covenants at its eleventh session.

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The text of the draft covenants can be found in Document E/2573; an annotation of each article, prepared by the Secretary-General, is contained in Document A/2929; and a compilation of amendments and additional articles proposed by the various delegations will be found in Documents A/C.3/L.460 and Corr.1. A note by the Secretary-General concerning this agenda item has also been distributed as Document A/5149.

33. Recommendations concerning international respect for the right of peoples and nations to self-determination (decision of the General Assembly of 14 December 1955)

This item was on the agenda of the Assembly's Third Committee last year but its discussion was postponed because of lack of time. It relates to three proposals for the establishment of new UN organs to deal with the right to self-determination.

The Commission on Human Rights has recommended that the Assembly establish two commissions: one to conduct a full survey of the status of the right of peoples and nations to "permanent sovereignty over their natural wealth and resources;" the other to examine alleged denials of the right to self-determination if any 10 member states so request. Furthermore, this commission would provide its good offices for the peaceful rectification of any situation it was required to examine, and if within six months the parties concerned could not be satisfied, the commission would report the facts and make recommendation to the Assembly.

The Economic and Social Council, in transmitting the two proposals to the Assembly, has submitted a third proposal which would have the Assembly establish a commission of five persons appointed by the Secretary-General to conduct a thorough study of the concept of self-determination.

In a statement to the Third Committee last year, the Secretary-General expressed certain doubts regarding all three proposals. He envisaged the establishment of a committee composed of government representatives which would attempt to reach agreement on basic principles. Once agreement had been reached, these principles might, he thought, be applied by the United Nations in the solution of specific problems.

A note by the Secretary-General (Doc. A/3148) lists the documentation on this item.

34. Draft Convention on the Nationality of Married Women (decision of the General Assembly of 14 December 1955)

At its last session, the Assembly received a draft Convention on the Nationality of Married Women which had been prepared by the UN Commission on the Status of Women. The purpose of the Convention is to prevent women who marry or divorce a

man of another nationality from finding themselves stateless, aliens in their own country, or having two nationalities.

The Assembly's Third Committee approved the preamble and the three substantive articles of the Convention. These provide that neither marriage nor divorce shall automatically affect the nationality of the wife and that a change of nationality by the husband during marriage should not prevent the wife from retaining her nationality. Moreover, a wife would be permitted to acquire her husband's nationality through special naturalization procedures, if she wished, subject to limitations "in the interests of national security or public policy." At the same time, the situation would not be altered in countries where an alien wife may, as a matter of right, acquire her husband's nationality.

Last year, the Third Committee referred the formal clauses of the draft Convention to the Legal Committee, which, in turn, asked for a more precise formulation of the request. As the session was near adjournment no further action was taken, and the Assembly merely took note of the work done and placed the draft Convention on the agenda of the eleventh session.

35. Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter: Reports of the Secretary-General and of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories

(a) Information on educational conditions

Under Article 73 e of the Charter, member states administering non-self-governing territories transmit annually to the Secretary-General statistical and other information of a technical nature relating to economic, social and educational conditions in the territories under their charge. This applies to territories which have not been placed under trusteeship. Summaries and analyses of the information prepared by the Secretary-General are examined each year by the Assembly's Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories.

At its seventh session held last spring, the Committee began its third round of discussions of economic, social and educational conditions in the territories. Each year, it gives special attention to one of these subjects. This year's report (Doc. A/3127) to the Assembly is concerned with education. It covers such aspects as general developments, vocational and technical training, primary and secondary education, teacher training, local participation in development of education and race relations. The report also refers to a 1955 Assembly resolution inviting UN members to extend offers of facilities for study and training to inhabitants of the territories.

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On this latter subject, the Assembly will consider a further report (Doc. A/3165 and addendum) by the Secretary-General containing details of the offers made and the extent to which they have been accepted.

(b) Information on other conditions

In addition to devoting special attention to education, the Committee at its seventh session also considered social and economic conditions in the non-self-governing territories.

(c) General questions relating to the transmission and examination of information

In 1946, the General Assembly listed 74 territories on which the governments concerned declared their intent to transmit information under Article 73 e of the Charter. Since then, a number of these territories have attained independence or full self-government so that the transmission of information has ceased. In such cases, administering members are requested to inform the Assembly of the territory's new status. The Assembly not only considers such communications; it also examines the procedure for dealing with cases of the cessation of transmission of information.

With respect to the 16 new members admitted to the United Nations in 1955, the Secretary-General, by letter dated 24 February 1956, requested each of them to indicate whether they had under their administration territories which fell within the scope of Article 73 e.

Questions relating to these and other matters having to do with the transmission of information under Article 73 e, such as date of receipt of information, method of transmission and ways of summarizing, analyzing and examining the information, may be raised and considered under this item.

36. Progress achieved by the non-self-governing territories in pursuance of Chapter XI of the Charter: Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 932 (X) of 8 November 1955)

Last year the Assembly expressed the opinion that an examination of the progress achieved in the non-self-governing territories since the establishment of the United Nations "would be highly desirable and should make it possible to ascertain the extent to which the peoples of the non-self-governing territories are advancing towards the attainment of the goals set in Chapter XI of the Charter."

The Assembly asked the Secretary-General, after consultation with the agencies concerned, to submit to the eleventh Assembly "a report on the main points that might be useful in such an examination."

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The Secretary-General has prepared a report (Doc. A/3196) containing suggestions, not only on a synopsis of the proposed review, which would cover advances made during the period 1946 to 1956 in the economic, social and educational fields, but such related matters as the general nature of the review, various alternative methods which could be followed in preparing it and the financial implications involved. The report suggests that the review might be planned for submission in 1959.

37. Election to fill vacancies in the membership of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories (resolution 933(X) of 8 November 1955)

The Committee on Information, which examines the summaries and analyses prepared by the Secretary-General of the information furnished on non-self-governing territories under Article 73 e of the Charter, is composed of members transmitting information and an equal number of non-administering members elected by the Fourth Committee on behalf of the Assembly.

At present, the committee comprises Australia, Belgium, France, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States (administering members), and Burma, China, Guatemala, India, Iraq, Peru and Venezuela (non-administering members).

The terms of Burma and Guatemala expire in 1956 and elections will be held to fill these vacancies.

38. Question of South West Africa: report of the Committee on South West Africa (resolution 749 A (VII) of 28 November 1953 and 941 (X) of 3 December 1955)

In 1953, the Assembly established a seven-member committee to examine, within the scope of the former League of Nations Mandates System, annual reports and petitions on conditions in South West Africa. It invited the Union of South Africa, which was given the mandate for the territory by the League, to submit annual reports on its administration of the territory and to cooperate with the Committee in examining the report. However, if no report was furnished by South Africa, the Committee was asked to examine available information on conditions in the territory.

South Africa has consistently maintained that the mandate has lapsed and, with the demise of the League, it recognized no other international obligations in respect to its administration of South West Africa. The International Court of Justice, however, held in its 1950 advisory opinion that the Union continued to have international obligations, including the submission of annual reports and

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petitions to the United Nations. Negotiations between an Assembly committee and South Africa toward implementing the Court's opinion extended over several years but no agreement was reached. South West Africa is the only remaining mandate which has not attained independence or been placed under UN trusteeship.

Since its establishment, the Committee has submitted two reports to the Assembly on South Africa's administration of the territory. Its third report (Doc. A/3151), as with its two preceding ones, was also based on information compiled by the Secretariat. In each of the two earlier instances, the Assembly renewed an invitation to South Africa to submit annual reports and to cooperate with the Committee.

In its latest report, the Committee voices not only "grave concern" over existing conditions in South West Africa, but "profound misgivings" as to the future. Characterizing the situation as one which "is neither in conformity with the principles of the Mandates System nor with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights," the Committee considers that it "requires close reexamination" by the Assembly. It also deplores South Africa's continued refusal to cooperate.

Members of the Committee are Brazil, Mexico, Pakistan, Syria, Thailand, the United States and Uruguay.

39. Admissibility of hearings of petitioners by the Committee on South West Africa: advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (resolution 942 (X) of 3 December 1955)

In an advisory opinion given on 1 June 1956, the International Court of Justice found it admissible for the Assembly's Committee on South West Africa to grant oral hearings to petitioners on matters relating to that territory.

The last Assembly had asked the Court whether the granting of such hearings would be consistent with the Court's advisory opinion of 11 July 1950, and the Court, in its further opinion, answered this question in the affirmative.

In 1950, the Court found that the Union of South Africa, which was given the mandate for South West Africa by the former League of Nations, continued to have international obligations in respect to the territory, including the obligation to forward petitions to the United Nations.

The Committee on South West Africa, established in 1953 on the basis of the Court's 1950 opinion, was charged with examining reports and petitions relating to South West Africa under a procedure which was to follow as far as possible practice applied by the former League in respect to mandated territories. Since the corresponding body of the League never officially held any oral hearings, although informal hearings with individual members were given on a number of
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occasions, the Committee asked the Assembly to decide whether or not the oral hearings of petitioners was admissible.

40. The Togoland unification problem and the future of the trust territory of Togoland under British administration: reports of the United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner and of the Trusteeship Council (resolution 944 (X) of 15 December 1955)

The future status of British Togoland, a UN trust territory in west Africa, will be determined by the Assembly in consultation with the United Kingdom which administers the territory. This follows a plebiscite held in the territory on 9 May 1956, in accordance with a decision of the last Assembly, when the people voted on their country's future.

The plebiscite carried out under United Nations supervision is the first ever held in a trust territory. It was held in "an atmosphere of absolute freedom, impartiality and fairness," according to the report (Doc. T/1258) and Add.1) of the UN Plebiscite Commissioner, Eduardo Espinosa y Prieto of Mexico. The issue facing the electorate was whether they wished to be united with an independent Gold Coast, or to separate from that territory and remain under trusteeship pending ultimate determination of its political future.

For over 35 years, British Togoland, an area of 13,000 square miles with a population of 423,000, has been administered as an integral part of the neighboring Gold Coast, a British colony. In 1954, the United Kingdom informed the United Nations that the Gold Coast was rapidly moving toward independence, and when it attained independence, the United Kingdom would no longer be able to administer Togoland in the same manner as before. It invited the Assembly to consider the question. Acting on the recommendation of a UN visiting mission, the Assembly decided in 1955 that a plebiscite be held in British Togoland to ascertain the wishes of the population on their future.

When the Trusteeship Council examined the question last summer, it considered, on the basis of the report of the UN Plebiscite Commissioner, that the majority of the people of British Togoland had expressed themselves at the plebiscite in favor of union of the territory with an independent Gold Coast, and not for separation and continued trusteeship. The Council accordingly recommended that the trusteeship agreement for the territory should be terminated, effective upon the attainment of independence by the Gold Coast.

The United Kingdom has stated that the Gold Coast is scheduled to attain its independence in early 1957.

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When the Assembly takes up this question, it will have before it not only the report of the UN Plebiscite Commissioner on the conduct and results of the plebiscite, but also the recommendation of the Trusteeship Council which was approved by 13 votes to none, with one (Guatemala) abstention.

41. Question of the frontier between the trust territory of Somaliland under Italian administration and Ethiopia: reports of the governments of Ethiopia and Italy (resolution 947 (X) of 15 December 1955)

Last year the Assembly recalled its 1950 recommendation that the portion of the boundary between the trust territory of Somaliland and Ethiopia, not already delimited by international agreement, be delimited by bilateral negotiations between the Ethiopian government and the administering authority. It also recalled its 1954 recommendation urging the two governments to achieve a final settlement of the frontier question by direct negotiations.

Considering "the progress made in the discussions between the governments of the two countries since July 1955," and "mindful of the patent urgency" of arriving at a solution "as soon as possible," the Assembly recommended "that the governments of Italy and Ethiopia expedite their current direct negotiations so that the frontier question may be settled as soon as possible."

The Assembly further requested the two governments to report on the progress of these direct negotiations to the eleventh session.

42. Financial reports and accounts, and reports of the Board of Auditors:

(a) United Nations, for the financial year ended 31 December 1955

The report (Doc. A/3124) shows that obligations incurred for 1955 amounted to \$50,089,808 compared with total appropriations of \$50,228,000. At the end of the year there was an unobligated balance of \$138,192. Receipts from miscellaneous income exceeded the anticipated amounts by \$365,051. Thus, total income credited for the financial year represented by members' contributions and miscellaneous income, \$50,593,051, exceeded the total of obligations incurred by \$503,243.

(b) United Nations Children's Fund, for the financial year ended 31 December 1955

The financial report on UNICEF (Doc. A/3163) shows that the principal of the Fund on 31 December 1955 amounted to \$31,580,320, representing a net increase of \$3,353,663 in the level of the Fund during the year.

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- (c) United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, for the financial year ended 30 June 1956

The report has not yet been circulated.

- (d) United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency, for the financial year ended 30 June 1956

The report has not yet been circulated.

- (e) United Nations Refugee Fund, for the financial year ended 31 December 1955

The report (Doc. A/3164) shows that as of 31 December 1955 the surplus in the Fund amounted to \$278,278. Expenditures during the year amounted to \$2,686,219.

43. Supplementary estimates for the financial year 1956

A report on supplementary expenses not included in the regular budget appropriations for 1956 will be submitted by the Secretary-General in the course of the Assembly session.

44. Budget Estimates for the financial year 1957

The estimated gross budget (Doc. A/3126) prepared by the Secretary-General totals \$48,250,700. Income is estimated at \$2,146,060, leaving a net budget of \$46,104,640. The 1957 estimate is \$315,650 less than the approved appropriations for 1956 totaling (having a net total of) \$45,515,550.

The Secretary-General's estimates have been reviewed by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions which has submitted a report (Doc. A/3160) recommending an over-all reduction of \$354,600 below the figure proposed by the Secretary-General.

45. Appointments to fill vacancies in the membership of subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly:

- (a) Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Three of the nine members of this Committee retire each year (Doc. A/3131). Members whose terms of office expire at the end of 1956 are Rafik Asha (Syria), André Ganem (France) and T.J. Natarajan (India).

- (b) Committee on Contributions

This is a 10-member Committee whose members also retire by rotation and are eligible for reappointment (Doc. A/3132). Members whose terms of office expire at the end of 1956 are Klaas Bökk (Sweden), Arthur H. Clough (United Kingdom) and Ottolmy Strauch (Brazil).
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(c) Board of Auditors

The Board consists of three members (Doc. A/3133). At each regular session, the Assembly appoints an auditor to take office from 1 July of the following year for a three-year term. The election this year will be to fill the vacancy caused by the expiration of the term of office of the Auditor-General of Colombia.

(d) Investments Committee: confirmation of the appointment made by the Secretary-General

The Investments Committee consists of three members appointed by the Secretary-General after consultation with the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. The appointment is subject to the approval of the Assembly. The vacancy caused by the expiration of the three-year term of Jacques Rueff, Honorary Vice Governor of the Bank of France, is to be filled.

(e) United Nations Administrative Tribunal

The Tribunal is composed of seven members appointed by the Assembly for three-year terms (Doc. A/3135). Those members whose terms of office expire at the end of 1956 are Lord Crook (United Kingdom), and Jacob Mark Lashly (United States). It will ^{also} be necessary to appoint one member to serve for the unexpired portion of Victor M. Pérez-Perozo's (Venezuela) term of office due to expire at the end of 1957. Mr. Pérez-Perozo submitted his resignation on 15 February 1956.

46. Report of the Negotiating Committee for Extra-Budgetary Funds

Certain of the activities of the UN and the specialized agencies are financed by voluntary contributions of member governments. Such activities, not provided for in the regular budgets of the UN or the agencies, include the Expanded Program of Technical Assistance, the United Nations Children's Fund, the UN Refugee Fund and the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

To assist in obtaining funds for these programs, the Assembly during its tenth session again requested the President to appoint a Negotiating Committee for Extra-Budgetary Funds to serve until the close of the eleventh Assembly session. The President accordingly appointed a committee composed of Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, France, Lebanon, Pakistan, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Committee's report to the Assembly (Doc. A/3194) recommends a new and simplified procedure for obtaining funds to support these voluntary programs. The new procedure would call for pledges to the programs during Assembly sessions, thus enabling the Assembly to consider the reports of the respective activities "in the light of more realistic information as to the possible level of contributions for the ensuing year."

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The report gives the following statement of pledges as at 15 September 1956:

	<u>Pledges</u>	<u>Payments</u>
Expanded Program of Technical Assistance for 1956	29,493,258	21,505,316
UN Children's Fund for 1956	16,491,145	8,531,751
UN Refugee Fund for 1956	2,946,592	1,184,128
UN Relief and Works Agency for 1955 - 1956	23,366,347	23,077,784
for 1956 - 1957 (18-month period)	19,772,380	2,069,245

47. Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations: report of the Committee on Contributions (resolution 876 (IX) of 4 December 1954)

The costs of the United Nations are borne by all member states. It is the responsibility of the Assembly to determine, on the basis of a report from its Committee on Contributions, the scale of assessments -- expressed in percentages of the total cost -- for all the members.

The report of the Committee on Contributions (Doc. A/3121) contains a recommended new scale of assessments for the apportionment of United Nations expenses among all 76 member countries. The revised scale, expressed on a percentage basis, incorporates assessments for the 16 states admitted to UN membership in December 1955 and would be applied for the years 1956, 1957 and 1958. It gives full effect to the "per capita" ceiling; that is, that the per capita contribution of no single member country should exceed that of the country bearing the highest assessment.

48. United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund: annual report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board

A report on the seventh session of the Joint Staff Pension Board is contained in Doc. A/3146. The financial statement for the year ended 30 September 1955 shows that the principal of the Fund increased from \$43,449,512 to \$51,740,712 during the year. Active membership at the same date was 9,001.

Participants from the UN and six specialized agencies showed an increase of about 500 from 8,513. The report contains a recommendation to the Joint Staff Pension Board for a brief amendment to Article III of the Regulations of the Fund.

49. Audit reports relating to expenditure by specialized agencies of technical assistance funds allocated from the Special Account (resolution 519 A (VI) of 12 January 1952)

In 1952 the Assembly approved financial arrangements for the allocation of funds contributed by governments for the Expanded Program of Technical Assistance.

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Under these arrangements \$10,000,000 of contributions received for the second financial period were allocated on an agreed basis to the various participating organizations. The balance was placed in a Special Account for allocation by the Technical Assistance Board.

The audit reports called for under this item relate to expenditure by specialized agencies of funds from the Special Account.

50. Administrative and budgetary coordination between the United Nations and the specialized agencies: Reports of the Secretary-General and of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

A separate report on the 1957 administrative budgets of eight specialized agencies will be submitted by the Advisory Committee during the Assembly session.

In its second report to the eleventh session (Doc. A/3160) the Committee states that the total of the appropriations, as approved or proposed, amounts to \$42,166,948 making, with the figure submitted by the Secretary-General, an aggregate of \$90,417,648 which the member states of the eight specialized agencies and the United Nations will be called upon to appropriate for 1957.

51. Registration and publication of treaties and international agreements: Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 966 (X) of 3 December 1955)

The report (Doc. A/3168) is a continuation of the study of possible measures to effect economy and reduce delay in publication of treaties and international agreements submitted by the Secretary-General to the Assembly at its tenth session (Doc. A/2971).

52. United Nations salary, allowance and benefits system: Report of the Review Committee (resolution 975 (X) of 15 December 1955)

The 11-member committee established by the last Assembly to review the salary, allowance and benefits system of the UN and the specialized agencies, will submit its report during the eleventh session.

53. System of travel and subsistence allowances to members of organs of the United Nations (resolution 875 (IX) of 4 December 1954)

The Advisory Committee's report (Doc. A/3161) deals solely "with matters relating to travel and subsistence expenses, to the exclusion of the question of honoraria or remuneration to rapporteurs or other members of UN bodies."

It recommends that "as no new circumstances have arisen to warrant a change of position...as from 1 January 1957, rates of allowances, to be determined by the Assembly, should be applied uniformly to all eligible bodies, including the International Law Commission."

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54. Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its eighth session
- (a) Final report on the regime of the high seas, the regime of the territorial sea and related problems (resolution 899 (IX) of 14 December 1954)

In 1949, the Assembly asked the International Law Commission to study simultaneously the regime of the high seas and the regime of territorial waters. Then in 1953, considering that problems relating to the high seas, territorial waters, contiguous zones, the continental shelf and the superjacent waters are closely linked, the Assembly decided not to deal with any aspect of the regime of the high seas or of the regime of territorial waters until all problems involved had been studied by the Commission.

At its ninth session, the Assembly requested the Commission to complete its work on the regime of the high seas, the regime of territorial waters and related problems and to submit its final report to its eleventh session.

In its final report (Doc. A/3159), the Commission has grouped together all the rules it has adopted concerning the high seas, the territorial sea, the continental shelf, the contiguous zone and the conservation of the living resources of the sea. Each article is accompanied by a commentary.

The Commission recommends that the Assembly should summon an international conference of plenipotentiaries to examine the law of the sea, taking into account not only the legal but also the technical, biological, economic and political aspects of the problem, and to embody the results of its work in one or more international conventions or such other instruments as it may deem appropriate.

- (b) Question of amending article 11 of the Statute of the International Law Commission relating to the filling of casual vacancies in the membership of the Commission (resolution 986 (X) 3 December 1955)

At its tenth session the Assembly asked the International Law Commission to express its opinion on the amendment of Article 11 of the Commission's Statute relating to the filling of casual vacancies in membership.

The Commission considered a proposal that casual vacancies should be filled by the Assembly instead of by the Commission itself as has been the case under the present wording of Article 11. But it decided not to adopt the proposal for the reason, that since the Assembly meets shortly after the session of the Commission, the filling of such vacancies by the Assembly would be delayed, causing the Commission to work for at least one session with the vacancy unfilled.

(c) Other matters

These matters, which are covered in Chapter IV of the Commission's report, include such questions as publication of the documents of the Commission, cooperation with inter-American bodies, the date and place of the next session.

55. Question of defining aggression: Report of the Special Committee (resolution 895 (IX) of 4 December 1954)

The question of defining aggression arose in the Assembly in 1950, and the subject was referred to the International Law Commission for further study.

In 1951, the Commission decided that it was undesirable to define aggression by a detailed enumeration of aggressive acts since no enumeration would be exhaustive. A proposed general definition in abstract terms was also rejected by the Commission. However, the Commission decided to embody a general, but not exhaustive, definition of aggression in the draft Code of Offence Against the Peace and Security of Mankind which it had been asked to prepare for the Assembly.

After extensive discussions in its Legal Committee, the Assembly in 1952 set up a Special Committee of 15 members to prepare draft definitions of aggression or draft statements on the notion of aggression. That Committee met in 1953 but did not reach any substantive decisions.

In 1954, the Assembly established a second Special Committee of 19 members to prepare a draft definition of aggression. The members are China, Czechoslovakia, the Dominican Republic, France, Iraq, Israel, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Syria, the USSR, the United Kingdom, the United States and Yugoslavia.

The new Special Committee began a four-week session at Headquarters on 8 October 1956.

56. Draft code of offences against the peace and security of mankind (resolution 897 (IX) of 4 December 1954)

In 1954, the Assembly considered that the draft code of offences against the peace and security of mankind, as formulated by the International Law Commission, raised problems closely related to that of the definition of aggression. It decided, therefore, to postpone further examination of the draft code until the Special Committee on the Question of Defining Aggression had submitted its report. This report (see item 55) is expected to be before the Assembly at its forthcoming session.

(more)

The five-article draft code lists such offences as acts or threats of aggression, preparation for the use of armed force against another country; encouragement of activities calculated to foment civil strife or terrorist activities in another country; crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, and violation of the laws or customs of war.

The code places full responsibility upon the individual who commits an offence. One of its articles reads: "The fact that a person acted as head of state or as a responsible government official does not relieve him from responsibility for committing any of the offences defined in this code."

57. International criminal jurisdiction (resolution 398 (IX) of 14 December 1954)

The establishment of an international court to try persons accused of crimes under international law has been widely discussed since the end of the first world war. After the second world war, the establishment of the Nuremburg and Tokyo Tribunals was considered in many quarters as a step towards that goal. The criticism was raised, however, that the establishment of special courts, whose terms of reference were determined only after the commission of the acts they were to try, might be interpreted as an arbitrary exercise of justice by victorious powers.

Taking this point into consideration, the Assembly, in 1948, invited the International Law Commission "to study the desirability and possibility of establishing an international judicial organ for the trial of persons charged with genocide or other crimes over which jurisdiction will be conferred upon that organ by international conventions."

In 1950, the Assembly set up ^aspecial committee to prepare proposals on the establishment and statute of the proposed court. The special committee met in 1951 and drew up a draft statute, which was revised by a second special committee in 1953. The main provisions of the revised draft are: the court will be a permanent body composed of 15 independent judges elected for a period of nine years; the court will be competent to judge "natural persons whether they are constitutionally responsible under public officials or private individuals," no person shall be tried before the court unless jurisdiction has been conferred upon the court by the state or states of which he is a national and by the state or states in which the crime is alleged to have been committed; the court will have power to issue warrants of arrest; the accused shall be presumed innocent until proved guilty; he shall have a fair trial; final judgments will require a majority vote of the judges participating in the trial, and seven judges will constitute quorum.

In view of the close connection between the question of defining aggression, the draft code of offences against the peace and security of mankind, and the question of an international criminal jurisdiction, the Assembly in 1954 decided to postpone consideration of the question until it had taken up the report of the Special Committee on the Question of Defining Aggression and the draft code of offences against the peace and security of mankind (see items 55 and 56).

58. Elimination or reduction of future statelessness: Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 896 (IX) of 4 December 1954)

At its ninth session, the Assembly expressed its appreciation to the International Law Commission for its work in the field of statelessness, particularly the drafting of a Convention on the Elimination of Future Statelessness and of a Convention on the Reduction of Future Statelessness.

The Assembly asked that an international conference of plenipotentiaries be convened to conclude a convention for the reduction or elimination of future statelessness as soon as 20 states have communicated their willingness to cooperate in such a conference. The Secretary-General was requested to report on the matter to the eleventh session.

In his report (Doc. A/3189 and Add.1), the Secretary-General informs the Assembly that as of 28 September 1956 the following 17 member and non-member states had expressed their willingness to participate in the conference: Belgium, Denmark, El Salvador, France, Federal Republic of Germany, India, Israel, Lebanon, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom and Yugoslavia. Therefore, the condition set by the Assembly for convening the conference has not yet been fulfilled.

59. The peaceful utilization of Antarctica: item proposed by India

On 21 February, India requested inclusion in the agenda of an item entitled "The question of Antarctica" (Doc. A/3118). In a further letter, dated 12 September, India asked that the title of the item be changed to "The peaceful utilization of Antarctica" (Doc. A/3118/Add.1).

The explanatory memorandum states India's belief "that in order to strengthen universal peace it would be appropriate and timely for all nations to agree and to affirm that the area will be utilized entirely for peaceful purposes and for the general welfare." The memorandum adds that "all nations should agree further to harmonize their actions to these ends and to ensure also that no activities in the Antarctica will adversely affect climatic and other natural conditions."

(more)

60. Application, under the auspices of the United Nations, of the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples in the case of the population of the island of Cyprus: item proposed by Greece

Greece first brought this item to the Assembly in 1954, referring in its explanatory memorandum to "the repeatedly and solemnly expressed will of the people of Cyprus for union with Greece, which they regard as their mother country." The Greek government requested that the people of Cyprus "be allowed to express themselves on their future."

The Assembly considered the item and, on 17 December 1954, by 50 votes to none with 8 abstentions, adopted a resolution, reading in part: "The General Assembly, considering that, for the time being, it does not appear appropriate to adopt a resolution on the question of Cyprus, decides not to consider further the item..."

In 1955, Greece again requested inscription of the item on the agenda. Acting upon a recommendation of its General Committee, the Assembly decided, by 28 votes to 22 with 10 abstentions, not to include the Cyprus item on its agenda.

On 13 March of this year, Greece again requested that the Cyprus question be placed on the agenda of the eleventh session (Doc. A/3120).

61. Question of amending the United Nations Charter, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 108 of the Charter, to increase the number of non-permanent members of the Security Council and the number of votes required for decisions of the Council: item proposed by Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Spain and Venezuela

In their explanatory memorandum (Doc. A/3138), the 17 delegations note that there was a substantial increase in the membership of the United Nations at the end of 1955 and that it is probable that more members will be admitted in the near future. In the light of that, and "with a view to maintaining a satisfactory distribution in the membership of some of the principal organs of the United Nations and to facilitating the participation of new Members in the work of those organs," the 17 delegations said they were requesting inclusion of this item in the agenda.

Under the present Article 23 of the Charter, the Security Council has five permanent members and six non-permanent members, the latter elected by the General Assembly for a period of two years. Under Article 27, seven affirmative votes are required for a decision of the Council.

Article 108 of the Charter provides that amendments shall come into force "when they have been adopted by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the General Assembly and ratified in accordance with their respective constitutional processes by two-thirds of the Members of the United Nations, including all the permanent members of the Security Council."

(more)

62. Question of amending the United Nations Charter, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 108 of the Charter, to increase the membership of the Economic and Social Council: item proposed by Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Spain and Venezuela

The explanatory memorandum (Doc. A/3139) of the 18 delegations is similar to the one for the preceding item.

Under the present Article 61 of the Charter, the Economic and Social Council consists of 18 members elected by the General Assembly.

63. Question of amending the Statute of the International Court of Justice, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 108 of the Charter: (a) increase in the number of judges of the International Court of Justice: item proposed by Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti and Spain

The explanatory memorandum (Doc. A/3140) of the seven delegations is similar to the ones for the preceding two items.

Under the present Article 3 of the Statute, the Court consists of 15 members, no two of whom may be nationals of the same state. They are elected by the General Assembly and by the Security Council from a list of persons nominated by the national groups in the Permanent Court of Arbitration or by other national groups appointed for this purpose by their governments.

64. Question of amending Article 2 of the Statute of the International Law Commission to increase the membership of the Commission: item proposed by Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Spain and Venezuela

In their explanatory memorandum (Doc. A/3141), the 16 delegations state that, in the light of the substantial increase in the membership of the United Nations, "and with a view to ensuring that in the composition of the International Law Commission special attention shall continue to be given to the need for a satisfactory distribution that will facilitate the participation of new Members in the work of that body," they were requesting inclusion of this item in the agenda.

The International Law Commission was established by the General Assembly in 1947, at its Second Session. The Commission has 15 members, elected by the Assembly.

65. Interim measures, pending entry into force of the Covenants on Human Rights, to be taken with respect to violations of the human rights set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights: item proposed by Greece

Inclusion of this item was requested by Greece in a letter dated 11 September (Doc. A/3187).

An explanatory memorandum has not yet been circulated.

66. The question of race conflict in South Africa resulting from the policies of apartheid of the Government of the Union of South Africa: item proposed by India, Pakistan and Indonesia

Inclusion of this item was requested by India in a letter dated 12 September (Doc. A/3190); and by Pakistan in a letter dated 27 September (Doc. A/3190/Add.1); and by Indonesia in a letter dated 11 October (Doc. A/3190/Add.2).

Last year, the Assembly commended the three-member Commission appointed in 1952 to study the racial situation in the Union of South Africa, and noted "with regret" that the South African government had "again refused to cooperate" with the Commission. The resolution expressed concern that the South African government "continues to give effect to the policies of apartheid," and called upon the South African government to observe its Charter obligations.

Paragraphs -- approved by the Ad Hoc Political Committee -- that would keep the United Nations Commission in being and would request it to continue to keep the situation under review and to report to the eleventh session of the Assembly, were deleted from the Assembly's resolution last year because of failure to obtain the required two-thirds majority.

SUPPLEMENTARY LIST OF ITEMS

1. Question of Algeria: item proposed by Afghanistan, Burma, Ceylon, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Pakistan, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Yemen

In their explanatory memorandum (Doc. A/3197), the 15 sponsoring delegations note that last year the Assembly, "ignoring the unfavorable recommendation of the General Committee," inscribed this item on its agenda and referred the item to the First Committee. "Subsequently, and manifesting their conciliatory spirit," the memorandum goes on, "the Asian-African states decided to accept a proposal to postpone further discussion of the Algerian issue at the Tenth Session."

They had done so, the memorandum states, in the hope that France would "negotiate with the true representatives of the Algerian people a peaceful settlement securing their legitimate rights to self-determination and independence." However, this hope had been "frustrated," and in the year that had passed, "repression and destruction have been intensified and the situation has worsened to the point" where the 15 delegations say they have no alternative but to seek inscription of this item on the Assembly's agenda again.

2. The question of West Irian (West New Guinea): item proposed by Afghanistan, Burma, Cambodia, Ceylon, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Yemen

This item was first brought before the Assembly in 1954 by Indonesia. The resolution recommended by the First Committee at that session failed to win the necessary two-thirds vote for adoption by the Assembly. Last year's resolution, approved without objection by the Assembly, expressed hope that the negotiations, which meanwhile had been started by the governments of Indonesia and the Netherlands, would be "fruitful."

In their explanatory memorandum (Doc. A/3200), the 16 delegations who now request the placing of this item on the agenda state that "more than two months of lengthy negotiations failed to produce the results envisaged," and that the relations between Indonesia and the Netherlands have "deteriorated." The question of West Irian (West New Guinea) "continues to be a cancer" between them, the memorandum goes on, and "in its wider context, as an unresolved remnant of a colonial problem it affects adversely the whole complex of international relations with regard to that part of the world."

(more)

3. Draft Convention concerning a System of Consultation:
item proposed by Argentina

In its explanatory memorandum (Doc. A/3201), the Argentine delegation states its view that "the community of nations lacks machinery to permit consultations to be held among them, or by all jointly, with the necessary speed and efficiency when a situation arises which is likely to endanger international peace or security.

A system of consultation has been in operation in inter-American affairs for some years and has demonstrated its effectiveness, the memorandum goes on. The Argentine government believes that a similar procedure applied on a world-wide basis would be an important factor in the maintenance of international peace, and accordingly has requested inclusion of this item in the agenda and has submitted a draft convention to provide a basis for discussion.

4. The over-all total of the United Nations annual budget expenditure:
item proposed by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

In an explanatory memorandum (Doc. A/3202), the United Kingdom notes that in previous debates in the Assembly many members had expressed their concern for maximum concentration of available resources on projects of immediate urgency and deferment or elimination of those no longer urgent or essential.

The United Kingdom believes that this objective would be more readily attained if, before detailed consideration of the budget estimates, a decision were taken by the Assembly on the total annual expenditure to be approved in order to assist the Assembly in determining the most suitable priorities to be given the various individual budgetary items proposed.

5. Support from Greece for terrorism in Cyprus: item proposed by
the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Inclusion of this item in the agenda was requested in a letter dated 12 October (Doc. A/3204). The explanatory memorandum has not yet been circulated.