



C O N T E N T S

	<i>Page</i>
Address by His Majesty King Paul of the Hellenes	275
The Tunisian question: report of the First Committee (continued)	276
Question of impartial investigation of charges of use by United Nations forces of bacterial warfare: report of the First Committee	276
Appointments to fill vacancies in the membership of sub- sidiary bodies of the General Assembly:	
(a) Advisory Committee on Administrative and Bud- getary Questions;	
(b) Committee on Contributions: reports of the Fifth Committee	280
Report of the Committee on Special Administrative Questions: report of the Fifth Committee	280

President: Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi PANDIT (India).

Address by His Majesty King Paul of the Hellenes

1. The PRESIDENT: It is my great privilege and my pleasure this afternoon to welcome on behalf of the General Assembly His Majesty the King of the Hellenes and Her Majesty the Queen. They come to us from a country which is honoured wherever the values of civilization are honoured. The great traditions of Greece need no affirmation by me.
2. It is rightly said that Western civilization owes its highest achievements to the inspiration provided by the example of ancient Greece, but the contribution of that country is deeper and wider than that. It is not the inheritance of Europe only but part of the memory and instinct of civilized society everywhere.
3. Nowhere is the Greek tradition better exemplified than in its profound recognition of individual worth and dignity and of the value of that independence which is every people's birthright. These ideals, immortalized by Greek thinkers and philosophers, are also the objectives of the United Nations. In endeavouring to realize them more fully, our Organization is renewing and refreshing the oldest and proudest traditions of Greece. It is no surprise, therefore, to find Greece an active Member of the United Nations.
4. I shall, I know, be expressing the feelings of all of us in this Assembly when I convey to His Majesty our deep sympathy for the suffering caused by the recent earthquakes to one of the most beautiful parts of his kingdom, the Ionian Islands. We are, however, glad that the efforts of our Organization to give succour and assistance have been of some value. We hope the ancient fortitude of the people of Greece will soon overcome this latest calamity.
5. Because the historic traditions of Greece animate so powerfully the purposes and principles of the

United Nations, we feel that the foundations of our Organization are, to a significant extent, the foundations of the glorious past of Greece. When I welcome Their Majesties to these precincts, I feel I am not fanciful in saying that I welcome them home.

6. I have great pleasure in requesting His Majesty to address the General Assembly.

7. H.M. KING PAUL OF THE HELLENES: I am deeply moved and I express my heartfelt thanks for the warm welcome I have received and for the moving words addressed to my wife and to myself. I gratefully accept them on behalf of the nation I represent—not one of the largest, it is true, but certainly one of the oldest and second to none in its wholehearted devotion to everything that could contribute to the elevation of the human spirit as well as to the greater material happiness of all mankind.

8. I also remember the words of sympathy and comfort spoken some two months ago in this hall on the occasion of the terrible earthquakes that have devastated three of our most beautiful islands. Those words have found a resounding echo in the hearts of the people of Greece. The friends who have brought us comfort and assistance in our hour of trial and need have earned forever our deepest gratitude. It is, I think, fitting to underline the significance of this collective effort of human brotherhood as one of the most outstanding achievements in the best spirit of the United Nations Charter.

9. More than two thousand years ago, our great Greek philosophers proclaimed the truth that man's spirit is free and shall not be enslaved by any dominating force. They also propounded the equally fundamental truth that the freedom of the individual will remain sterile, if it does not actually become a destructive force, unless it is voluntarily placed at the service of an ever widening community—the family, the city and the nations, and, in our time, the United Nations.

10. We in Greece believe that the United Nations' ultimate mission is constructively to unite all nations into one great and all-inclusive family. We also believe that the compounding of our mutual differences and the finding of solutions for them, while necessary now, is definitely of a secondary importance. When the United Nations' main mission is fulfilled, the differences will automatically fade away. I do not think it good policy to let our attention be completely absorbed by the apparent importance of problems of the moment, because as a result we tend to forget the creative mission of unification, the main purpose for which the United Nations was formed.

11. But let us not be impatient. A grand and glorious endeavour cannot yield results within days, months, or even a few years. Personally I am quite satisfied that the United Nations very successfully fulfils its

mission and that the efforts and hard work of the distinguished representatives and the staff of the United Nations have already borne rich fruit.

12. I am happy to represent my nation amongst you today at this brilliant international Assembly. As such, I am proud to stand before you in this temple of freedom and peace. For my people have proved to the utmost how much they understand and partake in the aims and ideals of the United Nations.

13. With internal political stability, and possessing armed forces, whose organization, fighting spirit and reliability are universally recognized, Greece stands alert. Should the powers of destruction at any moment dare to interfere in an attempt to strangle the salutary work of the United Nations, Greece stands ready to throw itself at once into the struggle at the service of the world Organization.

14. But this is not all. We are also contributing today to the spirit of the United Nations in an even more valuable way. The example we have given in achieving true brotherhood with Turkey, true friendship with Yugoslavia and Italy, and the serious wish we have expressed to become good neighbours with Bulgaria and Albania, is proof of our good intentions towards all other nations and of our earnest desire to serve the United Nations and not just to be served by it. It is an expression of our faith and truly peaceful disposition.

15. But it is not only with pride that I stand before you today. It is also with deep respect. For me, no building encloses this congress. I see no individuals separated from each other by language, race or religion. In my mind, as I look upon you from my Greek platform, I see before me the spirit of man emanating from the heart and soul of each one of you. It is to this spirit that I bow my head.

16. And as I do so, I reflect upon the fear and suffering which gave birth to the hope and glory which are symbolized within the Organization of the United Nations. We have seen so much suffering, so much destruction, so much self-imposed and unnecessary misery. All this, and so much more, has pledged us to give a new and better world to all mankind to come. To keep this pledge is the least that we can do to justify ourselves in the eyes of our children. Their hope shall be our faith and help redeem the past with a better future.

17. I believe that in spite of threats of total disintegration from the atom and the hydrogen bombs, the world is nonetheless moving towards ultimate unity.

18. The same emotions, such as suffering, pity and hope, link us with one great experience and prove the oneness of our inner lives. The people in the Soviet Union suffer as much as the people in Greece or in the United Kingdom, in the United States or in Germany, or in any other country. The young boy who bravely goes to war to defend his mother country makes the same sacrifice in leaving his family whether he proceeds from America or from Europe, from Asia, from Africa or from Australia. Our hopes and despairs are very much alike all over the world and weld us into a unity unseen by the naked eye. Within this whole we cannot be separated either by race, religion or nationality. This inner unity, this spirit of oneness, this truly divine element within the hearts of all men, that is the unseen flag of humanity to which we are

all dedicated, who have come together to make the United Nations a concrete expression of our silent prayer.

19. May our mind's eye remain unwaveringly fixed upon this spiritual ideal. May we not become distracted by our own selfishness, but may we remember that the tears of one mother are the tears of all and the hopes of one boy are the hopes of all and the glory of one human heart encompasses the glory of all mankind.

20. To this spirit of unity the United Nations has been dedicated. In this spirit I firmly believe. It rests within each one of us. It is represented by you, and if we all hold on to it with loyalty and truth, it cannot fail to bring peace upon earth and blessings upon us all.

21. To this spirit of man I pay solemn tribute, and I proclaim my people's faith in it and my own. May the United Nations become more and more a cathedral where we can worship what is best in each other.

The meeting was suspended at 3.25 and resumed at 4.30 p.m.

The Tunisian question: report of the First Committee (A/2530) (continued)

[Agenda item 56]

22. The PRESIDENT: I call upon the representative of Iraq to speak on a point of order.

23. Mr. BAKR (Iraq): Efforts are being made to introduce certain amendments to the draft resolution on Tunisia. These amendments will need some time to be developed and considered. Therefore I move that the consideration of this item should be adjourned until the next meeting.

24. The PRESIDENT: A motion to adjourn consideration of this item has been made, and, under rule 78 of our rules of procedure, such a motion takes precedence over other proposals and motions before the meeting. I shall therefore put the motion for the adjournment to the vote.

The motion was adopted by 30 votes to 11, with 10 abstentions.

Question of impartial investigation of charges of use by United Nations forces of bacterial warfare: report of the First Committee (A/2535)

[Agenda item 24]

Mr. Thors (Iceland), Rapporteur of the First Committee, presented the report of that Committee (A/2535).

25. Mr. Y. MALIK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (*translated from Russian*): The delegation of the Soviet Union considers it necessary to make the following statement in connexion with the discussion in the Assembly of the First Committee's report on the question of the so-called impartial investigation of charges of use of bacterial warfare.

26. The inclusion of this question in the agenda of the seventh and eighth sessions of the General Assembly and its discussion were and are a violation of the Principles of the United Nations Charter, since the representatives of the People's Republic of China and the People's Democratic Republic of Korea are not

taking part. Articles 31 and 32 of the Charter recognize the right of every Member of the United Nations and of any State not a Member of the United Nations to take part in the discussion of any question if their interests are specially affected. The question under discussion affects the interests of the People's Republic of China and the People's Democratic Republic of Korea. And yet those States were not admitted to the discussion, in spite of the fact that the Governments of the People's Republic of China and of the People's Democratic Republic of Korea had officially requested an opportunity of doing so and had stated that, if the General Assembly adopted any decision without the participation of their representatives, they would not recognize such decisions and would consider them invalid.

27. During the discussion of this question in the First Committee, the United States delegation and some of its supporters made unfounded statements to the effect that the People's Republic of China and the People's Democratic Republic of Korea had refused to take part in an impartial investigation. This assertion has no basis in fact. These States not only did not refuse, but on the contrary asked to be permitted to participate in the investigation. The fact that the United States takes this position shows that what it wanted was not an impartial and full discussion and investigation, but simply a chance to impose its will on the Governments of the People's Republic of China and the People's Democratic Republic of Korea, in flagrant violation of the Charter.

28. Since these unlawful attempts have been unsuccessful and since it wishes to undo the impression created when the criminal methods of warfare employed by its armed forces against the Korean people were revealed, the United States is now trying to make use of the American fliers who have returned from imprisonment to disseminate lies and slander against the People's Republic of China and the People's Democratic Republic of Korea.

29. The United States delegation circulated to the First Committee several standardized and obviously unoriginal statements by American fliers who, when they were prisoners of war, had testified to the use of bacterial warfare by United States armed forces. These statements are an attempt to confirm the story, given out earlier by the United States military authorities, that prisoners of war in Korea were subjected to violence and that they had made their admissions "under duress". An examination of the statements shows, however, that this version is not borne out by the fliers themselves. On the contrary, they say that they were not subjected to physical violence, while Colonel Schwable, for example, clearly states that he was never so much as threatened with it.

30. The official directive of the United States Secretary of Defense, Mr. Wilson, which has just been made public, leaves no doubt but that these fliers are now being forced to deny their earlier depositions under the threat of being called to account, of being court-martialled on charges of treason. It is not surprising that, under the influence of such threats, some of these fliers have not only denied their depositions, but have made various slanderous statements which are being used by the United States military authorities to stir up hostile and slanderous propaganda against the People's Republic of China and the People's

Democratic Republic of Korea, as well as against the Soviet Union.

31. The USSR delegation and a number of other delegations have cited concrete facts and examples to show how unfounded and slanderous are these regular attempts by the United States delegation to focus the General Assembly's attention on slanders and all kinds of hostile and tendentious fabrications, and thus to keep it from considering important international questions, the proper settlement of which would strengthen international peace and security and bring about an improvement of the international atmosphere and a lessening of international tension.

32. And yet it is perfectly obvious that the General Assembly's present task should be to induce all those States which have not yet acceded to or ratified the Geneva Protocol of 1925 on the prohibition of the use of bacterial weapons to do so as soon as possible.

33. Inasmuch as a great majority of States, including four of the five permanent members of the Security Council, have ratified this Protocol, that instrument has become an important rule of international law and international relations, which contributes to the maintenance of peace and international security. The States parties to this international agreement have solemnly proclaimed in the Geneva Protocol that the prohibition of the use of chemical and bacterial weapons is binding on the conscience and the practice of nations. They have also assumed the obligation to make every effort to induce other States to become parties to the Protocol. Since this international agreement is of outstanding importance both in relations between States and in the maintenance and strengthening of international peace and security, the General Assembly must take measures to reinforce this rule of international law, which is far-reaching in scope and absolutely binding.

34. The USSR delegation submitted a draft resolution on this question in the First Committee. Owing to the efforts of the United States delegation and of several other delegations of States members of the aggressive Atlantic bloc, the First Committee was induced to adopt a decision referring the draft resolution to the Disarmament Commission. An attempt is thus being made to prevent the adoption of this draft resolution by the General Assembly by referring it to the Disarmament Commission, where it is hoped to bury it, since, as everyone knows, the States which proposed this procedure are the same States which, last year, in that very Commission, rejected the Soviet proposal [DC/13/Rev.1] that the Commission should immediately discuss the question of prohibiting the use of bacterial weapons and should take appropriate action to that end.

35. The General Assembly can itself appeal to States to ratify and accede to the Geneva Protocol, without the aid of the Disarmament Commission. This Protocol is an international rule binding on all civilized peoples. Its provisions, under which States undertake not to use chemical and bacterial weapons, are generally recognized. Consequently, there is no need now to elaborate any new rules or standards of international law in the matter. What needs to be done is to broaden the scope of this binding international rule and to make it applicable to those States which had not as yet acceded to or ratified the Geneva Protocol of 1925. There is no need to call on the services of

the Disarmament Commission for the adoption of such a decision.

36. For those reasons, and also because of the great importance of the Geneva Protocol to the strengthening of peace and international security, the USSR delegation submits its draft resolution [A/L.165] for the consideration of the General Assembly and urges other delegations to support it. An invitation by the General Assembly to all States which have not yet acceded to or ratified the Geneva Protocol of 1925 for the prohibition of the use of bacterial weapons to do so as soon as possible would be an important international step and would do much to strengthen international peace and security and to ease international tension.

37. Mr. FORD (United States of America): The objective of the United States in the discussion of this item was to bring the truth before the world so that these dreadful things would never happen again.

38. Two main events have taken place since the General Assembly last April passed its resolution [706 (VII)] calling for an impartial investigation of the charges of use by the United Nations forces of bacterial warfare. The first was that the Republic of Korea and Japan indicated their acceptance of the investigation. The Chinese and North Korean Communists did not reply to the communication [A/2426] of the President of the seventh session of the General Assembly on this subject. The second related to certain materials introduced by the Soviet Union in connexion with the debate on this item at the seventh session of the General Assembly. I am referring to the so-called confessions of six United States fliers that they had waged bacterial warfare over North Korea and China.

39. These fliers have been repatriated and have indicated that their so-called confessions were obtained under coercion and torture. My Government brought this to the attention of the Committee and also indicated to the Committee the significance of the entire bacterial warfare campaign in relation to the general political tactics of world-wide communist imperialism. Since the resolution of the seventh session was still operative, my Government saw no occasion for any further resolution on the subject. An impartial investigation can be conducted pursuant to that resolution any time that the Chinese and North Korean Communists indicate their willingness to co-operate.

40. The Soviet Union, however, introduced into the discussion a draft resolution calling upon the States which had not acceded to or ratified the Geneva Protocol of 17 June 1925 for the prohibition of the use of bacterial weapons to accede to the Protocol or ratify it. This Soviet draft resolution was properly described in the Committee as a red herring totally irrelevant to the question which the Committee was discussing. It was pointed out that the sole motive of the action of the Soviet Union was to cast an aspersion on my Government and thus divert attention from a debate which the Soviet Union could not win.

41. The Governments of the United Kingdom, Canada, Colombia, France and New Zealand introduced, and the Committee accepted, a proposal that the draft resolution of the Soviet Union should be referred to the Disarmament Commission. My Government supported that proposal in the Committee and will vote for it today.

42. The entire question of the elimination of bacterial warfare, as well as of other major weapons of mass

destruction, properly belongs in the Disarmament Commission. The Soviet Union has reintroduced in the General Assembly the same draft resolution which it presented to the Committee. The adoption by this Assembly of the draft resolution approved in the Committee would, in the view of my Government, make a vote on the Soviet draft resolution unnecessary.

43. I sincerely hope that the debate on this matter has established to the satisfaction of all members of the General Assembly that these frightful charges of the use of bacterial warfare by the United Nations forces in Korea are totally unfounded and false. I further hope that all States will consider thoroughly the significance of such a campaign of falsehood in relation to the broader subject of the political tensions now engulfing the world.

44. Mr. LEWANDOWSKI (Poland): The Polish delegation would like to explain to the General Assembly the motives which will determine its voting on the draft resolution regarding the so-called impartial investigation of charges of use of bacterial warfare.

45. This item was placed on the agenda of the seventh session of the General Assembly. By preventing the participation of the representatives of the Chinese People's Republic and the Korean People's Democratic Republic in the deliberations on this problem, the United States at the time demonstrated its unwillingness to permit an impartial consideration of the matter. The United States delegation was interested solely in using the forum of the United Nations for propaganda manoeuvres which would clear its Government in the eyes of public opinion of the serious charge of waging bacterial warfare in Korea. In presenting this item again at the present session, the United States delegation is guided, apart from the aforementioned motive, by the deliberate intent to poison the atmosphere of our deliberations. Indeed, it is this intent that lies behind other moves and proposals which have been put forward by the United States delegation during the present session of the General Assembly. These moves and proposals are clearly designed to prevent international understanding and to torpedo the positive and constructive proposals submitted by other delegations.

46. The tactics used by the United States delegation in the Committee, as well as in the Assembly, aim at creating the impression that the charge of waging bacterial warfare presented by the Governments of the Chinese People's Republic and the Korean People's Democratic Republic against the United States was based solely on evidence produced in the depositions of American officers. The United States delegation ignored the fact that those charges were based upon facts and evidence corroborated by impartial international commissions in which world-famous scientists, experts, biologists and lawyers participated. The depositions of the American officers only confirmed the material proof at hand. The United States has never succeeded in refuting this material evidence or in proving that it did not use bacterial weapons in Korea and in North China.

47. The allegations that the depositions of the American officers were extorted under duress constitute an integral part of the slanderous campaign directed against the People's Republic of China and the People's Democratic Republic of Korea, and are designed to hamper the settlement of the Korean problem. The

United States delegation has never denied that its Government is preparing bacterial weapons and is ready to use them in the event of war. The United States Government has displayed no willingness to accept international obligations, the strict observance of which would secure mankind from this barbarous weapon.

48. Such obligations could be accepted by the signing and ratification of the Geneva Protocol of 1925 concerning the prohibition of the use of bacterial weapons. The United States has not so far ratified that Protocol. This attitude of the United States, and of certain other States, with respect to the Geneva Protocol, has increased the apprehension among the peoples of the world that weapons of mass destruction might be used. Therefore, considering that the signing and ratification of the Geneva Protocol would constitute an important step towards the complete prohibition of the use of weapons of mass destruction, the USSR has presented a draft resolution calling upon States which have not done so to sign and ratify that Protocol. However, the United States refuses to pledge itself to renounce the use of bacterial weapons.

49. The draft resolution before us, which refers the Soviet proposal to the Disarmament Commission, is designed to offer the United States the possibility of avoiding a clear stand on the question of the adoption or rejection of the prohibition of the use of bacterial weapons. The Polish delegation, in accordance with its views regarding the tasks which lie before the General Assembly with respect to the prohibition of bacterial weapons, cannot support such a manoeuvre and will, accordingly, abstain in the vote on this draft resolution. We shall vote in favour of the Soviet draft resolution, the adoption and implementation of which would constitute an important step in the direction of the relaxation of international tension.

50. The PRESIDENT: I shall now put to the vote the draft resolution submitted by the First Committee [A/2535].

The draft resolution was adopted by 47 votes to none, with 12 abstentions. 214

51. The PRESIDENT: I recognize the representative of United Kingdom on a point of order.

52. Mr. LLOYD (United Kingdom): The General Assembly has just adopted the draft resolution submitted by the First Committee, which "refers to the Disarmament Commission the draft resolution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics contained in document A/C.1/L.67". We now have to consider whether we should vote upon the draft resolution which is contained in document A/L.165.

53. The representative of the United States described the latter draft resolution, which is identical to the draft resolution which was put before the First Committee, as a red herring, and the reasons for which the Soviet Union put forward that draft resolution were commented upon in one way or another during the debate in that Committee. As I sat listening today, I was reminded of an old "gag" which all golfers will appreciate. It is that this draft resolution of the Soviet Union should be regarded as a political niblick to get its users out of a bad lie. It was a general feeling in the Committee that this draft resolution was really designed to distract attention from the other matter which the Committee was debating—the false charges of bacterial warfare.

54. This draft resolution raises the question of acceding to or ratifying the Geneva Protocol. We feel that that is much more appropriately referred to the Disarmament Commission because it seems to us that that is the place where we should seek to give practical effect to these various expressions with regard to disarmament. That is the body that should get on with the practical arrangements for disarmament and really the proper place where a draft resolution of this sort should be discussed.

55. After the General Assembly has just decided to refer the draft resolution of the Soviet Union to the Disarmament Commission, it really does seem to us to be quite illogical for the Assembly to proceed to a vote upon this draft resolution. Therefore my delegation asks the General Assembly to follow the line on this matter which was taken by the First Committee: to decide not to vote upon the draft resolution contained in A/L.165, in accordance with the last sentence of rule 91 of the rules of procedure, which is as follows:

"The General Assembly may, after each vote on a proposal, decide whether to vote on the next proposal."

As we have in this case in fact consigned this draft resolution to the Disarmament Commission, it really seems to us quite inappropriate to vote upon it now. It can be further discussed in an appropriate manner in the Disarmament Commission. Therefore I move that the General Assembly should not vote upon the proposal contained in document A/L.165.

56. The PRESIDENT: I recognize the representative of the Soviet Union on a point of order.

57. Mr. Y. MALIK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (*translated from Russian*): The Soviet delegation explained its position earlier, when it pressed for a vote on its draft resolution.

58. The United Kingdom representative has been telling us golfing jokes, but the purpose of his jokes seems to be to play football with the USSR draft resolution, which he wants to kick back into the Disarmament Commission, even though, as I previously pointed out on behalf of the USSR delegation, the question does not involve the working out of any new international rules. The international rule included in the Geneva Protocol, which prohibits the use of chemical or bacterial weapons and which is binding on all civilized peoples, has existed not for one year, but for more than a quarter of a century. It has given fruitful results. Even the most aggressive States, with one exception, have not risked using chemical or bacterial weapons during this period. Consequently there is no need to call on the Disarmament Commission for help and to ask it to work out some new formulas or rules. The rule exists and is generally recognized as binding. The General Assembly's task is rather to take important international action by asking all States which have not yet acceded to the Geneva Protocol or which, having acceded to it, have not ratified it, to do so as soon as possible. Those which did not ratify it should ratify it, and those which did not accede to it should accede to it.

59. It is therefore quite clear that the attempt of the previous speaker, together with those supporting him, to refer the question to the Disarmament Commission, is nothing more than an attempt to palm the question off on the Disarmament Commission; there, they feel, it will be easier for the United States, the United

Kingdom and certain other governments to avoid taking a decision on it, even as they did from March until June of last year, when the Soviet delegation submitted a concrete proposal to the Commission to the effect that it should immediately examine the question of prohibiting the use of bacterial weapons and take appropriate action on it. On that occasion, our proposal was rejected by the United States, the United Kingdom and some other delegations. The countries which rejected our proposal last year are now trying to do so again. That was the purpose of the draft resolution proposed by the United Kingdom delegation and four other delegations in the First Committee.

60. In view of these considerations, the USSR delegation insists that the draft resolution it submitted to the General Assembly should be put to the vote.

61. The PRESIDENT: I recognize the representative of Czechoslovakia on a point of order.

62. Mr. DAVID (Czechoslovakia) (*translated from Russian*): When the USSR draft resolution was discussed in the First Committee, the Czechoslovak delegation took the position that world public opinion, aroused by the use of bacterial weapons in Korea, was entitled to expect the General Assembly to take a firm stand on the prohibition of the use of this weapon of mass destruction and to call upon States which had not yet done so to accede to or sign the Geneva protocol as soon as possible. That is why the Czechoslovak delegation supported the USSR draft resolution in the First Committee.

63. The principle of international law that humanitarian considerations should take precedence over the requirements of war and that the belligerents are limited in their choice of weapons, is almost a hundred years old, dating back to the St. Petersburg declaration of 1868. The prolonged efforts of governments after the First World War to prohibit the use of chemical and bacterial weapons for military purposes, and the negotiations conducted in League of Nations organs, resulted in the elaboration of the Geneva Protocol, which was opened for signature in 1925.

64. The prohibition of the use of chemical and bacterial warfare contained in the Geneva Protocol is of major importance in international politics and international law. There can be no doubt but that the Protocol, which has been signed by 48 States, has played an important role in the history of international relations during the last decade. Its effectiveness was apparent during the Second World War, when even so cruel and criminal a foe as the Hitlerite fascists did not dare to resort to bacterial warfare. The desire of all mankind for the prohibition of bacterial warfare found a clear expression at the eighteenth international conference of the Red Cross, held at Toronto in the summer of 1952.

65. When the USSR draft resolution was under discussion in the First Committee, even those delegations which opposed it were obliged to recognize its seriousness and importance. They justified their opposition by claiming that the draft resolution was inappropriate in the circumstances, because its real purpose was to condemn the United States, which has not yet signed the Geneva Protocol. The Czechoslovak delegation does not find these reasons convincing, in view of the danger to which mankind is exposed by the use of bacterial warfare. Not one of these arguments can bear serious scrutiny.

66. The draft resolution submitted by the Soviet delegation names no States and attacks no one. It proposes clear and specific action which answers the wishes and yearnings of all mankind. It cannot be denied that several States have as yet not acceded to or ratified the Geneva Protocol of 1925. Certain military operations in Korea have again proved that it is urgently necessary in the interests of mankind as a whole that the Geneva Protocol should be signed and ratified by all States. An appeal to that effect by the United Nations would have great moral force and would help to raise the prestige of the United Nations in the eyes of the peoples of the whole world. The prohibition of the use of bacterial weapons would answer the wishes of all civilized peoples. That is why the Czechoslovak delegation supports the USSR draft resolution calling upon all States which have not yet done so to accede to or ratify the Geneva Protocol of 17 June 1925 for the prohibition of the use of bacterial weapons. The adoption of this draft resolution would help to dispel fears of the use of this weapon of mass destruction. The prohibition of bacterial weapons would help to remove one of the greatest dangers threatening all mankind. By adopting the USSR draft resolution, the General Assembly would help to fulfil the hopes of mankind for a strengthening of international peace and security.

67. The PRESIDENT: It seems clear to me that the Assembly has before it two proposals relating to the same question under this item, and that rule 91 of the rules of procedure was intended to apply to such a situation. The Assembly properly votes first on the draft resolution proposed by the Committee and, under the last sentence of rule 91, the Assembly may, with equal propriety, decide whether or not to vote on the remaining proposals.

68. The United Kingdom has proposed that the Assembly should make such a decision under rule 91, and my ruling is that that proposal is properly made under rule 91 and is, therefore, in order. We shall therefore proceed to vote on the proposal of the United Kingdom.

The proposal was adopted by 39 votes to 5, with 15 abstentions.

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

(a) **Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;**

(b) **Committee on Contributions: reports of the Fifth Committee (A/2537 and A/2538)**

[Agenda item 40]

The draft resolutions contained in the reports of the Fifth Committee were adopted without objection.

Report of the Committee on Special Administrative Questions: report of the Fifth Committee (A/2539)

[Agenda item 49]

Mr. Ahson (Pakistan), Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee, presented the report of that Committee (A/2539).

The draft resolution contained in the report was adopted without objection.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.