

III. GENERAL COMMITTEE

The election of the President of the General Assembly was completed after two ballots. In the first, the results were as follows : Dr O. Aranha (*Brazil*), 26 ; Dr H. V. Evatt (*Australia*), 23 ; Mr J. Masaryk (*Czechoslovakia*), 6. The second ballot, limited to the two leading candidates, gave the following result : Dr O. Aranha, 29 ; Dr H. V. Evatt, 22 ; invalid votes, 4. Dr O. Aranha was declared President of the second session of the General Assembly.

The representatives of the *United Kingdom*, the *United States*, *China*, *France*, *Mexico*, the *Soviet Union*, and *Cuba* were elected Vice-Presidents.

The General (or Steering) Committee therefore consisted of the President, the seven Vice-Presidents, and the six Chairmen of the main Committees as follows :—

Chairman of Committee 1 : Mr J. BECH (*Luxembourg*).

Chairman of Committee 2 : Mr H. SANTA CRUZ (*Chile*).

Chairman of Committee 3 : Dr O. LANGE (*Poland*).

Chairman of Committee 4 : Sir CARL BERENDSEN (*New Zealand*).

Chairman of Committee 5 : Justice Sir FAZL ALI (*India*).

Chairman of Committee 6 : Mr FARIS EL-KHOURI (*Syria*).

The General Committee held frequent and lengthy meetings in the earlier stages of the Assembly's deliberations and sporadic meetings later as necessity arose. Once again this Committee was unable to resist the temptation to discuss in some detail the substance of the matters the inclusion of which on the Assembly's agenda was actually for the Committee's consideration and recommendation, and this led to what was, in effect, another and an unnecessary "reading" and a substantial waste of time and energy. And again, the General Committee was plagued with a long list of last-minute proposals for additions to the agenda.

Sir Carl Berendsen took the view that this growing practice was highly undesirable and unfair to other members, and stated his intention to vote against all such belated proposals unless substantial reasons could be advanced why the items had not been presented in the normal way and at the prescribed time. He voted accordingly, but all the items proposed were, in fact, included on the agenda.