

by States outside Greece and the meeting in that area of the opposing political forces of western democracy and communism. The New Zealand Government was required to consider the Greek question when it came before the second regular session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in September, 1947, and the following is a brief summary of events leading up to this development.

The Balkans Investigation Commission, which the Security Council had unanimously decided to appoint on 19 December, 1946, for the purpose of investigating alleged border violations along the frontier between Greece and the three northern States—Albania, Bulgaria, and Yugoslavia—completed its report to the Security Council on 25 May, 1947. This report concluded that “Yugoslavia, and to a lesser extent Albania and Bulgaria, have supported the guerilla warfare in Greece.” The report recommended that the Security Council should establish a small Commission to investigate any further incidents for a period of at least two years.

A United States proposal to the Security Council that the Commission’s report and recommendations should be adopted was vetoed on 29 July by the U.S.S.R., and a resolution proposed by the U.S.S.R. calling for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Greece was also defeated. On 3 August the Greek Government made further charges of aggression against the neighbouring Balkan States, and asked that enforcement action should be taken by the Security Council to prevent this. Resolutions directed against such aggression were successively vetoed by the U.S.S.R., and as it had become obvious that the question could not be satisfactorily dealt with by the Security Council, at the instance of the United States it was placed on the agenda of the second session of the General Assembly which commenced on 16 September.

After lengthy debate on the Greek question, during which the U.S.S.R. and its supporters insisted that the Greek Government was responsible for the unsettled situation in Greece, and that foreign troops should be withdrawn from the country, the General Assembly on 21 October voted on a resolution establishing a special Balkans Committee, which was adopted by 40 votes to 6. This resolution requested Albania, Bulgaria, and Yugoslavia to cease from aiding the guerillas in Greece, and called upon those three States on the one hand and Greece on the other to co-operate in the settlement of their disputes by peaceful means. It was resolved that the Committee should consist of representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom, France, China, Australia, Brazil, Mexico, the Netherlands, Pakistan, the U.S.S.R., and Poland. Its