

The Special Committee had reported that—

“All sources agree that since January Greek children have been moved from certain areas of northern Greece to countries in the north. These sources have disagreed, however, on the question whether the children were removed by force, or with the approval of their parents. . . . While a number of parents have agreed under duress to the removal of their children, and some children have in fact been forcibly removed, other parents have consented, or at least failed to object, to such removal. It has not been possible for the Special Committee to determine the exact number of children removed under these categories.”

The representative of *Yugoslavia* denied that a single Greek child had been removed from Greece without its parents' consent. The establishment in Yugoslavia of camps for Greek children was a humanitarian measure, he declared, and the children would be returned to Greece as soon as normal conditions were restored.

After some debate, the Committee unanimously adopted a *Belgian* draft resolution with amendments submitted by *Australia* and the *Soviet Union*. This resolution recommended the return of children “when the children, their father or mother, or in his or her absence, their closest relative, express a wish to that effect” and asked the International Red Cross to organize liaison with the national Red Cross organizations to enable the recommendation to be put into effect.

Discussion in Plenary Assembly

When the Committee's report was presented to the Assembly, delegates heard the Slav arguments repeated at length. The joint resolution for the continuation of UNSCOB was, however, adopted by 47 votes (N.Z.) to 6. The resolution concerning the establishment of diplomatic relations and the renewal of frontier conventions was adopted unanimously. The *Soviet Union* proposal concerning the Albanian and Macedonian minorities in Greece, the withdrawal of troops, and the dissolution of UNSCOB, which was reintroduced, was rejected by 6 votes in favour, 47 (N.Z.) against. The resolution on Greek children was adopted unanimously.

During the debate, the President of the Assembly referred to the resolution of the First Committee calling for immediate discussions between Albania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, and Greece. Meetings had been held, and “substantial progress” had been made towards the solution of some practical difficulties, although a definitive agreement had not yet been reached. In spite of the “tough things” which had been said during the debate, the work of conciliation would be continued.