ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION—The Government of India have decided to establish an Atomic Energy Commission with the full executive and financial powers, modelled more or less on the lines of the Railway Board, says a resolution published in the Gazette of India on March 15, 1958. Since the establishment of the Department of Atomic Energy in August 1954, research and development in the peaceful uses of atomic energy have made important and rapid strides. A greatly expanded programme is envisaged for the future, in the course of which India should be able to produce all the basic materials required for the utilization of atomic energy, and build a series of atomic power stations which will contribute increasingly to the production of electric power in the country. These developments call for an organization with full authority to plan and implement the various measures on sound technical and economic principles and free from all non-essential restrictions or needlessly inelastic rules.

The special requirements of atomic energy, the newness of the field, the strategic nature of its activities and its international and political significance have been taken into consideration in setting up the Atomic Energy Commission which replaces the one set up in 1948. The Commission consists of the full time and part time members. The total number of members will not be less than three and not more than seven. The Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Atomic Energy in the ex-officio Chairman of the Commission. Another full-time member of the Commission will be the Member of Finance and Administration, who will also be ex-officio secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Atomic Energy in financial matters. The Director of the Atomic Energy Establishment will be the third ex-officio full time member in charge of research and development.

The Atomic Energy Commission will be responsible for formulating the policy of the Department of Atomic Energy for the consideration and approval of the Prime Minister and for preparing the budget of the Department of Atomic Energy for each financial year and getting it approved by the Government. The Commission will also be responsible for the implementation of the Government’s policy in all matters concerning atomic energy. Within the limits of the budget provision approved by Parliament, the Commission will have the powers of the Government of India, both administrative and financial, for carrying out the work of the Department of Atomic Energy. The Chairman, in his capacity as Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Atomic Energy, is responsible under the Prime Minister for arriving at decisions on technical questions and advising the Government on matters of atomic policy. All recommendations of the Commission on policy and allied matters is to be put up to the Prime Minister through the Chairman.
The Chairman has the power to override the other members of the Commission, except that the member for Finance and Administration have the right to ask that any financial matter in which he does not agree with the Chairman be referred to the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister. The member for Finance and Administration exercises the powers of the Government of India in all financial matters concerning the Department of Atomic Energy. No proposal with financial implications is to be sanctioned without his prior concurrence. The Commission will frame its own rules of procedure and will meet at such times and places as may be fixed by the Chairman.

REORGANIZATION OF PLANNING COMMISSION

The Planning Commission has been reorganized in the following way:

(1) Creation of new Division to deal with—
   (a) Perspective Planning;
   (b) Scientific and Technical Man-power;
   (c) Statistical Surveys;
   (d) International Trade and Development.

(2) Strengthening of some of the existing Divisions, particularly those connected with collection of economic and statistical intelligence.

(3) Arrangements designed to achieve better co-ordination by grouping of Divisions dealing with allied subjects.

(4) In order that the Planning Commission should undertake independent studies various problems, Heads of Divisions should, as far as possible, be full-time officers.

(5) There should be no duplication in the Planning Commission of the work that is being done in the Ministries, and fullest co-ordination between the Ministry and the Divisions concerned in the Planning Commission should be established.

(6) The Advisers on Programme Administration should be more effectively associated with the work of the Planning Commission. Since the Planning Commission is interested in all programmes, both Central and State, steps should be taken to ensure that the Central Ministries take full advantage of the assistance of advisers.

These proposals have been accepted and are being implemented.

REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

The first report of the University Grants Commission was placed before the Lok Sabha on March 3, 1958. It highlights the important activities of the Commission during the period December 1953 to March 1957. The Report at the same time underlines the problem of higher education in the country. The Commission first came into existence on December 28, 1953, and became a statutory body from November 5, 1956 by an Act of Parliament passed in March 1956.

The Report expresses the hope that before long the Commission's efforts will result in providing at least the minimum conditions necessary to create and maintain high academic standards in an
atmosphere free from anxiety and tension. The main functions of the Commission, according to the University Grants Commission Act, are to take all such steps as it may think fit for the promotion and co-ordination of University education and for the determination and maintenance of standards of teaching, examination and research in Universities. The following important observations were made in the Report:

Measures have to be taken both to control numbers and to provide for expansion. We have to attempt to secure a right balance between the humanities, the social science, and the natural science and the professional and technological courses. But our primary concern at present is the improvement of standards and facilities. From this viewpoint, consolidation rather than expansion is the need of the day. The average direct expenditure per University student in India today is about Rs. 500 per annum, whereas in the U.K. it exceeds Rs. 5,000. We cannot hope to achieve any marked improvement in our standards if the increase in the number of students constantly and very rapidly overtake the available facilities. What the UGC can do to improve the standards of equipment and education in Universities will depend very largely on the funds available to it and the freedom of option it may enjoy.

At present in India about 2.2 per cent of the University age group students (estimated at 10 per cent of the national population) are on the rolls of Indian Universities, including professional and technical courses, as compared with about 2.5 per cent in the U.K., 7 per cent in Japan and over 16 per cent in the USA. The Commission has appointed a Committee to suggest measures to determine standards of teaching and research in different Universities in India.

In the first year of independence, the University population of India was nearly 2,40,000. In 1951-52, there were over 4,00,000 students in University classes and colleges, excluding medical and technological institutions. According to the latest estimates, this number is in the neighbourhood of 7,50,000. There has been a similar growth in numbers in professional and technical courses, though the increase has not been quite so steep. The number of University institutions and colleges excluding technical, professional and special colleges, during the same period was 532 in 1946-47, 625 in 1951-52 and 746 in 1956. This has resulted in overcrowding in many of the colleges.

It may not be possible or even desirable to attempt to stop further increases completely. The present rate of increase of about 50,000 students annually on the rolls of University institutions, pursuing courses in arts, science and commerce, will need to be controlled in some measure due to limited resources. There are at present 33 Universities in India which are on the list of the Commission for payment of grants. The Commission has recommended model scales of pay for University teachers, the increased cost of upgrading the salaries of teachers in Central Universities being borne by the Commission, while for the State Universities the Commission is to bear 80 per cent of the increased costs. So far 14 State Universities have accepted the scales of pay recommended by the Commission.
The Commission has also given large grants to Universities for the improvement of laboratories, libraries, classroom accommodation and supply of scientific equipment.

The Second Five Year Plan provides a sum of Rs. 27 crore for the development of Universities, and on the basis of this allocation the Commission has drawn up a list of priorities, of which the largest proportion has been allocated for the construction of buildings, including hostels and staff quarters. The Commission is of the view that top priority should be given to the improvement of physical facilities in the Universities.

RE-APPRAISAL OF THE SECOND PLAN

The latest indications are that the implementation of Part "A" of the Plan might involve a total expenditure of the order of Rs. 4,650 crores as against Rs. 4,500 crores previously envisaged. There will be some shortfalls from the original targets laid down in respect of irrigation and power, while substantial reduction is expected in regard to some industries such as aluminium, structural fabrication, machinery manufacture, ferro manganese, dyestuffs, etc.

In its resumo of the Reappraisal of the Second Five Year Plan, the Planning Commission has stated that the implementation of Part A of the Plan might involve a total expenditure of the order of Rs. 4,650 crores as against Rs. 4,500 crores previously envisaged. The estimates of financial resources for the last two years of the Plan were shown at Rs. 1,304 crores and that for the five years at Rs. 4,260 crores. Between the minimum outlay target of Rs. 4,500 crores and the estimated resources, there was thus a gap of Rs. 240 crores. On an overall view, having regard to possible shortfalls in expenditure and changes in estimates under individual heads, the gap in financial resources may thus be of the order of Rs. 300 crores to Rs. 350 crores rather than Rs. 240 crores estimated earlier.

Food Imports and Plan: The reappraisal points out that as compared to the original estimate of Rs. 1,100 crores, the aggregate deficit over the Plan was likely to be about Rs. 1,700 crores. It may be mentioned here that one of the reasons for the increase in the foreign exchange gap is a rise in food imports. In 1956-57, food imports amounted to 2.4 million tons and for 1957-58, they came to 3.7 million tons. They are estimated to exceed 3.5 million tons in 1958-59. The total value of food imports in the first two years of the Second Plan was Rs. 259 crores, of which the amount covered under special agreement was Rs. 173 crores. Outstanding foreign exchange commitments stood at Rs. 990 crores at the end of September 1957 and at Rs. 888 crores at the end of March 1958. Of the latter, Rs. 547 crores were on Government account, Rs. 300 crores on private account and Rs. 41 crores for imports of iron and steel for use by both the public and the private sectors.

The Planning Commission holds that an increase of agricultural production by 2 to 2.5 per cent per annum, so far achieved, is not sufficient to support a large plan of economic development. In terms of production potential, the achievement in 1956-57 is assessed at
1.3 million tons and in 1957-58 at 2.3 million tons. It is expected that in 1958-59 the increase in production potential may be of the order of 8 million tons. Thus, over the years 1956-59, the total increase in production potential may be less than one-half of the revised target of the Plan period.

Shortfall in Power Production: The reduction in the total allocation for irrigation and power under the Second Plan from Rs 913 to Rs 832 crores is likely to affect the targets for irrigation as well as power. Having regard to the progress made so far and the funds likely to be available, it is anticipated that in place of the additional irrigation of 12 million acres envisaged in the Plan, large and medium projects are likely to provide additional irrigation of the order of 10.4 million acres. This modified target is still stated to be subject to adequate supplies of steel being made available. The impact of the shortage of foreign exchange on the targets for power is likely to be quite marked. In the Second Plan, the target of additional capacity was proposed at 3.5 million KW of which 2.9 million KW were to be installed in the public sector, 300,000 KW in the private sector and 300,000 KW in industrial plants providing for their own generating capacity.

More expenditure in the public sector: In the Second Plan, the total investment envisaged for large-scale industries in the public and private sectors together was of the order of Rs. 1,094 crores. In the public sector, the amount allocated was Rs. 524 crores in addition to Rs. 60 to 65 crores provided for the National Industrial Development Corporation, of which Rs. 35 crores were to be set apart for new basic and heavy industries. It is now stated that the latest estimates for the principal industrial projects in the public sector are placed at Rs. 882 crores, of which Rs. 15 crores are for schemes in the States.

It is generally expected that on present estimates of foreign exchange resources available, 70 to 75 per cent of the capacity targets mentioned in the Second Plan are likely to be achieved. Substantial shortfall are anticipated in respect of aluminium, ferro-manganese, caustic soda and dyestuffs. The target for cement has been reconsidered in the light of development since the commencement of the Plan. In the field of engineering industries there will be shortfalls in respect of structural fabrication and manufacture of sugar (except sugar industry), but the target for locomotives, wagons and bicycles will be achieved. Due to shortage of foreign exchange the targets for achieving self-sufficiency in several lines of manufacture are likely to suffer.

Investment in Private Sector: As in the public sector, investment requirements of the private sector had to be revised upwards. The Plan had envisaged a total investment of 685 crores for industries in the private sector, of which Rs. 535 crores represented new investment and Rs. 150 crores replacements, with foreign exchange expenditure being estimated at about Rs. 320 crores. The total investment required increased by about Rs. 155 crores and foreign exchange costs by about Rs. 120 crores. It is anticipated that on programmes which have already been initiated, having regard
to the amounts of foreign exchange likely to be available, the investment on new industries over the five year period may be about Rs. 475 crores and on modernisation and replacement programmes about Rs. 100 crores, making a total of Rs. 575 crores as compared to Rs. 685 crores envisaged in the Plan.

On mineral development schemes, the provision now required is Rs. 110 crores in place of Rs. 85.5 crores indicated in the Planning Commission. In regard to transport and communications, the total outlay now proposed for transport and communications is Rs. 1,340 crores in place of 1,385 crores given in the Second Five Year Plan. The additional shipping tonnage likely to be acquired during the Plan for about 1,80,000 GRT as against the initial target of 3,90,000 GRT. A Shipping Development Fund has recently been set up for financing the acquisition to the extent possible of additional tonnage in the remaining Plan period. The handling capacity of the ports is likely to be increased from 25 million tons to 33 million tons as envisaged in the Plan. The completion of the ports programme will be greatly helped by a loan of Rs. 20.67 crores from the World Bank, and this amount will be spent for the development of Madras and Calcutta ports. Some shortfall in the achievement in the road construction target of 20,000 miles is anticipated since as against Rs. 246 crores allocated in the Plan, the amount likely to be provided is Rs. 219 crores.

DANDAKARANYA DEVELOPMENT

The Government of India have decided to close down the displaced persons camps in West Bengal by July 1959, and roughly 35,000 out of the camp population of 45,000 families in this State are to be taken out to be either rehabilitated or provided with work pending their permanent rehabilitation. These 35,000 people will be rehabilitated in Dandakaranya which is under development. The number of persons in camps is a little under two lakh, whereas there are thirty lakhs of displaced persons in West Bengal who are not in camps. Some of them are only partially rehabilitated and are anxious to be settled in Dandakaranya. It would therefore be necessary to provide for some of them in Dandakaranya. The first priority however would be for the displaced persons from camps in West Bengal.

The Dandakaranya area is thinly populated at present and it has tremendous natural resources and great development potential. The Government of India have decided to set-up a Rehabilitation Industries Corporation for rehabilitation of displaced persons in West Bengal. The Corporation will have an authorized working capital of Rs. 10 crores, out of which a sum of Rs. 5 crores will be made available to it as and when required from out of the allocations of the Ministry of Rehabilitation for the Second Plan period. It will have as its chairman a leading industrialist of Calcutta and will consist of four other industrialists of West Bengal to be selected by the Government in consultation with him, representatives of the Ministries of Rehabilitation and Commerce and Industry, and one representative of the West Bengal Government. The headquarters of the Corporation will be in Calcutta.
Of the 32 lakhs East Pakistan displaced persons, about 2.5 lakhs are in camps, homes and infirmaries and about 30 lakhs are distributed all over the State in various townships, colonies and concentrations of displaced persons. An appreciable number is settled round about Calcutta. In the past, attempts to rehabilitate these persons have been made in various ways such as settlement on lands, trade loans, vocational and technical training, employment in Government offices and elsewhere and by the creation of employment through the setting up of industries of various types.

The Rehabilitation Industries Corporation will set up industries on its own as well as in partnership with private enterprise in areas where displaced persons are settled in large numbers. It may also undertake allied activities, such as running of training and apprenticeship institutions which will be specifically directed towards meeting the requirements of major industrial projects which are going to be set-up either in the public sector or in the private sector.

CHAGLA COMMISSION AND L. I. C. AFFAIRS

Mr. M. C. Chagla, the then Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court, was appointed in January 1958 as a Commission of Enquiry by the Government of India to enquire into and report transactions of the Life Insurance Corporation of India relating to the purchase of shares in the following companies, namely, Angelo Brothers Ltd., Calcutta; the British India Corporation Ltd., Kanpur, Smith Stainstreet & Co. Ltd., Calcutta; Jessop & Co., Ltd., Calcutta; Richardson and Grudhas, Ltd., Calcutta; and the Osler Electric Lamp Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Calcutta. The Commission of Enquiry was appointed enquire into the LIC purchases of Sri Haridas Mundhra’s shares of these companies. Mr. Mundra was the Director of all those concerns.

Mr. Chagla held in his report that the transactions were made by the LIC as dictated by the Finance Ministry (that is, by its First Secretary, Mr. H. M. Patel) and executed by Mr Kamat, the ex-Chairman of the LIC. Both these officers belong to the ICS cadre. As regards the of the former Finance Minister, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, the Commission finds that he was responsible, at least constitutionally for the L.I.C. transactions. The Commission came to the conclusion that clearly there was acquiescence on the part of the Finance Minister, Mr. Krishnamachari, in the role played by the principal Finance Secretary, Mr. H. M. Patel, in bringing about the transaction of June 24, 1957. It observes: “The lack of repudiation on the part of the Minister would go to support Mr. Patel’s story that the Minister had approved of the transaction in Bombay on June 24.” The Minister is constitutionally responsible for the acts of the Secretary.

The Commission observes: “In my opinion, in any case, it is clear that constitutionally the Minister is responsible for the action taken by his Secretary with regard to this transaction. It is clear that a Minister must take the responsibility for actions done by his subordinates. He cannot take shelter behind them, nor can he disown
their actions. The Minister has complete authority within his own sphere of actions. . . As a necessary corollary, he must take full responsibility for the actions of his Secretary.” The Minister will lay down the broad policy of his department and his subordinates will reflect that policy in their actions. “If any subordinate fails to do so, he may be punished, or dismissed, but however vicariously, the responsibility of his action be assumed by the Ministry.”

Following these findings, Mr. Krishnamachari resigned from the Finance Ministership. A further Commission was appointed under chairmanship of Mr. Vivian Bose, a former Judge of the Supreme Court, to enquire about the conduct and responsibility of Mr. Patel and Mr. Kamath. The Vivian Bose Commission found both these officers guilty of misconduct. Accordingly, these officers were charge-sheeted. Their replies along with the charges have been forwarded to the Union Public Services Commission for their consideration and necessary recommendations in the matter.

INDIA IN WORLD AFFAIRS

INDIA’S FOREIGN POLICY

The year 1958 witnessed India’s leading role in world affairs. As usual, she pursued a course of neutrality in international affairs, but at the same time, she made her best efforts to secure and maintain peace in international disputes. India opposed military occupation of Lebanon and Jordan by the army of the USA. India demanded the withdrawal of foreign troops in Lebanon and Jordan.

Rejecting a proposal that India should take the lead in forming a “third force” of like-minded countries, Mr. Nehru said that militarily these countries would not be able to make any difference. Even on the moral side, the moral pressure they would be able to exercise, would lessen if they banded together into a third force.

Over India’s attitude to Tibet and China, Pandit Nehru said: “There had been internal trouble between Tibet and China. We had some trouble over this matter when Chiang Kai-shek controlled the destinies of China. The world community as well as the Government of India before or after independence had always acknowledged the suzerainty of China over Tibet. We came into the picture not in a particular good way when Colonel Younghusband at the beginning of the century, on behalf of the British power in this country, invaded Tibet and rather forcefully established positions there and gained certain rights for the then Government of India which was really an extension of the British Government.

Whether Tibet was free to act for herself or was functioning under the suzerainty of China, I do not quite understand how India had a right to put their platoons and companies of troops at odd places in Tibet on the plea of protecting their commerce and this and that. That was the position and naturally when we become independent, we did not wish to have any extra-territorial rights in Tibet.”

Over the suggested meeting of the heads of Governments to re-
solve the Middle East crisis, in July, 1958 India signified her intention to join it. India replied to Soviet Premier Khrushchev's letter, saying: "We shall gladly offer our services to it (conference) in the cause of peace, if they are needed." Mr. Nehru reiterated India's firm conviction that armed intervention by a foreign power in any country was most undesirable and had urged the USA and Britain to withdraw their forces from the Lebanon and Jordan.

**QUEMOY AND MATSU AND THE COMMUNIST CHINA.**

India supported China's claim to Quemoy and Matsu as well as to Formosa. At a Press Conference on September 7, 1958, the Prime Minister of India declared that no country could tolerate an island 12 miles from its shores being used as a base for attack on it. India therefore felt that the offshore islands immediately, and later Formosa too, should belong to the People's Republic of China. But this must happen peacefully. This statement was made when China shelled these islands and the U.S.A. opposed it.

The Prime Minister declared that the U.N., which refused to recognise Communist China, was hardly an appropriate agency to solve the current Formosan crisis.

On September 19, 1958, the Steering Committee of the General Assembly rejected an Indian proposal to inscribe on the Assembly's agenda an item on Chinese representation in U.N. It adopted instead an American resolution for applying a "moratorium" procedure, barring any move to oust the Kuomintang Chinese and seat for the Communists, for the duration of the Assembly session.

The Quemoy and Matsu islands have since become the danger points in the conflict between Communist China and the U.S. in the Far East. The first major crisis over them occurred in 1955 when Peiping launched a series of raids and artillery attacks as an apparent prelude to invasion. The U.S. response was the Formosa Resolution of 1955, overwhelmingly passed by both Houses of Congress, which states:

"That the President of the United States be and hereby is authorized to employ the armed forces of the United States as he deems necessary for the specific purpose of securing Formosa (Taiwan) and the Pescadores (a group of islets off the coasts of Taiwan)"

In July 1958 signs began to accumulate that new trouble was brewing. On July 31, Soviet Premier Khrushchev journeyed to Peiping for a four-day conference with Chinese communist leader Mao-Tse-Tung. In the weeks immediately following the Peiping conference, the evidence pointed to a Mao-Khrushchev decision on new military moves in Taiwan strait. Stepped up communist artillery bombardment of Quemoy culminated on August 23 in the heaviest shelling in the island's history. The raids produced warning from Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles and President Eisenhower, but the warnings had no marked effect of communist military activity in the Strait. The last week of July, 1958, began with concentrated effort by the communists to blockade the 100,000 man Quemoy garrison with fields of torpedo boats. The situation has eased a little at the moment.
INDIA AND DISARMAMENT

India and Yugoslavia on 3rd November, 1958 brought to a happy end the three-week acrimonious debate on the vexed question of disarmament in the Political Committee of the General Assembly by securing the Committee's vote turning over the disarmament problem to a Commission made up of all the 81 members of the United Nations. The Indo-Yugoslav compromise resolution, passed on the problem to the 81-member Commission for the next year on an ad hoc basis. Under the resolution, the Secretary General, Mr. Dag Hammarskjöeld, will call the Commission into session "after consultation with the members. This is expected to be early in 1959.

Under the Indo-Yugoslav resolution, which now have to be endorsed by the Assembly, the 81-member Commission would have to submit to the 11-member Security Council and to the General Assembly "at a special session if necessary, constructive proposals and recommendations in the field of disarmament."

The text of Indo-Yugoslav revised resolution reads as follows:

"The General Assembly, having regard to the universal desire for the establishment of genuinely peaceful conditions in the world and therefore for taking steps to avoid the destruction that would result from a major armed conflict, reaffirming the responsibility of the United Nations for seeking a solution of the disarmament problem, expressing its determination that all members of the United Nations should be in a position to contribute to a solution of this problem on a continuing basis.—

1. Decides that the Disarmament Commission shall, for 1959, on an ad hoc basis, be composed of all the members of the United Nations:

2. Transmits to the Disarmament Commission all the documents, proposals and records of discussion relating to disarmament at the 13th session of the General Assembly;

3. Requests the Disarmament Commission to convene as appropriate and to submit to the Security Council and the General Assembly at a special session, if necessary, constructive proposals, and recommendations in the field of disarmament.

INDIA AND SOUTH AFRICA

The 81-member U. N. General Assembly endorsed on December 10, 1958 by 69 votes to none, with 10 abstentions, its Special Political Committee's resolution appealing to South Africa to negotiate with India and Pakistan on the treatment of people of Indian and Pakistani origin in the Union.

The Indian representative said that the Government of India felt extremely grateful to the Assembly for the support given to the problem in the past and to those who made up on that day the aggregate of 69 votes. The absence of South Africa was regretted by India, as the presence of South Africa was necessary for the purpose of fulfilling the Charter. India intended to approach the South African Government again, although she had no diplomatic relations with her for negotiations on the problem without any commitment regarding
the juridical position and at the same time with no intention of throwing the U. N. overboard in the matter.

INDIA AND THE CYPRUS ISSUE

During the discussion over the Cyprus problem at the Political Committee of the United Nations, Mr. Krishna Menon, India's representative declared on December 2, 1958, that India thought that Cyprus belonged to the Cypriot people. He reviewed past debates on the Cyprus question in the Committee and said that in 1955 a new factor entered the picture. In that year, three parties emerged, namely, Britain, Greece and Turkey in the Cyprus problem. Formerly, there were two parties—the British and the Greeks.

Britain, he said, had declared there were two basic principles of British policy—doing away with violence, and partnership. With the first of these policies, India was in complete agreement. Everything should be done to bring about peaceful conditions. India referred to the statement by the British delegate that the ideal of partnership was one of which Britain had good reasons to be proud. But partnership, as in the Commonwealth, is not what is involved here.

India declared that she did not want any confusion or doubt thrown on the free character of the Commonwealth association. India regards it as entirely inappropriate to regard the proposed sharing of imperial power between Turkey and Greece as analogous to Commonwealth relations. The British plan, India observed, could not come into effect without two things—Turks and Greece must elect someone to take part in the legislature, and the Governor had to be assisted by two Governments.

Unless the two independent nations desired to be partners, the plan could not come into operation. Mr. Menon said there was the possibility that partition might become inevitable, but it would be wise statesmanship not to lay the foundation for this. It was not a step forward to have independent nations sitting around at a conference without the people who were the main parties in the problem.

On December 5, General Assembly adopted a resolution on Cyprus expressing confidence that continued efforts will be made by the parties to reach a peaceful, democratic and just solution in accordance with the U. N. Charter.

INDIA PLEADS FOR CHINA

India has been pleading for giving representation to China (mainland) to the UNO. On September 19, 1958 the Steering Committee of the General Assembly rejected an Indian proposal to inscribe on the Assembly's agenda an item on Chinese representation. It adopted instead an American resolution for applying moratorium procedure, barring any move to oust the Kuomintang Chinese and seat the communists, for the duration of the Assembly session. India said that the Assembly in refusing so far to discuss the China issue had disregarded its Charter obligations, of making itself a centre for harmonising relations, an instrument of peace and of the universal character of the organisation.
On September 23, the General Assembly endorsed its Steering Committee's rejection of an Indian proposal for full-scale study of Chinese representation in the United Nations. The Assembly also rejected a further amendment of the seven States to delete the Committee's recommendation that a moratorium procedure, barring any move to oust the Kuomintang Chinese and seat the communist, be in force for the duration of the 23rd session.

INDIANS IN CEYLON

It is a long standing dispute between India and Ceylon over the issue of granting of Ceylonese citizenship rights to Indians domiciled there. The Government of Ceylon is not agreeable to grant such rights to all Indians living and domiciled in that country. Recently Ceylon Government had decided to give citizenship rights to about one and a half lakh of plantation population in all, and that the next step would be to find means of encouraging the gradual return to India of the remaining Indians.

The plantation population in Ceylon of Indian origin must be distinguished from two other categories of persons in Ceylon with whom they are sometimes confused. The first category are those known as Ceylon Tamuls. They speak Tamil but they have been Ceylon nationals for hundreds of years and they are part of Ceylon in the same way as any other nationals of Ceylon. Then there are Indian Nationals who have gone to Ceylon for professional or business reasons. India is responsible for these India nationals and India is eager to look after their interests as best as she can.

Hundreds of these Indian nationals, who had been to Ceylon, have returned to India or been sent back to India by the Government of Ceylon. 48,303 persons came back from the beginning of 1954 to the end of 1957. The Government of Ceylon have the right to decide whether, and for how long, they would allow the nationals of India or any other country to remain in Ceylon. These Indian nationals can remain in Ceylon only for the period of the visas given to them by the Government of Ceylon.

The plantation population of Indian origin constitutes a third category of Ceylon residents. They are about nine lakhs. They have been in Ceylon as plantation labourers for a long time. Most of them were born there. The so-called Indo-Ceylon problem is the question of citizenship rights for this estate labour which has contributed greatly to Ceylon's prosperity and which according to our views, is entitled to Ceylon citizenship. It is about these persons resident in Ceylon that negotiations have taken place between the Governments of India and Ceylon. An agreement was signed between the two countries in January 1954 and further elaborated in October 1954. Since then, there have been differences of opinion between the two Governments over the interpretation of certain clauses of the Agreement and further discussions have been held from time to time. They wish to be Ceylon citizens as evidenced by the fact that almost all of them applied for Ceylon citizenship.

The Government of Ceylon issues periodical statistics on the progress of registration of these persons as Ceylon citizens. Accor-
INDIA IN WORLD AFFAIRS

According to the latest figures received, out of a total of 2,37,034 applications covering an estimated 8,29,619 persons, filled by persons of Indian origin for Ceylon citizenship, only 24,509 applications covering 96,923 persons had been accepted until the end of August, 1958. 196,063 applications covering 6,96,252 persons had been rejected. 7,397 applications are reported to have been withdrawn and 9,020 applications are still pending.

The persons who have been refused Ceylon citizenship have been rendered “Stateless.” They cannot become Indians unless they are registered as such. They could only be registered if they apply for Indian citizenship of their own free will.

India’s stand continues to be that these people have, by decades of their residence in Ceylon and their contributions to Ceylon’s development, earned the right to continue their way of life in the country of their adoption. Those of them, who wish to become Indian citizens of their own free will, can apply to our High Commissioner in Ceylon for registration and, if they qualify under our citizenship law, our High Commissioner will register them as such. India has made this position clear in all discussions with the Ceylon authorities. There is thus a measure of agreement in the outlook of the two countries.

HAGUE CONVENTION ON CULTURAL PROPERTY

The Government of India have ratified the convention for the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict, which was drawn up at the Hague in May 1954. The convention and the protocol have come into force in respect of India with effect from September 16, 1958. The Hague Convention, which met under the auspices of the UNESCO, seeks to improve the provisions of the earlier conventions. It aims at protecting all cultural property in the event of armed conflict. It is based on the faith that cultural property, to whatever nation it might belong, is an integral part of the heritage of humanity.

Under the provisions, signatories to the Convention are required to respect cultural property and protect it from theft and vandalism in their own as well as in occupied territories belonging to another signatory. During peace time, the parties are obliged to develop services and agencies for the protection of cultural property in times of emergency. Military regulations are also to be amended and instruction provided so as to ensure the observance of the convention and to foster among members of the armed forces respect for the culture and cultural property of all peoples.

Cultural property has been defined to include movable or immovable property of importance to the cultural heritage of people, archaeological sites, groups of buildings, books, scientific collections, archives, etc. Museums and libraries are also included in this category.

INDIA’S ACCESSION TO BRUSSELS CONVENTION

India has acceded to the Brussels text of the Convention of the International Union for the protection of Literary and Artistic works, known as the Berne Convention, was announced on September 26, 1958. The Instrument of Accession, signed by the President of India
was deposited with the Government of the Swiss Confederation on September 12, 1958. The accession took effect from October 21, 1958.

The Berne Convention which was the first international convention on Copyright was adopted at Berne on September 9, 1886, and was completed in Paris in 1896. It was revised subsequently at Berlin in 1908, at Rome in 1928 and again at Brussels in 1948. India has been a member of the Berne Union from its inception. Though a signatory to the Brussels text of 1948, India could not accede thereto as the Indian law on copyright did not conform to the Brussels text fully. The Copyright Act, 1957, which came into force on January 21, 1958 has now enabled India to accede to the Brussels text.

Some of the new features are; cinematographic works are given the same treatment as literary works. The author is given the sole right to make a collection of political speeches and speeches delivered in judicial proceedings.

The minimum term of protection granted by the Convention is the life of the author and fifty years after his death except for cinematographic and photographic works. In the case of a work of joint authorship the term of protection is to be calculated from the date of the death of the last surviving authors. The convention confers the right to make short quotation from newspaper articles and periodicals and to include them in press summaries by appropriate acknowledgement of the source. The author is conceded the exclusive right to authorize the public performance and presentation and broadcasting of his works subject to certain conditions.

Unsettled dispute between Government of the Berne countries are now to be referred to the International Court of Justice.

THE ASIAN-AFRICAN CONFERENCE

A conference attended by representatives from forty-four countries of Asia and Africa was held in Cairo December 26, 1957 to January 1, 1958. The conference was a non-official one in the sense that the delegates did not represent their respective governments. Nevertheless, it marked a great step towards Asian-African solidarity and understanding. The conference, although non-official in character, was supported by the respective governments. The conference endorsed India's stand on Goa, Indonesia's stand on West Irian and China's stand on Formosa. Another notable event of the conference was the declaration by the representative from the Soviet Union that the Soviet Government was prepared to offer economic aid without any strings to any country in Asia and Africa.

The Bandung principles were endorsed by the conference, holding that these principles provided a basis of solidarity to the peoples of Asia and Africa. The Bandung principles were therefore not a sudden phenomenon. It was the natural result of a moral development which led African and Asian peoples to awaken to deal with problems affecting their existence and to shoulder the responsibilities of their liberation.