

## Excerpts From Report On 14th General Assembly Of The United Nations

Part of a report to the American Friends Service from the 14th General Assembly of the United Nations. With how much of the information are you familiar?

**General and Complete Disarmament:** The visit of Mr. Khrushchev to the United Nations on September 18 and his proposal for general and complete disarmament has insured that there will be a lively discussion of the disarmament question in the Assembly. The USSR Delegation has since proposed that the item of general and complete disarmament be placed on the agenda. This proposal has been accepted by the Assembly.

**Report of the Disarmament Commission.** Following a dispute in the 13th session of the General Assembly over the composition of a new Disarmament Commission, the Assembly decided to increase the size of the Commission to include all 82 members. It was obvious that further effective work on disarmament would need to be conducted, either by subcommittees, or in some specially constituted negotiating group outside the United Nations.

The full Commission did not meet during the winter and spring of 1959. At the close of the Foreign Ministers' Conference in Geneva this summer, the four powers agreed to the establishment of a ten-member negotiating group on disarmament, composed of five countries from the West (the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Canada and Italy) and five countries from the Communist group (the USSR, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Romania, and Bulgaria). There was much unhappiness at the United Nations over this action. Many states felt it would have been wiser for some negotiating group to have been established under the general authority of the U.N. Disarmament Commission. Nevertheless, when the full Commission met early in September a resolution was submitted by Ceylon, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Ireland, the United Arab Republic, and Yugoslavia, which emphasized the ultimate responsibility of the United Nations for disarmament measures, but which

(a) took note of a communication from the Four Powers indicating the arrangements which they had made for further disarmament negotiations;

(b) welcomed these disarmament consultations and the intention of the countries concerned to keep the Disarmament Commission informed;

(c) expressed the hope that the results achieved would provide a useful basis for the further consideration of disarmament in the United Nations;

(d) requested the Secretary-General to provide appropriate facilities for the proposed consultations; and

(e) recommended that the Disarmament Commission should continue in being and be convened whenever necessary.

This resolution was approved by the Disarmament Commission and forwarded to the member states by the Secretary-General along with his request that the disarmament item be placed on the Assembly's agenda.

**Prevention of Wider Dissemination of Nuclear Weapons.** During the 13th General Assembly the Delegation of Ireland drew the Assembly's attention to the dangers to world peace involved in the spread of nuclear weapons and to the urgent need that the present nuclear powers would remain the sole possessors of such weapons. The Irish Minister for external Affairs, Mr. Frank Aiken, introduced a draft resolution, one paragraph of which would have had the Assembly recognize the dangers inherent in the further dissemination of such weapons. This paragraph was approved by the First Committee of the Assembly, 37-0, with 44 abstentions. In the absence of sufficient votes for the resolution to be passed by a plenary meeting (a two-thirds vote is required), the representative of Ireland withdrew the resolution, expressing the hope that the reconstituted Disarmament Commission would deal with the question as one of its first items.

In the explanatory memorandum accompanying the request that the item be inscribed on the agenda of the present Assembly, the Irish Government states: "In the light of the recognition of the dangers involved in the wider distribution of nuclear weapons implied in the vote in the First Committee in the 13th session of the General Assembly, and the subsequent developments, the Irish Government believes it will be the wish of the General Assembly to give further consideration to this important and urgent question at its 14th session in the hope that effective and generally acceptable means of dealing with it may be found."

**Suspension of Nuclear and Thermonuclear Tests.** At the end of October, 1958, the United States, the United Kingdom, and the USSR with the endorsement of the 13th General Assembly, began negotiations at United Nations headquarters in Geneva in an effort to agree upon a treaty for the suspension of nuclear tests. Substantial progress has been made in these negotiations, although several difficult problems still remain. The two principal ones are the composition of the personnel to be stationed at control posts in the countries where the inspection is taking place, and the question of whether the treaty would be comprehensive—covering underground as well as atmospheric tests. The negotia-

## Semester Begins With Performance Of Bizet's Carmen

The National (Grass Roots) Opera Company will perform Bizet's *Carmen* (in English) in the college auditorium on January 29, at 8:15 p.m.

The company was formed in 1948 by an attorney and businessman, A. J. Fletcher, who wanted opera presented in the English language. One of the main purposes was to give young professionals experience. Experience they got, for they have sung under such adverse conditions as mice in the dressing rooms and blown fuses during performances. At one time the make-shift stage had such large cracks that an occasional heel was lost. We hope that the conditions as mice in the dressing room when they make their appearance here.

The musical director and accompanist is Dobbs Franks, a Juilliard graduate and one time touring accompanist with the Robert Shaw Chorale. Mr. Franks has made several recordings with this chorale, Dr. John Newfield, stage director, is well known because of his association with major opera companies.

The present performers come from New York, Virginia, California, Missouri, North Carolina, Oregon, Maine, and the District of Columbia. Most of them have college degrees or an equivalent from music schools. Yearly auditions are held in New York and Raleigh. The performers must not only qualify in voice, but also in acting ability, appearance, and musicianship.

Singers, who have sung with this company, have also appeared in the New York City Opera, the NBC Television Opera, the New Orleans Opera Company, and others.

If you enjoyed the smothering taste of *Carmen* sung by Nell Rankin, you probably will enjoy the program on January 29.

tions are due to resume in Geneva on October 12.

India asked that the item be inscribed on this year's agenda in the belief that "in the unfortunate event of no agreement being reached at Geneva in the near future, a discussion of this problem at the forthcoming session . . . should contribute to its early and satisfactory solution."

**Question of French Nuclear Tests in the Sahara.** This item was proposed by the Delegation of Morocco. The delegation has indicated that on several occasions the King of Morocco has drawn the attention of French authorities to the dangers of such experiments. The delegation now states that, in view of the anxiety of the Moroccan population which is exposed to the consequences of the experiments planned, and in view of France's refusal to pay heed to Morocco's warnings and of its rejection of the most recent Moroccan note, the government



Escamillo, the toreador, finds the fiery gypsy girl, Carmen, a fascinating companion. From the National Grass Roots Opera Company production of *CARMEN*, by Bizet.

considers that it has exhausted all direct and peaceful means for settlement of the problem, and has decided to put the question before the General Assembly.

**Algeria.** Major developments are expected immediately on the continuing crisis in Algeria. The De Gaulle government faces a series of major decisions on its Algerian policy which cannot be postponed. The U.N. spotlight on French policy in North Africa will again be focused on Algeria by the introduction of an agenda item from a 25-nation group, composed chiefly of African nations, but also including India, Japan, Burma, and Pakistan. Last year no resolution on Algeria was adopted by the Assembly. On submitting the item, the sponsors stated that "despite the appeals in the resolutions adopted at the 11th and 12th sessions and contrary to the wishes of the majority of member states expressed at the 13th session, there has been no indication of improvement in the Algerian situation."

The United States Delegation is again expected to use its influence toward preventing the Assembly resolution critical of French policy in Algeria. In his opening statement in the General Assembly, Secretary of State Christian Herter said, "The United States . . . hopes that no action will be taken here which would prejudice the realization of a just and peaceful solution for Algeria such as is promised by General De Gaulle's far-reaching declaration with its provision for self-determination by the Algerian people."

### Africa

Again, as in the past two Assemblies especially, a number of

important questions concerning developments in Africa will confront the delegates.

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concern is the man himself. Ecclesiastical decrees concerning the relation of the Church with the State have remained the same for the past century, since the time of Pope Leo IX. "Officially," the Church is over the State, and in matters of faith and morals the Church rules. This ruling is very real today. Only last year in Sicily citizens were ordered by ecclesiastical authority not to support a particular party. In Spain and Italy also, the modern Roman Catholic is restricted in making political decisions.

In the U. S. Roman Catholics for the most part agree with the American interpretation of the separation of the Church and State. However, it is the aim of Catholicism to become universal and it is here that we must choose our man carefully.

Senator Kennedy has said that "whatever one's religion is his private life may be, for the officeholder nothing takes precedence over his oath . . ." This holds to the American interpretation of the Church-State relationship. He apparently has a very deep respect for American democracy and our Constitution — which includes freedom of religion and choice. The "official" Roman Catholic decrees refute all this. Senator Kennedy is a man of many good qualities and capabilities and should be considered carefully. The American citizen should study this man and decide what views we can depend on him to hold to.