

It was understood that the suggestions already put forward by the Scandinavian countries would be submitted to the special committee and that member States not included in the committee would be entitled to submit in writing any proposal on the subject to the committee for consideration.

This resolution was adopted by the Assembly by a vote of 48 (N.Z.) in favour with 6 abstentions.

The special committee did not find it possible to submit a preliminary report during the current session.

*Observance in Bulgaria and Hungary of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, with Special Reference to the Recent Trials of Church Leaders*

This question was placed on the agenda at the request of two member Governments—*Bolivia*, asking that the case of Cardinal Mindszenty be acted upon under the provisions of the Charter dealing with fundamental human rights, and *Australia*, requesting that the Assembly should consider the observance of fundamental freedoms and human rights not only in Hungary but also in Bulgaria, including the question of religious and civil liberties in special relation to “recent trials of Church leaders”—*i.e.*, Cardinal Mindszenty and the Bulgarian Protestant pastors. Article II of the peace treaties with Bulgaria and Hungary (to which New Zealand is a party) provides that these countries shall take all measures necessary to secure to all persons under their jurisdiction, without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion, the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression, of press and publication, of religious worship and political opinion, and of public meeting. Later provisions in the treaties lay down the procedure whereby, if disputes regarding the interpretation or execution of the treaties have not been settled by the heads of the diplomatic missions of the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States in the respective countries, such disputes should, unless the parties to the dispute mutually agree upon some other means of settlement, be referred, at the request of either party, to a commission composed of one representative of each party and a third member selected by mutual agreement from nationals of a third country. Should the two parties fail to agree upon the appointment of the third member the Secretary-General of the United Nations may be requested by either member to make the appointment. Decisions of the majority of the members of such a commission shall be accepted by the parties as definitive and binding.