News From The U. N.

King Sa'ud Visit

During the course of a four-hour visit to U.N. Headquarters on January 29, King Sa'ud of Saudi Arabia told the General Assembly that for 13 centuries Islam has been guided "by the principles of equity and equality." The King said that policies of force had been "the cause of the adoption of some of the methods that failed to produce any positive results" and had led to tension, instability and the "cold war." Attacking the armaments race which exhausts human resources and draws all closer to destruction," he called for faithful adherence to both the letter and the spirit of the United Nations Charter.

A new trend that has strengthened the aspirations of human beings and restored to them their confidence was now apparent, King Sa'ud declared. "Our only hope is that the United Nations will strive to comply with the Charter provisions, so as to be very faithful to the principles of justice and respect to human dignity."

Disarmament Talks

The General Assembly on February 15 unanimously endorsed the recommendations of its Political Committee that five-power disarmament negotiations be renewed at an early date. These talks would take into account all recent disarmament proposals brought to the U.N., and a progress report would be submitted by August 1, 1957.

Commander Allan Noble of the United Kingdom announced that the other 4 members of the U.N. Disarmament Sub-Committee — the U.S.A., The Soviet Union, France and Canada—had accepted his Government's invitation to resume their discussions in London starting on March 18. Accordingly, he said, the Sub-Committee would meet on that date subject to the approval of its parent body, the Disarmament Commission.

Chinese Refugees

The Executive Committee of the U.N. Refugee Emergency Fund has suggested that the General Assembly, at its next session, look into the question of Chinese refugees in Hong Kong. At present there are approximately 7,000,000 Chinese refugees in Hong Kong, but it is not clear whether or not they fall within the mandate of the High Commissioner's office. The Executive Committee requested guidance on the problem from the Assembly. It considered the plight of these refugees to be of international concern.

"Aggressive Acts"

By a vote of 53 to 13, with 12 absentations, the General Assembly on February 15 declined to place on its agenda Soviet charges that United States policies constitute "aggressive acts" threatening world peace and security. The vote upheld an earlier decision by the Assembly's Steering Committee. In the Steering Committee vote, the United States had voted in favor of discussing the charges.

Hungarian Refugees

In a memorandum to the Secretary-General on January 15, Hungary charged that many of its citizens who had sought refuge in other countries during the events of recent months had done so "either because of fear or . . . because they were misled by propaganda." Some of these refugees the memorandum said, had committed crimes in Hungary, but a larger number were minors taken out of the country against their will or driven by a spirit of adventure. It declared that a "significant part" of the refugees had since then "realized their mistake," but that "the countries which have received Hungarian citizens are preventing those who wish to return from doing so."

By February 1, two of the countries that had received numbers of these refugees—The United Kingdom and Austria—had answered the complaint.

Austria said in a memorandum to the Secretary-General that there was no discernable indication that large numbers of the 170,000 refugees wished to return to Hungary. It stated that any refugee who wished to return home had only to sign a written statement to that effect. It was noted that of those who had fled to Austria, 1,773 had returned to Hungary from Austria, France and Switzerland by January 20.

The United Kingdom's reply found it "a matter of some surprise" that "the Hungarian Authorities whose continued violations of human rights have been responsible for the flight of these refugees, should now see fit to complain in this way of supposed violations in other countries." The United Kingdom reply said that the allegations of the Hungarian authorities were "entirely false."

Yemen

A memorandum submitted by the United Kingdom on February 18 charged that "countries of the Soviet bloc and Egypt" had been supplying arms and military assistance to Yemen. The memo cited a statement of Yemeni sources in Cairo that $8.5 million worth of Czechoslovak arms had arrived in the country, and asserted that training centres staffed by Egyptian instructors had been established in Yemen "to teach the Yemeni regular army the use of these weapons."

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THE PASTORAL LETTER

fort will be given to world Communism, and the hope of mankind darkened. Without humility, based upon our common need for forgiveness, that relationship and understanding are impossible."

The quoted paragraphs are taken from a four-part Pastoral Letter to the congregations of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and should be of particular interest to the readers of the BULLETIN.

We have, in the portions quoted, an explanation of the relationship of world law to peace, freedom, and religion. As is stated in the Letter, the House of Bishops has again and again given their support, and urged the unanimous support of the Protestant Episcopal Congregations, for the United Nations Organization. However, to our knowledge, this is the first time that the House of Bishops has defined the relationship of world law to peace, freedom and religion, and has urged the acceptance of these relationships in the Church Congregations.