

resolution, sponsored principally by Guinea and India, on the situation in the Cameroons under French administration, which took little account of the positions of the administering authority or the government of the territory, was defeated in the Committee. A more moderate resolution asking the Trusteeship Council to consider a programme of reforms for Ruanda-Urundi was adopted unanimously.

In addition to the debate on the report of the Council and on the draft resolutions, the Committee heard six petitions in respect of conditions in the Cameroons under French administration, three concerning Somaliland and two in relation to Ruanda-Urundi.

The General Assembly in plenary session later approved all the resolutions that had been recommended to it by the Fourth Committee.

Trust Territories of the Cameroons

The thirteenth session of the General Assembly was reconvened on February 20, 1959 to consider the political future of the two United Nations trust territories of the Cameroons, one under British and one under French administration. The Assembly had as the basis for its discussion two reports of a United Nations Visiting Mission which had examined the situation in the two territories and a special report of the Trusteeship Council endorsing the recommendations of the Visiting Missions. The Council's report proposed that the 1946 Trusteeship Agreement with France be abrogated upon the attainment of full national independence by the French Cameroons on January 1, 1960. For the British Cameroons, hitherto administered as part of Nigeria, the report recommended that the future of the Southern and Northern territories should be determined separately. In the Southern Cameroons, in contrast to the Northern part, opinion was divided as to the future course of action—whether it should be reunification with the French Cameroons or union with Nigeria—and a plebiscite might be necessary, but the report recommended that further consideration be deferred until the next session of the General Assembly.

The Fourth Committee of the reconvened session, following discussion of these reports, recommended the adoption of two separate resolutions which had been introduced during its debates. The General Assembly formally adopted these resolutions in plenary session on March 13, 1959. The resolution on the French Cameroons (adopted by 56 votes in favour—including Canada—none against, and 23 abstentions) decided that the Trusteeship should end on January 1, 1960; expressed confidence that elections for a new Legislative Assembly would be held soon after independence; and recommended that, upon independence, the French Cameroons be admitted to United Nations membership. The second resolution, on the British Cameroons (adopted by 56 votes in favour—including Canada—none against, and 24 abstentions), stated that separate plebiscites should be held under United Nations supervision in the North and South to ascertain the wishes of the population regarding their future. The plebiscite in the North would take place about the middle of November 1959, and the voters would be asked if they wished the Northern Cameroons to be part of the Northern Region of Nigeria when the Federation of Nigeria became independent, or whether they favoured deciding their future at a later date. The plebiscite in the South would take place between the beginning of December 1959 and the end of April 1960. The questions to be put and the qualifications for voting would be considered at the fourteenth session of the United Nations General Assembly. To supervise both plebiscites in the British Cameroons, the General Assembly elected Ambassador Djalal Abdoh of Iran to be United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner who would act on behalf of the General Assembly.