

succeed in opening the door to acrimonious propaganda. They therefore decided to introduce a resolution which they hoped would gain unanimous African-Asian support and keep the colonial issue outside the cold war area. The draft resolution they proposed was moderate compared to the Soviet declaration. It stated *inter alia* that "immediate steps shall be taken in trust and non-self-governing territories or all other territories which have not yet attained independence to transfer all powers to the people of those territories without any conditions or reservations in accordance with their freely expressed will and desire without any distinction as to race, creed or colour in order to enable them to enjoy complete independence and freedom." The Western powers were agreed that the substance of the joint resolution could not be questioned and only the language used and the method of timing for the granting of independence could raise difficulties.

The U.S.S.R. introduced an amendment to the joint African-Asian resolution which called on the powers concerned "to enter into negotiations with representatives of the colonial peoples elected on the basis of universal suffrage if necessary under United Nations supervision so that all colonial countries and peoples may attain independence and take their rightful place in the community of nations not later than the end of 1961." This amendment was unacceptable to the Western powers and the co-sponsors of the draft resolution feared that if it were adopted their resolution would not be approved. The amendment was voted upon paragraph by paragraph and defeated. The Assembly then voted on the Soviet declaration¹ and defeated the proclamation by 32 in favour, 35 against (Canada) and 30 abstentions. The rest of the declaration containing Mr. Khrushchov's attacks on the Western powers was defeated by 25 in favour, 43 against (Canada) and 29 abstentions. The joint African-Asian resolution was carried without opposition, 89 nations (including Canada) voting in favour and 9 nations abstaining (U.K., U.S.A., Australia, France, Belgium, South Africa, Spain, Portugal and the Dominican Republic).

During the debate in which they were bitterly attacked by anti-colonial powers, those nations still administering dependent territories adopted a firm attitude. They agreed to condemn "bad" colonialism and to welcome the end of the colonial regime. They defended their policies as having been directed towards the economic, social and cultural developments of the territories which they administered. They argued that all colonies should not be considered as alike, many of them not yet being ready for independence, but all were sympathetic to the purpose of the African-Asian joint resolution which was supported by two colonial powers, New Zealand and the Netherlands.

As neither a colonial power nor a newly-independent state, Canada was not directly involved in the contemporary struggle for the independence of

¹Doc. A/4502 Annex (1)