

Since December 1950 the Assembly has maintained an *ad hoc* Committee on South West Africa which was set up to find ways and means of implementing the Court's opinion and to examine reports on the territory. Lacking the co-operation of South Africa, the Committee has been able to exercise very little influence on the administration of the territory.

At the eleventh session the Committee on South West Africa was instructed to study what legal action could be taken to ensure that the Union of South Africa fulfilled its obligations under the Mandate<sup>1</sup>.

In its consideration of this item at the twelfth session the Fourth Committee had before it the regular report of the Committee on South West Africa, and a special report concerning the legal questions which had been referred to it. While resolutions arising out of these reports were under consideration the Chairman of the Fourth Committee, Mr. Khoman of Thailand, introduced a draft resolution proposing the establishment of a three-member Good Offices Committee, consisting of the United Kingdom, the United States and a third member to be nominated by the President of the General Assembly, to discuss with the Government of the Union of South Africa a basis for an agreement which would continue to accord to the territory an international status, and to report to the thirteenth session.

The Canadian Delegation warmly supported the Chairman's initiative, because it felt that a lasting solution to the problem could be obtained only with the full co-operation of the Government of South Africa, which the Good Offices Committee might be able to enlist. An amendment to elect the third member of the Committee was defeated, and the Chairman's resolution was approved by 52 in favour (including Canada), 10 against, and 17 abstentions. Subsequently, the President of the Assembly appointed Brazil to be the third member of the Good Offices Committee.

Because of its desire not to prejudice the success of the Good Offices Committee, the Canadian Delegation argued that no other resolutions on South West Africa should be pressed to a vote. When this suggestion was not accepted, the Delegation abstained on the remaining resolutions. These included a resolution approving the report of the Committee on South West Africa, and a further resolution concerning legal action to ensure the fulfilment of South Africa's obligations in respect of the territory, by which the Assembly agreed to consider again the special report of the Committee on legal action at the next session, and requested the Committee on South West Africa to consider the possibility of referring further questions concerning South West Africa to the International Court.

### **The Future of Togoland under French Administration**

A Special Commission established by the eleventh session of the General Assembly under Resolution 1046 (XI) visited the territory of French Togoland in June 1957. France, under a new Statute passed by the Legislative Assembly in 1956, had transferred certain powers to the Togolese Government which made it, in the French view, autonomous, and the Commission's terms of reference were . . . "to examine the political situation in the Territory resulting from the practical application of the recently adopted Statute and the conditions under which that Statute was being applied". The Commission was requested to submit its report, with its observations and suggestions, to the Trusteeship Council for its consideration. The

<sup>1</sup>See *Canada and the United Nations 1956-57*, page 105.