

integrated with northern Nigeria and it is not expected that they will wish to change this status.

The Fourth Committee, in discussing the future of the two trust territories, was of the opinion that no final decision should be taken regarding the territories' future status without their inhabitants being given an opportunity to express their desires. With this in mind, the periodic Visiting Mission which visited the territories in November 1959 was instructed to report to the Trusteeship Council on its return on what form such consultation might appropriately take.

General elections under universal direct and secret suffrage had been held in the French Cameroons in 1955, and the French and the present Cameroonian Government saw no reason why the Legislative Assembly of that region should be renewed. General elections were to be held in the British Cameroons in mid-January 1959. The United Kingdom, as the administering power, felt strongly that no undue pressure should be put on the people of that territory to take a decision regarding their future status until their newly-elected Legislative Assembly had had ample opportunity to weigh the advantages and disadvantages of integration with Nigeria or unification with the French Cameroons, or even, for the time being, of a modified type of trusteeship agreement.

In order not to prejudge any recommendations which the periodic Visiting Mission might make, the Fourth Committee did not take substantive decisions on the issue of whether or not to hold plebiscites under United Nations supervision in the territories, but recommended to the Assembly that its thirteenth session should be resumed on 20 February 1959 to consider exclusively the question of the future of the two trust territories. The Assembly agreed unanimously to resume its thirteenth session on 20 February 1959 for this purpose.

When the session reconvenes it will have before it the observations and recommendations of the Trusteeship Council at its 23rd session, together with the reports of the Visiting Mission to the Cameroons, and in the light of these reports it will be able to decide on the necessary steps to be taken before the abrogation of the trusteeship agreements for the Cameroons under French or under United Kingdom administration.

### **Non-Self-Governing Territories**

The Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories has each year examined one particular aspect of the information supplied by the administering members; the Committee's report to the thirteenth session of the General Assembly dealt principally with social conditions in the non-self-governing territories (agenda item 36). The report made reference to such topics as community development, social problems of urbanization, social aspects of rural development, housing policies and race relations. When the report was debated by the Fourth Committee at the thirteenth session of the General Assembly, many delegations drew attention to the discriminatory laws and practices and racial conflict found in certain dependent territories in Africa. This discussion led to the adoption by the General Assembly (by a vote of 79 in favour (including Canada) to 0 against, with 1 abstention), of a resolution urging the administering members to pay "special and constant attention" to the need for abolishing in the non-self-governing territories discriminatory laws based on racial grounds.