

No. 53/52 THE EWE AND TOGOLAND UNIFICATION PROBLEM  
(Special Report of the Trusteeship Council)

Text of a statement made on November 20, 1953, by Mr. A.R. Crepault, of the Canadian Delegation, in the Fourth Committee of the eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly, on agenda item 31.

NOTE: The texts of the three resolutions adopted on this agenda item by the Fourth Committee on November 23 and the results of the voting are included at the end of this statement.

I should like to explain briefly the attitude of my delegation on the three resolutions before us. I should like to say at the outset that my delegation has examined with the greatest care the documentation presented, and has listened with special attention to the statements made by the spokesmen of some of the political parties in the two Togolands. I can assure this committee that the Canadian Delegation understand fully and sympathize with the hopes and aspirations of those representatives from Togoland, who have come to New York to address this Committee. The desire of any person to see his country progress towards a greater autonomy, and better its economic, social and cultural standards is a very legitimate ambition, which my delegation would be the last to question. To that extent, my delegation has always been and is still in favour of any proposal on the present item designed to promote in Togoland the development of elections with a widespread mandate, which would re-establish the Joint Council for Togoland Affairs, and which would help to reduce the frontier difficulties which, we understand, still exist between the two Togolands.

My delegation was pleased to note that the 7-Power draft resolution contained in Document L/308 deals with these points, and formulates recommendations which in our view are very reasonable and appropriate. I would like here to associate my delegation with those other delegations which have congratulated the co-sponsors of this proposal for their initiative and the constructive realism which they have shown. My delegation believes that with the help and co-operation of the two Administering Powers - and we believe in the good faith of these two Administering Powers - this proposal will do much towards eliminating the present difficulties and help those sections of the Togoland population which have a desire for unification of their two territories.

I wish also to associate my delegation with the remarks made yesterday by the distinguished delegate of the United States about the complexity of the problem. From the information, at times conflicting, which we have received from the two Togolands with regard to the exact wishes of their populations at present, it seems in order to suggest that the political mind of the Togoland people is still in