

states tabled a resolution recommending that the Committee for Information examine the possibility of associating the non-self-governing territories in its work in a manner similar to that in force for other United Nations agencies. This resolution was adopted by a vote of 47 in favour (including Canada), 2 against and 7 abstentions.

### **Election of Two Members to the Committee for Information**

Mexico and the Philippines retired as members of the Committee for Information at the end of 1951. Ecuador and Indonesia were elected by the Assembly at its sixth session, to replace the retiring members. The present constitution of the Committee is as follows: Australia, Belgium, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States (administering states); Brazil, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Pakistan and the Soviet Union (non-administering states).

### **South West Africa**

At the San Francisco Conference in 1945, South Africa indicated that it did not intend to place under United Nations trusteeship the territory of South West Africa which South Africa held under a League of Nations mandate. South Africa hoped instead to incorporate this territory within the Union of South Africa. After canvassing the opinions of Europeans in South West Africa and carrying out extensive soundings among the native people there, South Africa reported to the first session of the General Assembly in the autumn of 1946 that the white population of the territory was solidly in favour of incorporation while 70 per cent of the natives, out of the 81 per cent which had been consulted, supported this course. The South African Delegation consequently proposed that the General Assembly approve incorporation.

The General Assembly expressed doubt as to whether the native population properly understood the issues involved, and decided that it was unable to agree to the territory being incorporated within the Union of South Africa. Instead, it invited the South African Government to bring South West Africa within the United Nations trusteeship system. While the South African Government failed to respond to this request, it did not incorporate South West Africa into the Union of South Africa as a new province. It did, however, decide to have representatives of the territory sit in the South African Parliament as an integral part of that body.

The debates on South West Africa at the sessions of the General Assembly in 1947, 1948 and 1949 revolved around the legal issue of whether South Africa was or was not obliged to put South West Africa under United Nations trusteeship. By 1947, all other mandated territories had either become independent countries or were in the process of becoming independent, or else had been brought within the United Nations trusteeship system. The view of some 20 states was that the provisions of the Charter regarding the submission of trusteeship agreements in respect of former mandated