

sion, Sierra Leone, Outer Mongolia and Mauritania were admitted and Syria resumed the seat it had occupied before the creation of the United Arab Republic.

The Assembly also concluded its elections to the Security Council, which had become deadlocked over the third non-permanent seat. In an effort to break the deadlock, it was agreed that Roumania would fill the seat in 1962 and then resign at the end of the year in favour of the Philippines, which would be elected for 1963. Earlier in the session, Venezuela and Ghana were elected to the other two non-permanent seats being vacated and Ireland was elected for 1962 to complete the term of Liberia, under an arrangement agreed to at the fifteenth session.

The Assembly elected members of the International Law Commission, which it had previously decided to increase from 21 to 25. During these elections a Canadian, Mr. Marcel Cadieux, Deputy Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, was chosen by an overwhelming majority from among the 42 candidates nominated. Members of the Commission serve in their individual capacity and not as representatives of their governments.

### **Debates on Colonialism and African Independence**

Two major issues were debated in plenary without prior reference to any committee — colonialism and Chinese representation. On the question of colonialism, the Assembly considered the implementation of its 1960 Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and a United Nations Programme for African Independence. Members gave little support to the Soviet Union's attempts to set an unrealistic target date (1962) for the "unconditional liquidation" of colonialism, and the Soviet draft resolution embodying this proposal was not pressed to a vote. Instead, the Assembly adopted an African-Asian resolution establishing a 17-member committee to make recommendations on the application of the Declaration on Colonialism. The committee, which is to be the Assembly's principal subsidiary organ concerned with the implementation of the Declaration, is authorized to meet outside United Nations headquarters and is requested to report to the seventeenth session. Canada gave its support to this resolution, which was unanimously adopted, with only France, South Africa, Spain and the United Kingdom abstaining.

All other draft resolutions submitted during the course of the colonial debate either failed to obtain the necessary two-thirds majority or were not pressed to a vote. These included a draft resolution proposed by the Netherlands calling for the establishment of a special United Nations commission to inquire into conditions in West New Guinea and, in effect, make the United Nations responsible for the future of the territory consistent with the rights of the inhabitants to self-determination. This resolution was not pressed to a vote since sufficient support for it could not be found. A draft resolution on West New Guinea sponsored by India and five other countries was presented calling for negotiation between the Netherlands and Indonesia under the auspices of the President of the Assembly, but this resolution, on which Canada abstained, was defeated. A third compromise