

trust territories and an equal number of non-administering states. Discussions at the seventeenth session centred upon political conditions in the African territories, especially those in the two territories of Togoland (one under French and the other under British administration), Tanganyika, Ruanda-Urandi and the two territories of the Cameroons (one under British and the other under French administration). Another question taken up was that of the nuclear tests being carried on by the United States in its Pacific territories. The United States Representative informed the Council that such tests would continue but that adequate measures would be taken to assure the safety of the inhabitants of neighbouring regions. During this same session, the Trusteeship Council examined nearly 36,000 petitions from African territories; of this number, more than 35,000 communications came from petitioners living in the Cameroons under French administration.

At its eighteenth session the Council noted with satisfaction the good progress achieved in certain territories, including Togoland under British administration, Somaliland under Italian administration and Western Samoa under New Zealand administration.

### **Trust Territories of Togoland**

The future of British-administered Togoland was the subject of detailed study in the Fourth Committee which lasted for three weeks, since the tenth session of the General Assembly in 1955 had decided that a plebiscite would be held there. This plebiscite took place on May 9, 1956 under the supervision of a United Nations mission and the inhabitants of Togoland decided by a vote of 93,095 to 67,492 to enter into a union with the Gold Coast which became the independent State of Ghana on March 6, 1957. The voting on this plebiscite, followed by the independence of Ghana, brought to an end the trusteeship of British-administered Togoland. When the question of terminating the trusteeship agreement for Togoland under British administration was put to the General Assembly, it was approved by a vote of 63 in favour (including Canada), 0 against, with 9 abstentions.

Concerning Togoland under French administration (Eastern Togoland), the Trusteeship Council at its eighteenth session examined a memorandum from the French Government which noted the French law of June 23, 1956 with regard to French overseas territories and asked the Council to send a United Nations mission to supervise the holding of a plebiscite on October 28, 1956 in Togoland under French administration. Some members of the Trusteeship Council felt that the terms of the proposed plebiscite did not satisfy the requirements of Article 76 of the Charter regarding the "progressive development" of the territory "towards self-government or independence", and the Trusteeship Council, by a vote of 7 in favour and 7 against rejected the French request for a United Nations supervisory mission to go to Togoland to observe the holding of the plebiscite. The Council merely drew the attention of the General Assembly to the French memorandum. The Fourth Committee of the General Assembly spent fifteen meetings studying and discussing the problem of Togoland under French administration. It was evident from the beginning that France's request for the termination of the trusteeship agreement would not be supported by the Fourth Committee. After long and laborious deliberations, a resolution was passed by the Fourth Committee and later by the General