

West New Guinea Agreement

As a result of negotiations conducted under the auspices of the Acting Secretary-General, the Netherlands and Indonesia signed an agreement on August 15, 1962, on the future of West New Guinea. After formal ratification, the two governments presented a joint draft resolution to the General Assembly in plenary session on September 21, by which the General Assembly took note of the agreement, acknowledged the role conferred on the Secretary-General in it, and authorized him to carry out the tasks entrusted to him in the agreement. The resolution [1572(XVII)] was adopted the same day by 89 votes in favour, (including Canada), to none against, with 14 abstentions.

The Dutch-Indonesian agreement called for the United Nations to establish a Temporary Executive Authority and a Security Force to administer the territory and to maintain law and order during a transitional period leading to full Indonesian control on May 1, 1963. In response to a request from the Secretary-General, Canada provided a senior RCAF officer and two "Otter" aircraft with air and ground crews to assist the Security Force.

Year of International Co-operation

Following on the proposal advanced by Prime Minister Nehru of India at the previous session, the General Assembly unanimously approved a resolution, co-sponsored by Canada, requesting the President to nominate a Preparatory Committee responsible for considering the desirability of designating 1962 as "International Co-operation Year". It was expected that the Committee (the composition of which is given in Appendix V) would meet early in the new year to begin making plans for special efforts and projects to mark the proposed year on the coincident twentieth anniversary of the United Nations.

Working Methods of the Assembly

In the past few years, there has been a growing realization that the rapid increase in membership had begun to strain the procedures and working methods adopted in the General Assembly. Canadian and other spokesmen have repeatedly pointed to the need for some streamlining in the conference procedures in order to facilitate the handling of complex and important questions at the annual sessions. With this in mind, the General Assembly referred the item on "improvement on the methods of work of the General Assembly" to an Ad Hoc Committee comprising the President, the 13 Vice-Presidents of the seventeenth session and the three past Presidents attending that session, namely the delegates of Mexico, Peru and Ireland. In view of the initiative taken by another former President, Mr. Mongi Slim of Tunisia, in