

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister of the Union of South Africa said that "the view of the Government is that South West Africa is no longer a mandated territory, nor as far as we are concerned will it become one again. The Union and South West Africa have become one, and must be regarded as one nation".

Togoland Unification Problem

Between the two world wars France and the United Kingdom administered Togoland under the mandates system of the League of Nations, with France administering the larger eastern section and the United Kingdom the section next to the Gold Coast. When the United Nations came into existence both mandates were converted into trusteeship agreements.

The United Kingdom has administered its section of Togoland as an integral part of the Gold Coast, an arrangement which will no longer be possible after the Gold Coast becomes independent. The United Kingdom would therefore like to see the British sector of Togoland integrated with the Gold Coast and the trusteeship agreement terminated. However, the Ewe tribe, which inhabits the southern part of Togoland and a contiguous section of the Gold Coast, fears that integration would end its hope of union with its kinsmen in French administered Togoland. It wants the creation of an independent Eweland which would then decide whether to federate with the Gold Coast or choose some other form of political life.

Another complication is the belief held by several members of the United Nations that the people of British administered Togoland and French administered Togoland want to be united. A United Nations mission in 1952 reported that "the unification of the two parts of Togoland is the manifest aspiration of the majority of the two Trust Territories".

At the ninth session the General Assembly decided to send a Visiting Mission to the two trust territories of Togoland to study conditions in the area and to recommend a programme of action to the tenth session. The Mission was made up of representatives of India (chairman), Australia, Syria and the United States.

The Mission recommended that a plebiscite be held as soon as possible in the United Kingdom administered Togoland and that the Togolese in that section should be asked to decide whether they wished integration of their territory with an independent Gold Coast or separation from the Gold Coast and continuance under trusteeship pending the ultimate determination of the political future of their territory. The General Assembly accepted these recommendations by large majorities. The Mission further recommended that a United Nations Plebiscite Commissioner be appointed to supervise the plebiscite and also recommended that the area be divided into four sections with the majority vote in each unit deciding the fate of that unit. The first recommendation was accepted and Eduardo Espinosa Prieto of Mexico was appointed Plebiscite Commissioner. The second recommendation was rejected. The United Kingdom, as the administering authority, fully supported the holding of a plebiscite under United Nations supervision but it opposed the division of the area into four units with each unit deciding its own fate.

The Canadian Delegation at the ninth session supported the despatch of a special mission to the two trust territories and at the tenth session supported the recommendation of the Mission that a United Nations supervised plebiscite be held in the United Kingdom administered Togoland. The Delegation joined the United Kingdom in opposing the division of Togoland into four units for assessing the results of the plebiscite.