

by member states on Human Rights Day, December 10, 1962. Under the Convention's terms, no marriage may be legally entered into without the full and free consent of both parties. The convention also calls on ratifying nations to establish a minimum age for marriage and a system of registering all marriages officially.

### **First Committee**

The First Committee wound up its three-week debate on the urgent need for the suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear tests by adopting on November 5 two resolutions, one sponsored jointly by Britain and the United States and the other by 37 countries, mostly from Asia and Africa. The British-American resolution was adopted by 50 votes (including Canada) to 12, with 42 abstentions. By its terms, the resolution urges the 18-Nation Committee on Disarmament to seek the conclusion of a treaty with effective and prompt international verification, which prohibits nuclear-weapons tests in all environments for all time, requests the negotiating powers to agree on an early date on which a treaty prohibiting nuclear-weapons tests shall enter into force, notes the discussions and documents regarding nuclear testing contained in the two reports of the 18-Nation Committee meeting in Geneva, and requests the Acting Secretary-General to bring to the attention of the 18-Nation Committee the records of the seventeenth session of the General Assembly relating to suspension of nuclear testing.

As amended by Canada and others, the 37-power resolution, which was approved by 81 votes (including Canada) to none against, with 25 abstentions, provides that any interim agreement on the cessation of tests shall include adequate assurances for effective detection and identification of seismic events by an international scientific commission.

The purpose of the Canadian amendments, as Prime Minister Diefenbaker explained in the House of Commons on November 5, was to improve the resolution in two respects: first, to link future discussions with the reference to testing contained in the recent correspondence between President Kennedy and Chairman Khrushchov; and second, to remedy an omission in the original text by incorporating in it a call for an immediate cessation of testing in the atmosphere, under water and in outer space, on which all sides are agreed that no special inspection mechanism is needed.

The Committee is now engaged in discussing the second item on its agenda, the question of general and complete disarmament.

Two proposals have so far been tabled under this item — one by Bolivia, Brazil and Chile, which aims at making of Latin America a denuclearized zone, and the other by the United Arab Republic, which would call on the 18-Nation Committee on Disarmament to give high priority and urgent attention to collateral measures to decrease tension and facilitate disarmament.

### **Special Political Committee**

No fewer than 73 speakers had participated in the debate on South Africa's racial policies when the Committee took up consideration on October 30 of the