

### 33. THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

The Fourth (Trusteeship) Committee of the United Nations General Assembly undertook for the first time in October, 1947, the routine examination of a report to the Assembly by the Trusteeship Council, which had been established in December, 1946. The Trusteeship Council had met in its first session from March 26 to April 28, 1947, with representatives of three specialized agencies in attendance in addition to nine of the ten members of the Council itself. The U.S.S.R., in protest against certain features of the existing trusteeship agreements which it regarded as being contrary to the Charter, did not attend.

The Trusteeship Council:

- (1) revised extensively the draft rules of procedure which had been prepared for it in London by the Preparatory Commission;
- (2) drew up a questionnaire to form the basis of annual reports from trust territories;
- (3) made arrangements to send a visiting mission to Western Samoa in response to a petition asking for the political unification and independence of the Samoan Islands;
- (4) upheld the decisions of the administering authority regarding exclusion from Tanganyika of persons who had petitioned the Trusteeship Council in the hope of being permitted to live in that territory;
- (5) referred to the I.L.O. other petitions relating to its draft convention on social policy in non-metropolitan territories;
- (6) appointed a committee of three to maintain close relations with the Economic and Social Council;
- (7) authorized the appointment of another committee to participate in future negotiations with inter-governmental organizations;
- (8) adopted a resolution recommending that regular budgetary provision should be made for periodic visits of inspection to trust territories.

In the Fourth Committee the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council and the proposed questionnaire were criticized by central and eastern European, Iraqi and Indian delegates, on the ground that they did not emphasize sufficiently or safeguard the interests of inhabitants of trust territories. It was finally agreed that the comments offered by these delegates should be transmitted to the Trusteeship Council for consideration.