

## **Southern Rhodesia**

On September 13 the Security Council failed to adopt, because of the negative vote cast by Britain, a draft resolution on Southern Rhodesia which would have invited Britain not to transfer any powers to Southern Rhodesia until a fully representative government had been established in the territory. The vote was eight in favour to one against (Britain) with two abstentions (France and the United States). After the vote, the British representative said that Britain would never have been driven to use the veto except in the most compelling circumstances. Britain could not accept the contention that there was a threat to international peace and security in Southern Rhodesia, and denied the competence of the United Nations to interfere in the internal affairs of Southern Rhodesia. While the question of independence remained open, the British Government had made it clear that Southern Rhodesia must first make proposals for amending its constitution so as to broaden the basis of representation in the legislature. During the debate a number of members, including Norway and the United States, urged Britain to use its special influence towards the rapid broadening of the franchise and the elimination of racial discrimination in Southern Rhodesia.

## **Syria-Israel**

In August a flare-up occurred on the border between Israel and Syria. This led to complaints and requests by both parties for a Security Council meeting. The Council, after hearing differing views on the border incidents and a report by UNTSO, voted on a draft resolution tabled by Britain and the United States. The resolution condemned the murder of two Israeli farmers near the shores of Lake Tiberias on August 19, 1963, and implied that UN investigations proved that the murderers entered Israel from Syria. The vote on the resolution was eight in favour to two against (Morocco and the U.S.S.R.) with one abstention (Venezuela). The Soviet veto was designed to block Council action after a number of amendments introduced by Morocco had been rejected.