

## TRUSTEESHIP FOR SOUTH WEST AFRICA

At the 1946 session, the General Assembly passed a resolution, which was supported by Canada, with regard to South West Africa, "inviting" South Africa to place this mandated territory under trusteeship. South Africa, however, decided not to implement this resolution but instead permitted representatives of the territory to sit in the Union Parliament "as an integral portion" of that body.

The question was brought up at the 1947 session by India, which urged that a trusteeship agreement be submitted at the next session. In the plenary session, the strongly-worded Indian resolution was amended to express the "hope" that South Africa "may find it possible" to submit a trusteeship agreement by the next session.

### Canadian Position

Canada opposed the view of the Soviet Union that South Africa was under legal obligation to place South West Africa under trusteeship and quoted from records of the San Francisco Conference to show that the transfer of mandated territories to the trusteeship system was not obligatory. Canada voted against the Indian proposal which expressed disapproval of the failure of South Africa to comply with the Assembly resolution of 1946 inviting South Africa to propose a draft trusteeship agreement for the territory. This proposal was, however, adopted by the Trusteeship Committee. In the Assembly the resolution was somewhat modified, but Canada voted against it because it still seemed to imply that South Africa had refused to fulfil a legal obligation. It was also considered by Canada that the imposition of a time limit for submitting a draft trusteeship agreement would do nothing to help alter public opinion in South Africa. The resolution, however, was adopted by the Assembly.

### BUDGET

The 1948 budget of the U.N. was set at \$34,825,195, an increase of \$6,208,627 over 1947. The United Kingdom recommended an overall cut which would bring the total down to \$30,000,000, but it was decided instead to subject each item to a thorough examination in the interest of economy and efficiency. The Assembly approved the scale of members' contributions which ranged from .04% for many of the small countries to 39.89% for the United States. Canada's contribution is 3.2%, the seventh highest.

### Canadian Position

The Canadian delegation played an active part in the consideration of all administrative and budgetary questions. It was the Canadian view that the budget should not be reduced by an arbitrary figure but that individual proposals should be carefully examined to see whether economies could be effected which would not adversely affect the operation of the United Nations. The Canadian representatives were instrumental in focussing attention on a number of items in the proposed budget which proved capable of reduction. Canada was particularly concerned with the problem of budgeting control and proposed a rule of procedure whereby resolutions should not be recommended for approval by the Assembly until estimates of the expenditures involved had been obtained and considered. The substance of this proposal was adopted.