

militated against the efficient despatch of other business. In addition, the late arrival in New York of some of the petitioners resulted in the Assembly being unable to give to their cases the time and attention required. It was only possible, in the case of the Somali and Cameroon petitioners, for the Assembly to refer their problems to the Trusteeship Council for consideration. It would appear to be desirable to right this situation as it threatens to disrupt the work of the Trusteeship Committee.

### Administrative Unions

Some of the trust territories share a variety of administrative services with adjacent colonies or protectorates of the administering power concerned. The administering states claim that these arrangements are compatible with the trusteeship agreements and that the added efficiency, greater economy, and association with territories in a more advanced stage of political and economic development result in advantages for the inhabitants of the trust territories. The critics of this system express the fear that the sharing of administrative services and in some cases the existence of joint legislative bodies will result in the integration of the trust territory with the adjacent colony and thus jeopardize the right of the trust territory's inhabitants to determine their own political future. The Assembly and the Trusteeship Council have been trying for the past five years to determine whether administrative unions are in fact advantageous or detrimental to the interests of the inhabitants of trust territories. A special committee of the Assembly studied this problem during 1952 and came to the conclusion that, on the whole, the unions have practical benefits although certain reservations were expressed in regard to particular examples. Discussion at the seventh session centred on the advisability of a Brazil-Iraq proposal that the International Court of Justice be asked to give an advisory opinion on the existing administrative unions and their compatibility with the provisions of the Charter and the trusteeship agreements. The administering states argued against a referral to the Court on the grounds that there was no doubt of the legal validity of the arrangements and that any misgivings about the unions must arise from their practical operation, a matter on which the Court would not be in a position to comment. These arguments prevailed, the Brazil-Iraq resolution was withdrawn and the chief result of the Assembly's deliberations was a request to the administering states to submit reports to the Trusteeship Council indicating the advantages derived by the inhabitants of trust territories from administrative unions. Canada supported this decision.

### South West Africa

The *Ad Hoc* Committee on South West Africa, the members of which are Norway, Syria, Thailand, the United States and Uruguay, was reconstituted by the General Assembly on January 19, 1952. The Committee was to continue negotiations with the Union of South Africa regarding means of implementing the advisory