

When the plenary session of the General Assembly took up the question of South West Africa, the South African Delegate returned to join in the debate and made a formal complaint that the Trusteeship Committee, in deciding to hear the Hereros and the Reverend Michael Scott, had acted unconstitutionally. This complaint did not, however, form part of a resolution and was not put to the vote. The two resolutions approved earlier by the Trusteeship Committee were approved by the plenary session; the first, appealing to South Africa to reconsider its position and to resume negotiations with the *Ad Hoc* Committee, by a vote of 45 in favour (including Canada), 5 against, with 8 abstentions; and the second, concerning the normal way of bringing the international status of the territory up to date, by a vote of 36 in favour, none against, with 22 abstentions (including Canada).

In March 1952, the reconstituted *Ad Hoc* Committee on South West Africa, composed of representatives from Norway, Syria, Thailand, the United States and Uruguay, invited South Africa to confer with it concerning the manner in which the recommendations contained in the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice might be implemented. South Africa has promised to give a considered reply to this invitation in due course.

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In the period under review the United Nations took steps in the direction of developing and codifying international law in accordance with Article 13 of the Charter. The International Law Commission prepared a draft code of offences against the peace and security of mankind and the General Assembly considered the allied question of an international definition of "aggression". A conference of 15 member states prepared a draft statute for an international criminal court. At its sixth session the Assembly debated at length the complicated question of the status of reservations to multilateral conventions, as well as a number of other legal questions of concern to the United Nations.

Reservations to Multilateral Conventions

This important question¹ was the subject of a long debate during the sixth session of the General Assembly. The question was also considered in 1951 by the International Court of Justice in relation to the Genocide Convention² and, in a more general context, by the International Law Commission.

¹See *Canada and the United Nations 1950*, pp. 133-139, and *External Affairs*, March 1952, pp. 111-112.

²At its Spring Session in 1952, the Canadian Parliament approved a resolution recommending that Canada ratify the Genocide Convention; the deposit of Canada's Instrument of Ratification is expected to take place later in the year.