

is asserting, in areas which are not included within the trusteeship system, many prerogatives which the Charter gives to the United Nations only in the case of Trust Territories. These pretensions are viewed with understandable apprehension by those powers which are responsible for the day-to-day administration of these territories, and the debates in the Fourth Committee are often difficult and disagreeable in consequence. It has not been possible, however, to prevent the Assembly, through the Trusteeship Committee, from embarking on this effort to expand its authority. A stubborn constitutional problem, therefore, lies ahead of the Assembly, for it will be necessary somehow to relate the claims of the Fourth Committee in regard to non-self-governing territories to the responsibility of the administering countries, which in many cases have held these territories for decades prior to the establishment of the United Nations and which have systematically been developing their own plans for self-government. In spite, however, of the difficulties of this adjustment, the United Nations has already found ways of contributing materially to the process in modern society by which the colonial empires of the 19th Century are being changed in character. Moreover, despite the differences which have found expression in recent debates on trusteeship questions, the Fourth Session of the Assembly gave new responsibilities to the Trusteeship Council by instructing it to devise a statute for the internationalization of Jerusalem and the protection of the Holy Places, and to draft a new type of trusteeship agreement which would provide for Italian administration of Italian Somaliland in such a way that the latter territory would become self-governing and independent ten years from the signature of the agreement.

The Canadian endeavour in the discussion of trusteeship matters at the General Assembly was to urge an objective approach which would promote the real interests of the inhabitants of dependent territories and which would at the same time avoid irresponsible interference in the work of the administering authorities. In summarizing the Canadian position at the opening of the Fourth Session, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Pearson, stated:

Certainly the task before the United Nations is great, and its responsibilities are likely to be steady and continuing rather than brief and episodic. For example, all three of the major subjects which have preoccupied the Security Council during the past two years are related to one great general and continuing movement. It arises out of the transformation of the colonial relationship between European people and people in other continents into a new partnership of free communities. A great tide is moving in the affairs of men, and it calls for radical and complicated adjustment in political relationships. It is not surprising that, as it takes place, it produces strains and tensions, and that some people are impatient for greater speed. But there is evidence before us every day that the process begun many decades ago is accelerating and that a completely new relationship is being worked out between the peoples of the western world and what were once called dependent areas. The United Nations is playing an important part in this process. This, I think, is one of the reasons why the world should be most grateful for the existence of this Organization today.

In the Administrative and Budgetary Committee and in the Legal Committee it was also possible to measure the growing competence of the United Nations in terms of the ability which was being developed to deal with specific practical problems. The same basis of judgment may be applied to the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the specialized agencies and the various subsidiary bodies which work under these organs. In some circumstances the problems which have to be overcome are functional rather than political. In the specialized agencies, for