

The Commissioner will now submit the results of the plebiscite to the Trusteeship Council. It is hoped the Council will report to the General Assembly on the Cameroons during the resumed session of the General Assembly. The United Kingdom Government feels that the trusteeship arrangement should be terminated as soon as possible. The exact date will have to be worked out by the authorities concerned, and then approved by the United Nations.

Non-self-governing Territories

Transmission of Information under Chapter XI of the Charter

At the fourteenth session of the Fourth Committee (which deals with questions concerning dependent territories), Canada joined as co-sponsor of a resolution which set up a special committee to study the principles which should guide members in determining whether an obligation exists to transmit information to the United Nations on their dependent territories.

The report⁴ of the Committee of Six, which adopted twelve principles, came before the Fourth Committee at the fifteenth session. Possibly the most important was Principle IV which states that there is a *prima facie* obligation to transmit information in respect of a territory which is geographically separate and distinct ethnically and/or culturally from the country administering it. On the initiative of the African-Asian states these principles were then applied to the cases of Spain and Portugal, which regard their overseas territories as an integral part of their metropolitan territory. During the session, Spain indicated its willingness to transmit information to the United Nations on its overseas territories but Portugal continued to maintain that by virtue of the status accorded to territories such as Angola and Mozambique, under the Portuguese constitution, it was under no obligation to transmit information on those territories.

After a long debate the Fourth Committee adopted a resolution declaring that Portugal was under an obligation to transmit information to the United Nations under Chapter XI of the Charter in respect of a list of territories, ranging from the Cape Verde Archipelago to Mozambique, Angola and Goa. The resolution called upon Portugal to discharge this obligation without further delay and was the culmination of many years of discussion of this problem in the United Nations. Canada voted in favour of the resolution approving the principles contained in the special committee's report⁵ but abstained in the resolution which stated that Portugal was under an obligation to transmit information on a list of named territories. Canada's abstention was based on the fact that the twelve principles which had been adopted would do no more than create a presumption that certain territories

⁴ Doc. A/4526

⁵ Doc. A/4526