

of the Charter. He pledged Canada's full co-operation in assisting Ambassador Thant in fulfilling the difficult tasks that lay before him.

### **Membership**

During the period under review, the membership of the United Nations was increased to 103 with the admission on October 27 of the Mongolian People's Republic and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. Two days before, these applications had been approved for recommendation to the General Assembly by the Security Council by votes of 9 in favour, none opposed and 1 abstention (the United States) for Outer Mongolia, with China not participating in the vote; and 9 in favour, 1 opposed (United Arab Republic) and 1 abstention (the U.S.S.R.) for Mauritania. In plenary, the application of Outer Mongolia was approved without a vote, while that of Mauritania was approved by a vote of 68 in favour (including Canada), 13 opposed, with 20 abstentions and one member absent.

### **Elections to the Councils**

At each regular session, the General Assembly holds elections to fill three of the non-permanent seats in the Security Council and six of the seats in the Economic and Social Council.

By a series of secret ballots, the Assembly elected Venezuela and Ghana as non-permanent members of the Security Council to serve the regular two-year term commencing January 1, 1962.

In the election for the third non-permanent seat, a deadlock developed over the candidacies of Roumania and the Philippines, which remained unbroken after a number of ballots. Further balloting will take place later in the session.

In accordance with an agreement reached at the fifteenth session, the Assembly also elected Ireland for a one-year term on the Security Council to replace Liberia, which will retire at the end of 1961 after serving for one year.

In the first series of ballots in the elections for the Economic and Social Council, the Assembly elected Australia, Colombia, Senegal and the United States as members of the Council. Later, it elected India and Yugoslavia to fill the two remaining vacancies. These new members will begin their three-year terms on January 1, 1962.

### **Plenary**

By the end of the first month of the session, the General Assembly had completed its general debate and had endorsed three resolutions adopted in Committee, including one that it approved unanimously terminating the United Nations trusteeship in Western Samoa when the territory achieved its independence on January 1, 1962.

On October 23, the Assembly voted unanimously to ask the United Nations Commission for Ruanda-Urundi to make an on-the-spot investigation into the