

The Committee is currently engaged in a discussion of the general provisions of the Draft Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Other steps taken by it include a decision to refer a Polish-Yugoslav draft article on the Rights of the Child to the Commission on Human Rights (it has been proposed that the article, if adopted, be inserted in the draft Covenant on Civil and Political Rights) and a decision to defer discussion of a Soviet draft article on the Right of Asylum until the Committee has considered a draft declaration on the same subject. The Committee should begin discussion of the Right of Asylum towards the end of the month.

Fourth Committee

After a discussion lasting 21 days, in the course of which it heard 14 petitioners and a statement by the Prime Minister of Southern Rhodesia, Sir Edgar Whitehead, the Fourth Committee finally disposed of the question of Southern Rhodesia by adopting on October 31 a resolution recommending that the General Assembly request the United Kingdom Government to secure the immediate suspension of the enforcement of the new constitution for the territory and the cancellation of the general elections scheduled to take place under it shortly. The United Kingdom would also be asked to secure the immediate convening of a constitutional conference, as previously recommended by the General Assembly, to formulate a new constitution for the territory, while the Secretary-General would be requested to lend his good offices to promoting conciliation among the various sections of Southern Rhodesia's population.

The resolution as revised by its 50 African and Asian sponsors was adopted by a roll-call vote of 81 in favour, 2 against, with 17 abstentions. Canada abstained. Plenary was subsequently to endorse (October 31) the Committee's decision by 81 votes to 2 against, with 19 abstentions. Consistent with its stand that it was powerless to intervene in the affairs of a territory that had enjoyed internal self-government since 1923, the United Kingdom did not participate in either vote.

The Committee then began discussion of the question of South West Africa. The debate continues. So far the Committee has heard a statement from the Foreign Minister of South Africa and completed its examination of the 12 petitioners who had been granted a hearing on the subject.

Fifth Committee

Continuing its discussion of the 1963 budget estimates of the organization, the Committee approved on first reading appropriations of \$914,300 for the International Court of Justice and of \$43,059,000 for United Nations staff salaries and wages, approved plans involving expenditures of \$4.2 million for the expansion of the organization's headquarters in New York and of \$495,000 for the modernization of the telephone system at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, and endorsed by 56 votes in favour to none against, with 8 abstentions, a recommendation for increases in salary totalling \$741,000 for general service and manual-worker staff