

trusteeship system was not obligatory.¹ Many delegates, however, and notably those of France and the United States, felt that the Assembly recommendation of December, 1946, laid on South Africa at least a moral obligation to submit a trusteeship agreement for South West Africa.

The delegate of India proposed a resolution expressing disapproval of the failure of South Africa to comply with the Assembly resolution and urging that state to submit a trusteeship agreement for consideration at the next regular session of the Assembly. To the Danish representative this seemed too severe. He therefore proposed an alternative resolution expressing the "hope" that South Africa would submit a draft agreement "at an early date". The Fourth Committee adopted the original Indian proposal, amended by a Polish resolution which pointed out that it was the "clear intention" of Chapter XII of the Charter that former mandated territories should be placed under trusteeship. Canada voted against the Indian proposal, together with the United Kingdom and other Members whose representatives considered it inappropriate in this case to set a time-limit for compliance with the wishes of the Assembly, since the circumstances did not warrant the delivery of an ultimatum. The Canadian delegate said he regretted that the Union Government had not seen fit yet to accept the invitation of the United Nations and expressed the hope that South Africa might reverse its previous decision.

In the Assembly the representative of Denmark succeeded in having the resolution modified so that it expressed the "hope" that the Union might "find it possible" to submit a trusteeship agreement at the Third Session of the Assembly. Canada voted against the amended resolution because it still seemed to imply that South Africa had refused to fulfil a definite obligation and because the imposition of a time-limit for submitting a draft trusteeship agreement would do nothing to help change public opinion in South Africa. The amended resolution was adopted by the Assembly, by a vote of 41 to 10 with 4 abstentions.¹

¹ The text of the Canadian statement on this issue is given in Appendix III, A, p. 238.

² The text of the Assembly resolution on South West Africa is given in Appendix III, B, p. 239.