

and at the Assembly the opposing powers put forward two resolutions, neither of which was satisfactory to Belgium nor to the Hutu political parties representing 85 per cent of the population in Ruanda-Urundi.

The main resolution, which strenuous efforts (including those of Canada) failed to make more flexible, called for an immediate, general and unconditional amnesty and a political conference to precede the legislative council elections which were required to be postponed until May or June, 1961. It established a three-man United Nations Commission to supervise the elections and present an interim report on political progress to the resumed session. The resolution was adopted in plenary session by a vote of 61 in favour, 9 against, with 23 abstentions (including Canada).

The second resolution called on Belgium to facilitate the return to Ruanda of the Mwami, King Kigeri V. It also provided for a referendum in order to ascertain the wishes of the people concerning the institution of the Mwami and, if necessary, the present Mwami of Ruanda. The idea of a referendum was unobjectionable but the recommendations regarding the return of the Mwami were unacceptable to Belgium and to the Hutu political parties. Nevertheless, with active pressure from the Soviet bloc, the resolution was adopted, the vote in plenary session being 50 in favour and 24 against (including Canada), with 19 abstentions.

The Assembly's action in respect of Ruanda-Urundi will continue at the resumed session at which the interim report required of the Commission established by the first resolution will be presented.

Trust Territories of the Cameroons

During the fourteenth session of the General Assembly two resolutions³ were passed, arranging for separate plebiscites to be held in the Northern and Southern Cameroons before the end of March 1961, and requesting that the United Kingdom take steps to separate the administration of both areas from that of Nigeria by October 1, 1960. In the plebiscite the inhabitants of the trust territory were asked to choose between rejoining Nigeria or becoming part of the Cameroun Republic.

In accordance with the United Nations decision, the United Kingdom established separate administrations in both Northern and Southern Cameroons, and undertook preparations for the plebiscite. Dr. Djalal Abdoh of Iran was appointed United Nations Commissioner to supervise the plebiscite. He was assisted by a team of United Nations observers, United Kingdom civil servants and a battalion of United Kingdom troops. The plebiscites were held in February 1961 and not unexpectedly, the Northern Cameroons voted for union with Nigeria while the Southern Cameroons voted overwhelmingly for union with the Republic of Cameroun.

³ A/RES/1352 (XIV) and A/RES/1473 (XIV)