

Assembly. With its admission to the United Nations on December 14, 1955, Italy was automatically given a permanent seat, with voting rights, as the administering authority for the trust territory of Somaliland until the territory achieves independence in 1960. There are thus seven administering powers—Australia, Belgium, France, Italy, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States. The elective non-administering seats are now filled for three-year terms by Haiti and India (until December 31, 1956), Guatemala, Syria and Burma (until December 31, 1958), the latter as a seventh non-administering power to balance Italy.

Reports of the Trusteeship Council

The Council's eighth annual report to the General Assembly covered the work accomplished during the thirteenth and fourteenth sessions. During this time the Council carried out a study of political, economic, social and educational conditions in all the 11 trust territories, considered more than 425 petitions relating in the main to conditions in the territories in Africa; named a four-member mission, the seventh since the Council came into being in 1947, to visit and report on developments in the three trust territories of East Africa (Tanganyika, Ruanda-Urundi and Somaliland), and dealt with a number of specific questions referred to it by the General Assembly. Three major resolutions emerged from the debate at the ninth session of the General Assembly. The first noted with concern that no progress had been made in negotiations between the Governments of Ethiopia and Italy on the delimitation of the frontier between Somaliland under Italian administration and Ethiopia, and urged the two Governments to achieve a final settlement by direct negotiation. The Canadian Representative voted against a paragraph setting a time-limit to these negotiations, and abstained on the resolution as a whole on the grounds that it would be desirable to give the parties all the latitude possible and that the statements of both the Ethiopian Representative and the Italian observer gave reasons to hope that a solution would soon be reached. A second resolution¹ was designed to have the Council consider the question of the attainment of self-government or independence simultaneously with its regular and detailed appraisal of political, economic, social and educational developments. It reiterated the view of a majority in the Assembly that a time-limit should be set for the attainment of these objectives. Canada voted against this resolution in accordance with its practice of opposing resolutions which seem likely to prove impractical to apply or raise false hopes among the indigenous population. Predetermining a date for a territory's self-government or independence presents serious disadvantages and hazards; if set too early it might disrupt orderly and organic development; if set too late it might cause unnecessary delay. The Canadian Representative voted for a third resolution recommending measures for the financing of plans for economic development of Somaliland under Italian administration.

At its two sessions in 1955, the Council had before it reports for the year ending December 31, 1953 from the administering authorities, namely, from the United Kingdom on Tanganyika, on the Cameroons and on Togoland under British administration; from France on the Cameroons and on Togoland under French administration; from Australia on New Guinea and on Nauru; from the United States on the Pacific Island (Marshall, Caroline, Marianas); from New Zealand on Western Samoa; from Belgium on Ruanda-Urundi; and from Italy on Somaliland. All these reports were incorporated in the Council's report to the tenth session of the General Assembly. The Council dealt with a number of other questions referred to it by the Assembly:

¹Resolution 858 (IX).