

broad powers of supervision to the Assembly in regard to trust territories. The point at issue is how the Assembly should use these powers and what degree of supervision should be exercised by the Assembly over both the administering authorities and the Trusteeship Council. A considerable number of non-administering powers, usually forming a majority in the Assembly — among them the Soviet bloc as well as groups of Asian, Latin American and Middle Eastern states — wish to extend the supervisory role of the Assembly to include a close scrutiny of the manner in which the territories are administered. Some of these states have also asserted that all resolutions regarding trust territories which are passed by the Assembly must be implemented by the Trusteeship Council and the administering authorities.

The administering authorities contend that the Assembly should confine itself to discussion and recommendations regarding broad matters of policy and leave to the Trusteeship Council questions of detailed supervision. They argue that the balanced membership of administering and non-administering states in the Council (as well as the personal qualifications of the individual representatives in the Council) make it a more suitable organ for this purpose. Concerning the obligatory character of resolutions adopted by the Assembly on trusteeship questions, some of the administering powers argue that their responsibilities are clearly defined under the terms of the Charter and of the trusteeship agreements and that it is not always in the best interests of the inhabitants of the trust territory concerned to implement fully a particular Assembly resolution. They point out the difficulty that an administering power is under in carrying out the terms of a resolution which it has consistently opposed in the Assembly and in the Council.

The Trusteeship Council, although performing its duties under the authority of the General Assembly, is established as a principal organ of the United Nations. The Canadian position is that the Assembly should concern itself principally with broad questions of policy and leave to the Trusteeship Council some freedom of action in supervising the detailed operations of the trusteeship system. Canadian Delegations have accordingly opposed resolutions which, in their judgement, would have the effect of reducing the Trusteeship Council to a mere rubber stamp of the Assembly. On the other hand, Canada recognizes that some of the criticism directed by the non-administering powers at the administering authorities is both constructive and sincere. These broad issues were reflected in the debates on specific items at the sixth session of the Assembly, some of which are described below.

Italy's Admission to Membership in the United Nations

The General Assembly at its fifth session in 1950 had approved a trusteeship agreement appointing Italy administering authority over the former Italian colony of Somaliland. At its eighth session in 1951,² the Trusteeship Council adopted changes in its rules of

²Four sessions of the Trusteeship Council have been held at United Nations Headquarters since January 1, 1951. The eighth session was held during February and March, 1951, the ninth during June and July, 1951, the tenth during February and March, 1952 and the eleventh during June and July, 1952.