

a stage of evolution. It is, of course, the duty of this Committee to take, within the limit of its competence, the measures necessary to accelerate this political evolution in the two territories; but it would be nonetheless regrettable if, in a desire to hasten excessively this evolution, our Committee were to impose on the Togoland people solutions which they themselves are not yet prepared to accept, and which in any case they would wish further opportunity to consider. In the view of my delegation, the 7-Power proposal contained in Document L/308 takes due account of these considerations.

The principle of universal suffrage, ... to which reference is made in the second resolution before us, in Document L/309, is obviously a principle which the great majority of this Commission, including the Canadian Delegation, accepts without question. Universal suffrage constitutes an essential and necessary stage in any rational evolution towards self-government. But this same principle, ... as dealt with in Document L/309 is presented to us under circumstances which must necessarily modify its relevancy and its applicability. The first difficulty which we find is to reconcile the type of electoral consultations contemplated in this resolution with the present trusteeship status of the two territories. In the light of the present conditions prevailing in the two Togolands and of what we have said earlier about the importance of gradual evolution in achieving constitutional progress, my delegation is inclined to consider the present proposal premature. The remarks of the distinguished delegate of France this morning on the possible social impact of the proposal cannot also be ignored. The idea of urgency which we find in a number of places in the proposal would also seem to go against this notion of gradual progress to which I have already made reference.

I now come ... to the resolution dealing with the question of the possible integration of British Togoland into the Gold Coast. As a number of delegations, and particularly those of France and New Zealand, have already outlined some of the considerations which make the acceptance of this proposal difficult, I will limit myself here to stating that the general tone of this proposal seems to us to prejudice the question as a whole. My delegation has indeed had the impression in examining this proposal that its sponsors wish this Committee to assume now the responsibility of advising the population of the two Togolands that the only solution to their problems lies in the unification of their two territories, and to warn them against considering any other solution. This resolution is not, therefore, in the opinion of my delegation, in keeping with previous resolutions passed in the Assembly in which emphasis has been placed on the importance of encouraging the peoples of the two Togolands to progress to the stage where their future can be decided as a result of their freely expressed wishes. This comment would seem particularly applicable to paragraph 3 of the operative part of the draft resolution which states a principle inadmissible to my delegation.

For these reasons, my delegation will not be able to lend its support to the two draft resolutions in Document A/C.4/L/309 and A/C.4/L/310. But as I have already indicated, we shall be pleased to support the revised text of the 7-Power proposal contained in Document A/C.4/L/308.