



Ninth session
Agenda item 57

THE TUNISIA QUESTION

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Oscar THORSING (Sweden)

1. By a letter dated 28 July 1954 (A/2683), the representative of Afghanistan, Burma, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Pakistan, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Thailand and Yemen requested the inclusion in the provisional agenda of the ninth regular session of the General Assembly of the item "The Tunisia question". The request was accompanied by an explanatory memorandum.
2. At its 478th plenary meeting on 25 September 1954, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in the agenda and, at the same meeting, referred it to the First Committee for consideration and report.
3. The First Committee considered the question at its 753rd and 754th meetings on 16 December 1954.
4. At the 753rd meeting, the representative of Syria introduced a joint draft resolution (A/C.1/L.128) sponsored by Afghanistan, Burma, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Pakistan, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Thailand and Yemen. Under the terms of the joint draft resolution, the General Assembly, having considered the Tunisian question would note that the parties concerned had entered into negotiations and that these negotiations were still in progress; would appeal to the parties to deal with the problem in a spirit of mutual understanding, and express the hope that the said negotiations would bring about a satisfactory solution in conformity with the

principles of the Charter. The General Assembly would decide to postpone for the time being the further consideration of the item.

5. In the course of the general debate, at the 753rd meeting, amendments to the text of the joint draft resolution were submitted verbally by the representatives of Mexico, El Salvador, Bolivia, Israel, Ecuador, the Dominican Republic and Costa Rica.

6. At the 754th meeting, the representative of Syria, on behalf of the co-sponsors of the joint draft resolution, introduced a revised draft (A/C.1/L.128/Rev.1) which took into account certain suggestions made verbally at the preceding meeting by various delegations.

7. Under the terms of the revised joint draft resolution the General Assembly, having considered the Tunisian question, would note with satisfaction that the parties concerned had entered into negotiations and that these negotiations were still in progress; it would express the hope that the said negotiations would bring about a satisfactory solution. The operative paragraph of the original joint draft resolution would remain unchanged.

8. The representative of Costa Rica suggested verbally that the third paragraph of the preamble should be modified by replacing the word "hope" by the word "confidence". It should read: "expressing confidence that the said negotiations will bring about a satisfactory solution". The amendment, which was supported by the representative of Colombia, was accepted on behalf of the co-sponsors by the representative of Syria and was incorporated in the text.

9. The joint draft resolution (A/C.1/L.128/Rev.1), as modified, was approved by a roll-call vote of 54 to none, with 3 abstentions as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Argentina, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America, Venezuela, Yeman and Yugoslavia.

Against: None.

Abstentions: Australia, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom of
Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

10. The First Committee therefore recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

THE TUNISIA QUESTION

The General Assembly,

Having considered the Tunisian question;

Noting with satisfaction that the parties concerned have entered into negotiations and that these negotiations are still in progress;

Expressing confidence that the said negotiations will bring about a satisfactory solution;

Decides to postpone for the time being further consideration of this item.
