

Third session

APPEAL TO THE GREAT POWERS TO RENEW THEIR EFFORTS TO COMPOSE
THEIR DIFFERENCES AND ESTABLISH A LASTING PEACEReport of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. S. SÄRPER (Turkey)

1. On 30 September 1948 the representative of Mexico submitted a draft resolution (A/662/Rev.1) appealing to the Great Powers to renew their efforts to compose their differences and establish a lasting peace. On 16 October, the General Assembly, in accordance with the recommendation of the General Committee (A/684), referred this draft resolution to the First Committee for consideration and report, while leaving that Committee complete freedom of decision as to the priority to be granted to this additional item in the arrangement of its agenda. At its 165th meeting on 20 October 1948, the First Committee considered the question of the relative urgency of this draft resolution, and decided at its following meeting to take it into consideration forthwith.
2. After discussion at its 167th meeting on 21 October 1948, the First Committee, on the proposal of the representative of Burma, unanimously decided to establish a Sub-Committee composed of the representatives of the five Great Powers, together with Mexico and five other Members to be nominated by the Chairman of the First Committee. The Sub-Committee was instructed to consider the draft resolution submitted by the delegation of Mexico together with the amendments submitted by the delegations of France (A/C.1/342) and of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (A/C.1/343), with a view to reaching an agreed text.
3. The Sub-Committee was accordingly composed as follows: the representatives of Burma, China, Czechoslovakia, France, Haiti, Mexico, Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States of America, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Venezuela.
4. At its first meeting held on 21 October 1948, the Sub-Committee reached unanimous agreement on a draft resolution composed in the following manner:
 - (a) The seven paragraphs of the preamble to the draft resolution submitted by the delegation of Mexico (A/662/Rev.1) was unanimously

approved.

(b) The first three paragraphs of the amendment submitted by the delegation of France (A/C.1/342) were unanimously approved with the following addition: on the proposal of the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the reference included in the Mexican draft resolution to Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin as the signatories of the Declaration made at Yalta on 11 February 1945 was re-inserted.

(c) The text submitted by the delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (A/C.1/343) for paragraph 4 of the operative part of the Mexican draft resolution was unanimously accepted.

5. The report of the Sub-Committee (A/C.1/344) was considered by the First Committee at its 168th meeting on 22 October 1948. The statements made by several delegations regarding the significant nature of the resolution and, notably by the representative of Australia, regarding the appropriate manner of its application by the Great Allied Powers, are recorded in the summary record of this meeting (A/C.1/SR.168). In the interests of unanimity, the amendment submitted by the representative of Lebanon (A/C.1/345) was withdrawn. At the close of the debate, the draft resolution submitted by the Sub-Committee was unanimously approved.

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

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1. WHEREAS it is the essential purpose of the United Nations to maintain international peace and security and to that end it must co-ordinate its efforts to bring about by peaceful means the settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace,

2. WHEREAS the United Nations should be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of this common end,

3. WHEREAS the United Nations cannot fully attain its aims so long as the recent war remains in process of liquidation and so long as all the peace treaties have not been concluded and put into force,

4. WHEREAS the Great Allied Powers, which bore the heaviest burden in the war and whose common sacrifice and effort were the prime cause of victory, have reaffirmed, on many solemn occasions, their determination to maintain and strengthen in the peace that unity of purpose and of action which has made possible the victory of the United Nations,

5. WHEREAS the aforementioned Allied Powers, which undertook at the second Moscow Conference responsibility for drafting and concluding the peace treaties, have not been able, after three years of effort, to obtain the full realization of their high mission by building a just and lasting peace,

6. WHEREAS the disagreement between the said Powers in a matter of vital importance to all the United Nations is at the present time the cause of the deepest anxiety among all the peoples of the world, and

7. WHEREAS the United Nations, in the performance of its most sacred mission, is bound to afford its assistance and co-operation in the settlement of a situation the continuation of which involves grave dangers for international peace,

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. RECALLS the declarations made at Yalta on 11 February 1945 by Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin, in which the signatories

"reaffirm our faith in the principles of the Atlantic Charter, our pledge in the Declaration by the United Nations, and our determination to build in co-operation with other peace-loving nations a world order under law, dedicated to peace, security, freedom and the general well-being of all mankind",

and proclaim that

"only with continuing and growing co-operation and understanding among our three countries, and among all the peace-loving nations, can the highest aspiration of humanity be realized - a secure and lasting peace which will, in the words of the Atlantic Charter 'afford assurance that all the men in all the lands may live out their lives in freedom from fear and want'";

2. ENDORSES these declarations and expresses its convictions that the Great Allied Powers will, in their policies, conform to the spirit of the said declarations;

3. RECOMMENDS the Powers signatories to the Moscow Agreements of 24 December 1945, and the Powers which subsequently acceded thereto, to redouble their efforts, in a spirit of solidarity and mutual understanding, to secure in the briefest possible time the final settlement of the war and the conclusion of all the peace settlements;

4. RECOMMENDS the aforementioned Powers to associate with them, in the performance of such a noble task, the States which subscribed and adhered to the Washington Declaration of 1 January 1942.