

UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



Distr.  
GENERAL

A/4802/Add.1  
25 July 1961

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Sixteenth session

PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE SIXTEENTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY: ITEM PROPOSED BY AUSTRIA

THE STATUS OF THE GERMAN-SPEAKING ELEMENT IN THE PROVINCE OF BOLZANO  
(BOZEN); IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 1497 (XV) OF THE GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS OF 31 OCTOBER 1960

Addendum

Letter dated 25 July 1961 from the Permanent Representative of Austria  
to the United Nations, addressed to the Secretary-General

Pursuant to my letter No. 263-Res/61 of 18 July 1961, in which I proposed the item "The status of the German speaking element in the Province of Bolzano (Bozen). Implementation of resolution 1497 (XV) of the General Assembly of the United Nations of 31 October 1960" for inclusion in the agenda of the sixteenth regular session of the United Nations General Assembly, I have the honour to transmit, under same cover, an explanatory memorandum under the terms of rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

(Signed) F. MATSCH  
Permanent Representative of Austria  
to the United Nations

## EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. On 31 October 1960, and following thorough discussion of the South Tyrol Problem in the Special Political Committee, the General Assembly adopted unanimously resolution 1497 (XV), urging Austria and Italy to resume negotiations on the implementation of the Paris Agreement of 5 September 1946, and recommending that in the event of these negotiations not leading to satisfactory results, both parties should give favourable consideration to the possibility of seeking a solution of their differences by other peaceful means.
2. In compliance with these recommendations, Austria and Italy resumed their bilateral negotiations early in 1961 in an effort to arrive at a reconciliation of their different points of view. To this end, delegations headed by the Foreign Ministers of the two countries met at Milan, Italy, on 27 and 28 January; at Klagenfurt, Austria, on 24 and 25 May; and at Zurich, Switzerland, on 24 June 1961. Prior to the Klagenfurt meeting, the two points of view had been clarified through diplomatic channels, and prior to the Zurich meeting the two positions had been thoroughly examined by an Austro-Italian Committee of Experts.
3. However, since it proved impossible to reach a narrowing-down of the differences of opinion, all these efforts, unfortunately, failed.
4. In view of this situation, the Austrian delegation at the Zurich meeting deemed it necessary to propose to the Italian delegation, in accordance with operative paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 1497 (XV) of 31 October 1960, to enter into negotiations on the selection of another peaceful means for the settlement of the dispute. To this effect, Austria proposed the establishment of an International Commission of Enquiry to examine the facts of the situation, whereas Italy held the view that the most appropriate peaceful means would be to submit the question to the International Court of Justice.
5. In compliance with a request of the Italian delegation, the Austrian proposal was formulated in a note verbale of 4 July 1961, to which, however, the Austrian Government has so far not received the promised reply from the Italian Government.
6. Since it is impossible for the Government of Austria to avail itself of another peaceful means, as recommended by the aforementioned General Assembly resolution, without the consent of the Government of Italy, the Austrian

Government feels compelled to propose, in good time, the inscription of this item on the agenda of the sixteenth session of the United Nations General Assembly, in order to report to the General Assembly on the outcome of the bilateral negotiations, and in order to request the General Assembly's assistance in selecting another peaceful means for the solution of the dispute, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1497 (XV) of 31 October 1960.

-----