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*Twenty-second*  
Twentieth sessionREQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF A SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM IN THE  
AGENDA OF THE TWENTIETH SESSION~~PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES~~*Letter verbal 17 August 1965*

Letter dated 19 August 1965 from the Permanent Representative of  
the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the  
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, I have the honour to request you, in accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, to include in the agenda for the twentieth session of the General Assembly a supplementary item entitled "Peaceful settlement of disputes".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure an explanatory  
..... memorandum is enclosed.

(Signed) CARADON

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. The peaceful settlement of international disputes is essential if the world is to behave as an international community living in peace and order. The prohibition of the threat or use of force as a means of settling international disputes necessarily requires that the United Nations should devote all its efforts to establishing methods and machinery whereby international disputes may be settled by peaceful means. The United Nations Charter recognizes this in Article 2, paragraph 3, in Article 33 and elsewhere. A study of this vital subject should accordingly be set on foot now.
2. The course of recent discussions within the United Nations on past and future peace-keeping operations fortifies this conclusion. Serious differences of opinion have been expressed regarding action which the United Nations has taken in certain cases to prevent or deal with the consequences of armed conflict. It is therefore all the more important to endeavour to bring to bear the resources of the international community as a whole in order to solve effectively the underlying disputes which give rise to, or which threaten to give rise to, a state of conflict.
3. The United Kingdom Government recognize that the principle of the peaceful settlement of disputes has also been discussed in general terms under the item entitled "Principles of international law concerning friendly relations and co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations". The Special Committee which met in Mexico City in the summer of 1964 was not, however, able in the time available to reach a consensus on the constituent elements of this principle. The United Kingdom Government consider that the subject of peaceful settlement is of such importance that it merits a separate study directed not simply to elaborating general principles but also to examining existing and new methods and machinery for peaceful settlement. The materials produced in the course of discussion of item 96 proposed by the Government of Madagascar and the further discussion of that part of the friendly relations item which deals with methods of fact-finding will be of great value for the general study which the United Kingdom Government propose. In view of the importance of the subject, however, and in view of the desire of the United Kingdom Government to initiate a study of the entire field of peaceful settlement

of disputes in all its aspects, the United Kingdom Government consider that this subject should be inscribed on the agenda of the General Assembly as a separate and distinct item.

4. The study envisaged should be of the broadest character and should take into account not only methods of peaceful settlement relating to the solution of legal disputes but also the political aspects of the problem. The study should embrace not only consideration of all methods which have been used in the past but also consideration of any new methods which seem to the Members of the United Nations to contain some promise of improved State practice in this matter. It may be desirable to request the assistance of the United Nations Secretariat to assemble materials illustrating past practice within the United Nations and its specialized agencies in this field.

5. The United Kingdom Government hope that the Members of the United Nations will collaborate in this new and important endeavour which can only be helpful to the strengthening of world peace. It is recognized that the subject is broad and requires careful consideration and study. An appropriate programme for this purpose should be established in the light of the discussion of this item by the General Assembly at its twentieth session.

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