



Ninth session
Agenda item 69

PROHIBITION OF PROPAGANDA IN FAVOUR OF A NEW WAR

Report of the Ad Hoc Political Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Adil DERINSU (Turkey)

1. By a letter dated 5 October 1954 addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/2744), the Chairman of the delegation of Czechoslovakia requested that the item "Prohibition of propaganda in favour of a new war" should be included in the agenda of the ninth session of the General Assembly, and submitted an explanatory memorandum and a draft resolution on the question.
2. The General Assembly, at its 495th meeting on 21 October 1954, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda, and referred it to the Ad Hoc Political Committee for consideration and report.
3. The Ad Hoc Political Committee considered the question at its 38th to 41st meetings from 30 November to 2 December.
4. At the 38th meeting on 30 November, the Ad Hoc Political Committee had before it the draft resolution submitted by Czechoslovakia (A/AC.76/L.16), according to which the General Assembly (a) considering that the cessation of hostilities in Korea and the restoration of peace in Indo-China had contributed to a relaxation of tension in international relations and that more favourable conditions had consequently been created for the settlement of unsolved international problems and the strengthening of peace; (b) noting at the same time that propaganda in favour of a new war, condemned by the General Assembly on 3 November 1947, not only had not been brought to an end, but was becoming increasingly prevalent in many countries, that appeals for war and for the use of war bases in foreign territories for the invasion and bombardment of the large

cities and industrial centres of various countries with the use of atomic and hydrogen weapons were being systematically broadcast through the press, radio and cinema and that public officials not infrequently called for aggressive action against other States; and (c) recognizing that aggressive propaganda of that kind constituted a serious obstacle to the further relaxation of international tension and the improvement of relations between States, would:

(1) Call upon all Governments strictly to observe the General Assembly resolution of 3 November 1947 condemning all forms of propaganda, in whatsoever country conducted, which was either designed or likely to provoke or encourage any threat to the peace, breach of the peace or act of aggression; and

(2) Recommend that all States, both Members and non-Members of the United Nations, should take effective measures against all forms of propaganda tending to create hostility and hatred among nations and increasing the danger of a new world war as being incompatible with the fundamental principles and purposes of the United Nations and as constituting a serious obstacle to the development of normal relations among States and the strengthening of world peace.

5. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America introduced a series of amendments (A/AC.76/L.17) to the draft resolution of Czechoslovakia. These amendments, jointly sponsored by Australia, Brazil, Cuba, France, Honduras, Iraq, Pakistan, the Philippines, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, provided for:

(1) Deletion of the second paragraph of the preamble and insertion of a new paragraph recalling resolutions 110 (II) and 381 (V) concerning the condemnation of propaganda against peace, and resolution 290 (IV) on the essentials of peace which called upon Member States to act in accordance with the principles set forth in the Charter and in particular called upon every nation to remove the barriers which deny to peoples the free exchange of information and ideas essential to international understanding and peace;

(2) Deletion in the third paragraph of the preamble of all words following the word "that" and insertion of the following text "the maintenance of such barriers constitutes a major obstacle to the strengthening of peace and genuine international co-operation and fosters the continuation of false and hostile propaganda against other States and peoples";

(3) Insertion of a new operative paragraph before operative paragraph 1, calling upon all Governments to give effect faithfully to resolution 290 (IV) on essentials of peace as a guide to the achievement of a genuine peace with freedom and justice;

(4) Deletion in operative paragraph 1 of the words "calls upon all Governments strictly to observe the General Assembly resolution of 3 November 1947" and insertion of the words "reaffirms resolutions 381 (V) and 110 (II);

(5) Deletion of operative paragraph 2.

6. At the 41st meeting on 2 December, the draft resolution of Czechoslovakia (A/AC.76/L.16) was put to the vote, paragraph by paragraph, together with the ten-Power amendments thereto (A/AC.76/L.17), with the following results:

- (i) The first paragraph of the preamble was adopted by 38 votes to none, with 10 abstentions.
- (ii) The amendment to the second paragraph of the preamble was adopted by 34 votes to 5, with 9 abstentions.
- (iii) The first part of the amendment to the third paragraph of the preamble, up to and including the words "international co-operation" was adopted by 35 votes to 5, with 9 abstentions.
- (iv) The remainder of the amendment to the third paragraph of the preamble, from "and fosters" to the end was adopted by 33 votes to 5, with 11 abstentions.
- (v) The amendment inserting a new operative paragraph following the preamble was adopted by 35 votes to 5, with 9 abstentions.
- (vi) The amendment to operative paragraph 1 was adopted by 35 votes to 5, with 9 abstentions.
- (vii) The amendment to delete operative paragraph 2 was adopted by 30 votes to 5, with 14 abstentions.
- (viii) The draft resolution as a whole, as amended, was then put to the vote by roll-call and was approved by 35 votes to 5, with 10 abstentions. The vote was as follows:

- In favour: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, France, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Iceland, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Liberia, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela.
- Against: Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.
- Abstentions: Afghanistan, Burma, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

7. At the same meeting, the representative of New Zealand proposed that the Committee should also recommend the adoption by the General Assembly of a new title for the draft resolution, which would read "Strengthening of peace through the removal of barriers to free exchange of information and ideas". This proposal was put to the vote and adopted by 29 votes to 5, with 13 abstentions.
8. The Ad Hoc Political Committee therefore recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

STRENGTHENING OF PEACE THROUGH THE REMOVAL OF BARRIERS
TO FREE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND IDEAS

The General Assembly,

Considering that the cessation of hostilities in Korea and the restoration of peace in Indo-China have contributed to a relaxation of tension in international relations and that more favourable conditions have consequently been created for the settlement of unsolved international problems and the strengthening of peace,

Recalling its resolutions 110 (II) of 3 November 1947 and 381 (V) of 17 November 1950 concerning the condemnation of propaganda against peace, and resolution 290 (IV) of 1 December 1949 on the essentials of peace which calls upon Member States to act in accordance with the principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and, in particular, calls upon every nation to remove the barriers which deny to peoples the free exchange of information and ideas essential to international understanding and peace,

Recognizing that the maintenance of such barriers constitutes a major obstacle to the strengthening of peace and genuine international co-operation and fosters the continuation of false and hostile propaganda against other States and peoples,

1. Calls upon all Governments to give effect faithfully to resolution 290 (IV) of 1 December 1949 on essentials of peace as a guide to the achievement of a genuine peace with freedom and justice;

2. Reaffirms resolutions 381 (V) of 17 November 1950 and 110 (II) of 3 November 1947 condemning all forms of propaganda, in whatsoever country conducted, which is either designed or likely to provoke or encourage any threat to the peace, breach of the peace or act of aggression.
