

United Nations

Nations Unies

A/855
10 May 1949GENERAL
ASSEMBLYASSEMBLEE
GENERALE

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Third session

APPLICATION OF ISRAEL FOR ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP
IN THE UNITED NATIONSReport of the ad hoc Political Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Homero VITERI-LAFRONTA (Ecuador)

1. The item "Application of Israel for admission to membership in the United Nations", relating to the recommendation of the Security Council to the General Assembly in favour of the admission of Israel to the United Nations (A/818) and previously referred to the First Committee, was re-allocated to the ad hoc Political Committee by the General Assembly at its 205th plenary meeting on 2 May 1949 (A/AC.24/59).
2. Ten meetings of the Committee, the 42nd to the 51st, held between 3 and 9 May 1949, were devoted to this item.
3. The representative of El Salvador presented at the 42nd meeting a draft resolution proposing that the Government of Israel should be invited to send a representative to participate without vote in the discussions of the ad hoc Political Committee, with a view to clarifying to the latter the Israeli Government's attitude with regard to the execution of the resolutions of the General Assembly on the internationalization of Jerusalem and the adjacent area and on the problem of refugees (A/AC.24/60).
4. The delegations of Australia and Denmark submitted amendments (A/AC.24/65 and A/AC.24/66) which resulted in a revision of the draft resolution of El Salvador (A/AC.24/60/Rev.1) inviting the Government of Israel to send a representative to the ad hoc Political Committee with a view to answering such questions and making such statements as the Committee might deem desirable before reporting to the General Assembly on the question of the admission of Israel to membership in the United Nations.
5. Another draft resolution was introduced at the 42nd meeting by the representative of Argentina (A/AC.24/61) inviting the Holy See to submit a report on the guarantees which it considered necessary for the protection of the Holy Places and the safeguard of free access thereto. The representatives of Greece and Saudi Arabia presented amendments thereto (A/AC.24/63 and A/AC.24/67/Rev.1) suggesting that the invitation be extended to the Orthodox /Patriarchate

MAY 10 1949

5/10.

Patriarchate and to the Moslem religious authorities as represented by the Supreme Council of the Ulema Al-Azhar.

6. At the same meeting the representative of Iraq submitted a draft resolution (A/AC.24/64) asking that an inquiry should be sent to the Security Council "seeking further explanation for the validity of the vote taken with regard to the application of Israel to membership in the United Nations", in view of the abstention of one of the permanent members, and, "without prejudice to the discussion of the merits of the case", that an advisory opinion be sought from the International Court of Justice upon the nature of this vote.

7. The representative of the United Kingdom stated that the abstention of his delegation in the Security Council had been in accordance with the practice adopted in the Council by the five permanent members, and reaffirmed that the abstention of one of the permanent members did not constitute a veto and that therefore such an abstention permitted the Council to take action without the affirmative vote of the permanent member when a resolution was supported by seven or more votes.

8. The representative of Iraq declared at the 44th meeting that "taking note of the general tone of the discussion", he would not press for a vote on his draft resolution, but he reserved the right to raise that point, if necessary, either in the Committee or the General Assembly at a later date.

9. After a roll call vote at the 44th meeting of 35 in favour to 6 against, with 11 abstentions, (for details of the voting see A/AC.24/SR.44), the Committee adopted the revised draft resolution proposed by El Salvador, including the amendments of Australia and Denmark (A/AC.24/60/Rev.1), inviting the Government of Israel to send a representative to the Committee.

10. During the 46th, 47th, 48th, 50th and 51st meetings, the representative of Israel replied to questions put by the representatives of Poland, Lebanon, El Salvador, Greece, Denmark, Argentina, Belgium and Cuba. The verbatim text of the questions and answers is included in the summary records of these meetings (A/AC.24/SR.46, 47, 48, 50 and 51).

11. Discussion continued on the Argentine draft resolution (A/AC.24/61) and the amendments thereto (A/AC.24/63 and A/AC.24/67/Rev.1). Upon a motion by the representative of Denmark, it was decided, by 21 votes to 20, with 6 abstentions, that the debate on this draft resolution should be adjourned until after the representative of Israel had stated the attitude of his Government on the implementation of the General Assembly resolutions of 29 November 1947 and 11 December 1948.

12. At the 45th meeting, the representative of Lebanon introduced a draft resolution (A/AC.24/62) proposing that action on the admission of Israel to membership in the United Nations be postponed until the Government of Israel

"(1) has accepted the principle of the internationalization of Jerusalem, and (2) has accepted the principle that the refugees who wish to return to their homes should be allowed to do so," and instructed the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine "to conduct negotiations with the Government of Israel with a view to ascertaining its acceptance of the two principles referred to above, and to report to the fourth regular session of the General Assembly." This draft resolution was subsequently revised at the 49th and 50th meetings. In its final form (A/AC.24/62/Rev.3), the operative part of the draft resolution contained a recommendation to the General Assembly to defer to its fourth regular session action on the admission of Israel to membership in the United Nations.

13. At the 47th meeting, the representative of Australia introduced a joint draft resolution of Australia, Canada, Guatemala, Haiti, Panama, the United States of America and Uruguay (A/AC.24/68), recommending that the General Assembly admit Israel to membership in the United Nations.

14. At the 51st meeting the representative of Argentina withdrew his draft resolution inviting the Holy See to present its views. Following this action by the representative of Argentina, the representatives of Greece and Saudi Arabia withdrew their amendments to the draft resolution.

15. The representative of Argentina requested, however, that the report of the ad hoc Political Committee to the General Assembly express the desire of the Committee that the United Nations Conciliation Commission should, when studying the question of the internationalization of Jerusalem and the problem of the protection of the Holy Places and free access thereto, along the lines of the resolutions of the General Assembly of 29 November 1947 and 11 December 1948, take into account the views of the Holy See and those other religious authorities who desired to present their position with regard to this matter to the Conciliation Commission within a reasonable time limit, in written or verbal form. He suggested that the report should also include reference to the fact that the ad hoc Political Committee had taken note of the assurances given by the representative of the State of Israel with regard to the internationalization of Jerusalem, including the question of guarantees for the protection of the Holy Places and free access thereto.

16. The Committee endorsed by 38 votes to 6, with 11 abstentions, the proposal of the representative of Argentina that these remarks be included in the report.

17. The representative of Norway, supported by the representatives of Denmark and Sweden, requested that the report should include a reference to the Commission of Churches on International Affairs, an organization created by the World Council of Churches and the International Missionary Council, in case other religious authorities were mentioned.

/18. The Committee

18. The Committee proceeded to vote on the Lebanese draft resolution (A/AC.24/62/Rev.3), which was rejected by 25 votes to 19, with 12 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: India, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Siam, Sweden, Syria, Turkey, United Kingdom, Yemen, Afghanistan, Brazil, Burma, Denmark, Egypt, Ethiopia, Greece.

Against: Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Liberia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America, Uruguay, Yugoslavia, Argentina, Australia, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Dominican Republic.

Abstentions: Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, Peru, Union of South Africa, Venezuela, Belgium, Bolivia, Chile, China, Ecuador, France.

19. Chile presented an amendment (A/AC.24/69) to the joint draft resolution of Australia, Canada, Guatemala, Haiti, Panama, the United States of America and Uruguay (A/AC.24/68) which added to the preamble references to the General Assembly resolutions of 29 November 1947 and 11 December 1948 and to the explanations made by the representative of the Government of Israel with respect to their implementation.

20. The second paragraph of the Chilean amendment was withdrawn upon the request of the sponsors of the joint draft resolution and because the Chilean delegation felt that the statement by Argentina which is included in the present report fulfilled the same purpose. An addition to the second paragraph of the Chilean amendment which had been proposed by the representative of Peru (A/AC.24/72) was also withdrawn.

21. The Chilean amendment as revised was adopted by 27 votes to 7, with 21 abstentions.

22. Finally a vote was taken on the amended joint draft resolution. The joint draft resolution was adopted by a roll call vote of 33 in favour to 11 against, with 13 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Argentina, Australia, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Liberia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia.

/Against:

Against: Burma, Egypt, India, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Yemen, Afghanistan.

Abstentions: Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Denmark, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Luxembourg, Siam, Sweden, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom.

23. The ad hoc Political Committee therefore recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

APPLICATION OF ISRAEL FOR ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP
IN THE UNITED NATIONS

Having received the report of the Security Council on the application of Israel for membership in the United Nations (A/818),

Noting that, in the judgment of the Security Council, Israel is a peace-loving State and is able and willing to carry out the obligations contained in the Charter,

Noting that the Security Council has recommended to the General Assembly that it admit Israel to membership in the United Nations,

Noting furthermore the declaration by the State of Israel that it "unreservedly accepts the obligations of the United Nations Charter and undertakes to honour them from the day when it becomes a Member of the United Nations" (S/1093),

Recalling its resolutions of 29 November 1947 and 11 December 1948 and taking note of the declarations and explanations made by the representative of the Government of Israel in respect of the implementation of the said resolutions,

The General Assembly,

Acting in discharge of its functions under Article 4 of the Charter and rule 125 of its rules of procedure,

1. Decides that Israel is a peace-loving State which accepts the obligations contained in the Charter and is able and willing to carry out those obligations;

2. Decides to admit Israel to membership in the United Nations.
