
SUMMARY STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF MATTERS OF
WHICH THE SECURITY COUNCIL IS SEIZED AND OF THE
STAGE REACHED IN THEIR CONSIDERATION

A. Pursuant to Rule 11 of the Provisional Rules of Procedure of the Security Council, I submit the following summary statement of matters of which the Security Council is seized and of the stage reached in their consideration on 3 October 1947.

1. The Iranian Question

The Iranian application, dated 19 January 1946 (page 13, Security Council Journal No. 2), was considered at the 3rd and 5th meetings of the Council in London on 28 and 30 January 1946 and a resolution unanimously adopted requesting the parties to inform the Council of any results achieved in negotiations between them.

By letter dated 18 March 1946 (document S/15), the Iranian Ambassador made a further application, which was considered at the Security Council's 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th meetings from 26 March to 4 April 1946 and after various procedural decisions, it was resolved by nine votes (the representative of the USSR being absent and the representative of Australia abstaining) to defer further proceedings until 6 May, at which time the Soviet Government and the Iranian Government were requested to report to the Council (pages 458-9, Security Council Journal No. 24).

By letter dated 6 April 1946 (document S/30), the representative of the USSR proposed that the Iranian question be removed from the agenda of the Council, and by letter dated 9 April 1946 addressed to the Secretary-General (document S/33), the Iranian Ambassador opposed this proposal. The letters were discussed at the 32nd meeting on 15 April.

By letter dated 15 April 1946 (document S/37), the Iranian Ambassador communicated the text of a telegram from his Government stating that it withdrew its complaint from the Council.

At the 33rd meeting on 16 April, the Secretary-General submitted a memorandum to the President of the Council (document S/39) concerning the legal effect of the above letters from the representative of the USSR and the Iranian Ambassador. The Council referred this memorandum to the Committee of Experts and considered its report (document S/42) at the 36th meeting on 23 April. A resolution submitted by the representative of

/France

France (page 522, Security Council Journal No. 27) providing that the Secretary-General collect information to complete the Security Council's report to the General Assembly received three votes (France, Poland and the USSR) and was declared lost. The representative of the USSR said that the decision of the Council to retain the Iranian question on its agenda was contrary to the Charter, and accordingly, the Soviet delegation did not consider it possible to take any further part in the discussion of the Iranian question in the Council.

By letter dated 6 May 1946 (document S/53), the Iranian Ambassador reported on the withdrawal of Soviet troops. At the 40th meeting on 8 May the Council resolved to defer further proceedings and requested the Iranian Ambassador to submit a complete report to the Security Council immediately upon the receipt of the information which would enable it to do so (page 635, Security Council Journal No. 33).

By letters dated 20 May and 21 May 1946, (documents S/66 and S/68), the Iranian Ambassador submitted reports of additional information with respect to the matters brought to the Council's attention by the Iranian Government.

At the 43rd meeting on 22 May 1946 the Council resolved to adjourn the discussion of the Iranian question, the Council to be called together at the request of any of its members (page 711, Security Council Journal No. 36).

By letter dated 5 December 1946 (document S/204) the Iranian Ambassador in Washington, D.C., forwarded a report concerning the state of affairs in the Province of Azerbaijan.

2. Special Agreements under Article 43 and the Organization of the Armed forces made available to the Security Council.

At its 23rd meeting on 16 February 1946, the Council directed the Military Staff Committee, as its first task, to examine the provisions of Article 43 of the Charter, and to submit the results of the study and any recommendations to the Council in due course.

At its 105th meeting on 13 February 1947, in its resolution concerning the implementation of the resolutions of the General Assembly regarding the Principles Governing the General Regulation and Reduction of Armaments and Information on Armed Forces of the United Nations (document S/268/Rev.1/Corr.1), the Council requested the Military Staff Committee to submit, as soon as possible, its recommendations in pursuance of Article 43 and, as a first step, to submit not later than 30 April 1947, its recommendations with regard to the basic principles which should govern the organization of armed forces made available to the Security Council.

By letter dated 30 April 1947 (document S/336), the Military Staff

/Committee

Committee forwarded its report on "General Principles governing the organization of the Armed Forces made available to the Security Council by Member Nations of the United Nations."

A general discussion on the report was commenced at the 138th meeting on 4 June and continued at the 139th, 140th and 141st meetings through 16 June 1946. Discussion on the separate articles of the report was taken up at the 142nd meeting on 18 June and continued at the 143rd, 145th, 146th, 149th and 157th meetings from 20 June to 15 July. The Council adopted various articles of the report including several amendments submitted by the representatives of Australia and Belgium.

Several questions raised during the discussion on the articles of the report were referred to the Military Staff Committee, and replies were received (documents S/380 and S/395). At the 146th meeting the Council requested the Military Staff Committee to submit an estimate of the over-all strength of the armed forces to be made available to the Security Council, indicating the strength and composition of the separate components and the proportions that should be provided by the five permanent members. At the 149th meeting the Council considered the Military Staff Committee's estimate (document S/394) and also decided to request the interpretation of the Military Staff Committee of the initial contribution of armed forces referred to in Articles 10 and 11. The answer from the Military Staff Committee was circulated as document S/408.

At its last meeting on this matter the Council was discussing Article 11 of the report and proposals submitted by the representatives of the United Kingdom and Australia.

3. Rules of Procedure of the Security Council

As instructed by the Council at its 1st, 6th, and 23rd meetings, the Committee of Experts drafted provisional rules of procedure and recommendations concerning communications from private individuals and non-governmental bodies. After minor amendments the Council adopted these provisional rules of procedure and recommendations at the 31st meeting and agreed that the Committee of Experts should formulate additional provisional rules for submission to the Council.

Additional provisional rules of procedure drafted by the Committee of Experts were adopted by the Council at its 41st, 42nd, 44th and 48th meetings. At the 138th meeting the Council adopted a rule on the election of Members of the International Court of Justice. The Provisional Rules of Procedure adopted by the Council to date are given in document S/96 and Addendum 1.

By letter dated 5 September 1947 (document S/540/Corr.1) the representative of the United Kingdom suggested several additional rules of procedure concerning meetings of the Security Council. This letter has not

/yet been

yet been considered by the Council.

4. Statute and Rules of Procedure of the Military Staff Committee .

At the 23rd meeting on 16 February 1946, it was agreed to postpone consideration of the report of the Military Staff Committee concerning its Statute and Rules of Procedure (document S/10 as revised in S/115). The Committee of Experts was instructed to examine the report. It was agreed that pending the approval of the report the Military Staff Committee was authorized to carry out its business along the lines suggested in its report. At the 25th meeting on 26 March 1946, consideration of the report was further postponed pending examination by the Committee of Experts.

On 17 July 1947, the report of the Committee of Experts was circulated as document S/421 but has not yet been placed on the agenda of the Security Council.

5. Rules governing the admission of new Members

At its 81st meeting on 29 November 1946, the Council considered the resolution of the General Assembly requesting the Security Council to appoint a committee to confer with a committee on procedure of the General Assembly with a view to preparing rules governing the admission of new Members which would be acceptable both to the General Assembly and to the Security Council. (document S/196) The Council instructed the Committee of Experts to name a small committee from its own number to meet with the committee which would be appointed by the Assembly, and to report any proposals back to the Council for further instructions. At the 83rd meeting on 12 December 1946, the President announced that a Sub-Committee had been appointed consisting of the representative of China as Chairman, and the representatives of Brazil and Poland.

The General Assembly and the Security Council Committees held a series of four conferences between 28 May and 12 June 1947. The General Assembly Committee then drafted its proposals and transmitted them to the Security Council Committee with an explanatory letter dated 30 June 1947.

At its 197th meeting on 27 August, the Council considered a report of its Committee of Experts on the proposed rules (document S/520). Amendments submitted by the representative of Australia (document S/520/Add.1) were not accepted. The Council adopted by ten votes with one abstention (Australia) a resolution submitted by the representative of China embodying the recommendations of the Committee of Experts (document S/528).

6. The General Regulation and Reduction of Armaments and Information on Armed Forces of the United Nations

By letter dated 27 December 1946 (document S/229), the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics submitted a proposal regarding the implementation of the resolution of the General Assembly on the

/"Principles Governing

"Principles Governing the General Regulation and Reduction of Armaments" (document S/231). At its 88th meeting on 31 December 1946, the Council placed the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics' proposal on its agenda, and at the 90th meeting on 9 January 1947, it was agreed to formally accept the resolution of the General Assembly and proceed to the question of its implementation.

Further discussion took place at the 92nd and 93rd meetings on 15 January and the 95th meeting on 20 January. Draft resolutions were submitted by the representatives of the United States (S/233), France (S/243), Australia (S/249) and Colombia (S/251).

At the 95th meeting on 20 January, the Council adopted by nine votes to two a resolution submitted by the representative of the United States to defer consideration of these items and the First Report of the Atomic Energy Commission until 4 February 1947.

Discussion was resumed at the 98th and 99th meetings on 4 February 1947. A new draft resolution was submitted by the representative of the United States (document S/264). The Council agreed that the authors of the various draft resolutions would meet unofficially with the President to try to work out a common text upon which unanimous agreement of the Council could be obtained.

The draft resolution resulting from the consultation of the President with the authors of previous draft resolutions (document S/268), was discussed at the 102nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th meetings on 11, 12 and 13 February 1947. The Security Council resolved (document S/268/Rev.1/Corr.1), inter alia, to set up a Commission for Conventional Armaments to be composed of representatives of the members of the Security Council to submit to the Security Council, within the space of not more than three months, proposals

- (a) For the general regulation and reduction of armaments and armed forces; and
- (b) For practical and effective safeguards in connection with the general regulation and reduction of armaments.

By letter dated 25 June 1947, (document S/387), the Chairman of the Commission transmitted a report to the Council, attaching a plan of work and a proposal for the organization of the work of the Commission. At its 159th meeting the Council adopted by nine votes to none (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Poland abstaining) the plan of work adopted by the Commission for Conventional Armaments (Annex A to document S/387). The Council took note of the Commission's plan of organization of its future work (Annex B to document S/387).

7. Appointment of a Governor of the Free Territory of Trieste

By letter dated 13 June 1947, the representative of the United Kingdom requested that an early date be fixed for the discussion by the

/Security Council

Security Council of the question of the appointment of a Governor of the Free Territory of Trieste. The question was placed on the agenda at the 143rd meeting of the Security Council, and discussed in private at the 144th and 15th meetings on 20 June 1947 and 10 July 1947. The Council set up a sub-committee composed of the representatives of Australia, Colombia and Poland to collect additional information about the candidate.

At its 203rd meeting held in private on 24 September 1947, the Council examined the report of its sub-committee and also examined a new candidate proposed by the representative of China. The Council decided to ask the permanent members to hold an informal consultation and to have the next meeting of the Council on this subject in a few days.

8. The Egyptian Question

By letter dated 8 July 1947 (document S/410), the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt stated that British troops were maintained in Egyptian territory against the unanimous will of the people and contrary to the letter and spirit of the Charter and to the resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 14 December 1946. He also complained of British policy in relation to the Sudan and stated that the facts set out had given rise to a dispute between the Egyptian Government and the Government of the United Kingdom, the continuance of which was likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security. He stated that negotiations had been attempted pursuant to Article 33, but had failed to achieve their end. Consequently, the Egyptian Government brought their dispute with the Government of the United Kingdom to the Security Council under Articles 35 and 37, requesting the Security Council to direct:

- (a) The total and immediate evacuation of British troops from Egypt, including the Sudan;
- (b) The termination of the present administrative regime in the Sudan.

At its 159th meeting the Security Council placed this question on its agenda. It was agreed that the application would not be discussed before 5 August, to afford sufficient time for preparation.

The Council commenced its discussion of the question at the 175th meeting on 5 August and it was continued at the 176th, 189th, 193rd, 196th, 198th, 199th and 200th meetings. The Brazilian representative introduced a draft resolution (S/507) and accepted several which had been submitted by the representative of China (S/507/Add.1), Belgium (S/507/Add.1) and Australia (S/516), the remainder were put to a vote. The amended draft resolution received six votes in favour, one against (Poland) with three abstentions (Colombia, Syria and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), the United Kingdom representative not participating in accordance with

Article 27 of the Charter; the resolution was not adopted. The representative of Colombia then submitted a new draft resolution (S/530). It was voted on in parts and was not adopted.

The Council further considered the question at its 201st meeting on 10 September 1947. A draft resolution submitted by the representative of China (document S/547) and amendments thereto submitted by the representative of Australia (document S/549) failed to receive a majority of votes and were not adopted. The President then stated that the Egyptian question would remain on the agenda and that the Council would continue its consideration of the question at the request of any member of the Council or of either of the two parties concerned.

9. The Indonesian Question

By letter dated 30 July 1947 (document S/447) the Government of India drew the attention of the Security Council, under Article 35 (1) of the Charter, to the situation in Indonesia, stating that in its opinion the situation endangered the maintenance of international peace and security. The Government of India requested the Council to take the necessary measures provided by the Charter to put an end to the present situation.

By letter dated 30 July 1947 (document S/449) the Australian Government also brought the hostilities in progress in Java and Sumatra to the attention of the Council, stating that it considered these hostilities constituted a breach of peace under Article 39. It urged the Council to take immediate action to restore international peace and security.

The Council placed the Indonesian question on its agenda at the 171st meeting on 31 July 1947. The Council invited the representatives of India and the Netherlands to participate in the discussion. After discussing the question at the 172nd and 173rd meetings on 1 August, the Council adopted a resolution (document S/459) calling upon the parties to cease hostilities forthwith, and to settle their disputes by arbitration or by other peaceful means, keeping the Security Council informed about the progress of the settlement.

By letters dated 3 and 4 August the Netherlands representative informed the Council that orders had been issued to the Netherlands Forces in the areas concerned to cease hostilities (document S/466). By cablegram dated 5 August (document S/469) the Vice-Premier of the Republic of Indonesia informed the Council that his Government had decided to order cessation of hostilities. He requested a Committee be appointed by the Council to secure effective implementation of cessation of hostilities.

Further discussion of the Indonesian question commenced at the 178th meeting of 7 August and continued at the 181st, 184th, 185th, 187th, 192nd, 193rd, 194th and 195th meetings through 26 August.

/By telegram

By telegram dated 1 August 1947 (document S/458) the Permanent representative of the Philippines to the United Nations expressed the desire of his Government to participate in the discussion of the Indonesian question. This request was rejected at the 178th meeting but at the request of the representative of the Philippines (document S/485) was reconsidered and an invitation approved at the 184th meeting. At the 181st meeting it was decided to invite a representative of the Republic of Indonesia to participate in the discussion. At the 184th meeting a Belgium proposal to invite the representative of East Indonesia and Borneo to participate in the discussion was rejected. At the 193rd meeting a Belgium proposal to invite representatives of East Indonesia and Borneo to participate in the work of the Council on the same basis as the representatives of Indonesia was rejected.

At the 181st meeting the representative of Australia introduced a draft resolution (document S/488) and amendments to this resolution were submitted by the representative of Poland (document S/488/Add.1) and China (document S/488/Add.2) at the 185th and 187th meetings. At the 192nd meeting the representatives of Australia and China introduced a joint draft resolution (document S/513) and the representative of Australia introduced a new separate draft resolution (document S/512). The representative of the United States also submitted a draft resolution (document S/514). At the 193rd meeting the representative of Belgium introduced a draft resolution (document S/517).

At the 195th meeting the draft resolutions were put to a vote. An amendment submitted by the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the joint Australian-Chinese resolution (S/513), providing for the establishment of a Commission of the Security Council to supervise the "cease fire" order received seven votes in favour, two against (Belgium and France) with two abstentions (China and the United Kingdom) and was not adopted since one of the permanent members voted against it. The joint Australian-Chinese resolution was then adopted by seven votes in favour with four abstentions (Colombia, Poland, United Kingdom and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics).

The Polish amendment (S/488/Add.1) to the original Australian draft resolution was re-submitted as an amendment to the second Australian resolution (S/512). The Polish amendment received three votes in favour, four against (Belgium, France, United Kingdom and the United States) with four abstentions (Australia, Brazil, China and Colombia), and was not adopted. The Australian resolution received three votes in favour (Australia, Colombia and Syria), none against with eight abstentions, and was not adopted.

The United States draft resolution (S/514) received eight votes in favour, none against with three abstentions (Poland, Syria and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) and was adopted.

The Belgian draft resolution (S/517) received four votes in favour, (Belgium, France, United Kingdom and the United States) one against (Poland) with six abstentions and was not adopted.

A new draft resolution submitted by the representative of Poland (S/521) received ten votes in favour, one against (United Kingdom) and was adopted.

The President announced that he considered the discussion on the Indonesian question closed for the present stage, but that the question would remain on the list of matters of which the Council is seized.

The resolutions on the Indonesian question adopted at the 194th and 195th meetings are given in document S/525.

By letters dated 4 and 18 September 1947 (documents S/545 and S/564), the representatives of the Netherlands and Indonesia informed the Council that the Governments of Belgium and Australia had accepted their invitation to serve on the Council's Committee of good offices on the Indonesian question. By letter dated 18 September 1947 (document S/558), the representatives of Australia and Belgium informed the Council that the Government of the United States had agreed to be the third member of this Committee. By letters dated 26 September, 1 and 2 October 1947 (documents S/469, S/571 and S/570), the representatives of Australia, United States and Belgium informed the Council of the representatives appointed to this Committee by their Governments.

At its 207th meeting on 3 October 1947, the Council discussed the interim report from the Consular's Commission at Batavia (document S/573), and telegram from the Consular's representatives dated 1 October 1947 (document S/572), informing the Council that the work had begun on the drafting of the main report which should be completed within a fortnight. The Council adopted a resolution submitted by the representative of Australia (document S/574), requesting the Secretary-General to act as convenor of the Committee of Three on the Indonesian question and requesting the Committee to proceed to exercise its functions with the utmost dispatch. A draft resolution was also submitted by the representative of the USSR (document S/575), calling on the Governments of the Netherlands and the Indonesian Republic to withdraw their troops to the positions which they occupied before the beginning of the military operations. Discussion was adjourned until 7 October.

10. Voting Procedure in the Security Council

At the 197th meeting on 27 August, the Council discussed the resolution
/adopted by the

adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-first plenary meeting, held on 13 December 1946, concerning voting procedure in the Security Council (document S/237). It was decided to refer the resolution to the Committee of Experts with instructions to consider the matter and to make recommendations as to action the Council might take to comply with the recommendations.

B. Consideration of the following item was completed on 1 October, and the Council is no longer seized of it.

Applications for Membership

By cablegram dated 19 September 1947, (S/559) the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland requested admission to membership in the United Nations.

By letter dated 20 September (S/562) the Deputy United States representative requested that the reconsideration of the admission of Italy be placed on the agenda.

By letter dated 22 September 1947 (S/563) the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland requested that the reconsideration of the admission of Hungary, Italy, Roumania, Bulgaria and the application of Finland be placed on the agenda.

The applications referred to above were discussed by the Council at its 204th, 205th, and 206th meetings on 25 and 29 September and 1 October. A draft resolution recommending the admission of all of these applicants was introduced by the representative of Poland (S/565). The Council decided, however, to discuss and vote separately on the five applications in order of their receipt.

The application of Hungary received five votes in favour (Colombia, France, Poland, Syria and USSR), none against with six abstentions, and was not adopted, having failed to receive the necessary majority.

The application of Italy received nine votes in favour, two against, (Poland and USSR) and was not adopted, having received the negative vote of one of the permanent members.

The application of Roumania received four votes in favour, (China, Colombia, France and Syria), none against with seven abstentions and was not adopted, having failed to receive the necessary majority.

The application of Bulgaria received one vote in favour (Syria), three against (Belgium, France and United Kingdom) with seven abstentions, and was not adopted, having failed to receive the necessary majority.

The application of Finland received nine votes in favour, two against (Poland and USSR) and was not adopted having received the negative vote of one of the permanent members.