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

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 July 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 addressed to the President of the Council (document S/15), the Iranian Ambassador made a further application, which was considered at the 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 Union of Soviet Socialist Republics 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 addressed to the President of the Council (document S/30), the Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics proposed that the Iranian question be removed from the agenda of the Council, and by letter dated 9 April 1946 addressed to the

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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 addressed to the President of the Council, (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 Union of Soviet Socialist Republics 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 (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 Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) and was declared lost. The Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics 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 addressed to the President of the Council (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, addressed to the President
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of the Council (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 addressed to the Secretary-General (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 of the Charter and the Organization of the United Nations Armed Force

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, and as a matter of urgency, the recommendations for which it had been asked by the Security Council on 16 February 1946, in pursuance of Article 43 of the Charter and, as a first step, to submit to the Security Council not later than 30 April 1947, its recommendations with regard to the basic principles which should govern the organization of the United Nations Armed Force.

By letter dated 30 April 1947 addressed to the Secretary-General (document S/336), the Military Staff 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."

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By letter dated 30 April (document S/338), the Deputy United States Representative on the Security Council requested that the Secretary-General place this item on the provisional agenda of the next meeting of the Security Council.

This item was placed on the agenda at the 138th meeting on 4 June. A general discussion on the Report of the Military Staff Committee was commenced and continued at the 139th, 140th and 141st meetings on 6, 10 and 16 June 1947. Upon completion of the general discussion, the Council decided to use the Report as a working paper, studying it article by article.

The 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 and 149th meetings on 20, 24, 25 and 30 June. 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 report on the over-all strength (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.

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

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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 Add.1.

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

At the 23rd meeting 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 Council of the Report of the Military Staff Committee, the Military Staff Committee was authorized to carry out its business along the lines suggested in its Report.

At the 25th meeting consideration of the Report was further postponed pending examination by the Committee of Experts. The Committee has been examining the Report.

5. Rules concerning the Admission of New Members

By letter dated 25 November (document S/196) the Secretary-General requested the President of the Security Council to bring to the attention of the Council 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.

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At its eighty-first meeting on 29 November 1946, 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 eighty-third meeting on 12 December 1946, the President announced that the Chairman of the Committee of Experts had informed him 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.

6. Applications for Membership in the United Nations

By letter dated 25 November 1946, (document S/197) the Secretary-General requested the President of the Security Council to bring to the attention of the Council the resolution of the General Assembly recommending that the Security Council re-examine applications for membership in the United Nations of the People's Republic of Albania, the Hashemite Kingdom of Transjordan, the Mongolian People's Republic, Ireland and Portugal, on their respective merits as measured by the yardstick of the Charter, in accordance with Article 4.

At the 81st meeting on 29 November 1946, the Council adopted the Assembly's recommendation and the President announced that he would consult with the members to consider a line of procedure which would give effect to the desire of the Council to co-operate with the General Assembly, at the same time preserving its own entire right of freedom of action.

At the Council's 82nd meeting on 10 December 1946, the President announced that his informal consultations among the members of the Council indicated general agreement that the reconsideration of these applications should be deferred for the moment. The question has been

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put on the provisional agenda for the 151st meeting on 8 July 1947.

By letter dated 22 April 1947 (document S/333) the Minister of Hungary to the United States submitted the application of the Republic of Hungary for membership in the United Nations. At its 132nd meeting on 30 April 1947, the Security Council referred the application to its Committee on the Admission of New Members for study and report at the appropriate time.

By letter dated 7 May (document S/355) the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Italy submitted the application of Italy for admission to Membership in the United Nations. At its 137th meeting on 22 May, the Council referred this application to the Committee on the Admission of New Members for study and report at the appropriate time.

7. The Greek Question

By letter dated 3 December 1946, addressed to the Secretary-General (document S/203) the Acting Chairman of the Delegation of Greece requested under Articles 34 and 35 (1) of the Charter, that the Security Council give early consideration to a situation which was leading to friction between Greece and her neighbours. A detailed memorandum in support of this request was included.

At the 82nd meeting on 10 December 1946, the Council placed this question on its Agenda and adopted a resolution submitted by the Representative of the Netherlands, inviting the Representatives of Greece and Yugoslavia to participate in the discussion without vote, and the Representatives of Albania and Bulgaria to make declarations.

At the 83rd and 84th meetings on 12 and 16 December 1946, the Representatives of Greece, Yugoslavia, Albania and Bulgaria took seats at the Council table and made statements. The Council then adopted a proposal of the President that the Representatives of Albania and Bulgaria be invited to participate without vote in further discussion of this question as soon as their Governments had informed the Secretary-General of their acceptance for this case of the obligations for pacific

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settlement provided in the Charter.

Discussion of this question continued at the 85th, 86th and 87th meetings on 18 and 19 December 1946, with the Representatives of Greece, Yugoslavia, Albania and Bulgaria participating. The Council unanimously adopted a resolution (document S/339) establishing a Commission of Investigation to be composed of a representative of each of the members of the Security Council as it would be constituted in 1947, for the purpose of ascertaining the facts relating to the alleged border violations along the frontier between Greece on the one hand, and Albania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia on the other. The Commission was instructed to submit its report at the earliest possible date.

By cablegram dated 6 February 1947 (document S/266) the Secretary of the Commission informed the Council that with the approval of the Commission an informal approach was made to the Greek Government to postpone the execution of fourteen persons sentenced to death by Greek Military Tribunals. The Commission requested that the Council deal with this matter immediately and inform the Commission whether its action in requesting the Greek Government to postpone the executions to be carried out for political offences was covered by the terms of reference of the resolution adopted by the Security Council on 19 December 1946.

By letter dated 7 February 1947 (document S/271) the Representative of Greece to the United Nations stated that the Greek Government had directed him to lodge the most emphatic protest in regard to the interference of the Commission of Investigation in the domestic affairs of his country, contrary to Article 2, paragraph 7 of the Charter of the United Nations and the terms of reference of the Commission. Additional information was given in letters dated 9 February (documents S/272 and S/273).

The Council considered these communications at its 100th and 101st meetings on 10 February 1947. The Council adopted a resolution submitted by the Representative of the United States providing that it was the sense of the Security Council that the Commission was not empowered to request

the appropriate authorities of Greece, Albania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia to postpone the execution of any persons sentenced to death unless the Commission had reason to believe that the examination of any such person as a witness would assist the Commission in its work.

The Greek question was placed on the Agenda of the 123rd meeting on 28 March 1947 at the request of the Representative of the United States to make a statement. The discussion continued at the 126th, 128th, 129th, 130th and 131st meetings on 7, 10, 14 and 18 April, with Representatives of Greece, Yugoslavia, Albania and Bulgaria participating. Draft resolutions were introduced by the Representatives of the United States (S/P.V./126, page 47) and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (S/P.V./131, page 97). The Representative of the United States accepted amendments submitted by the Representative of France (S/P.V./126, page 72 and S/P.V./131, page 56). An amendment to the draft resolution of the Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was submitted by the Representative of Poland (S/P.V./130, page 69).

The Council adopted the amended United States draft resolution resolving that pending a new decision of the Security Council, the Commission established by the resolution of the Council of 19 October 1946, shall maintain in the area concerned a subsidiary group, composed of a representative of each of the members of the Commission, to continue to fulfil such functions as the Commission may prescribe, in accordance with its terms of reference (document S/330). The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics' resolution and Polish amendment were not carried.

By cablegram dated 30 April 1947 (document S/337) the Chairman of the Commission transmitted to the Council the terms of the directives for the Subsidiary Group adopted at the 79th Meeting of the Commission.

By cablegram dated 5 May 1947 (document S/343) the Chairman of the Commission informed the President of the Security Council that the Commission had decided to refer to the Security Council the question arising from the refusal of Albania, Bulgaria, and Yugoslavia to appoint liaison

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representatives to the Subsidiary Group. By cablegram dated 6 May 1947 (document S/348/Corr.1) the Chairman of the Commission requested the opinion of the Security Council concerning the appearance of the Commission in New York for presenting its report. By letter dated 7 May 1947 (document S/347) the Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics requested the Secretary-General to place the Greek Question on the provisional agenda for the next meeting of the Security Council.

Discussion of the above communications took place at the 133rd meeting on 11 May, the Representatives of Albania, Bulgaria, Greece and Yugoslavia participating. The Council decided to answer in the affirmative the Commission's question concerning its appearance in New York, with the understanding that only the chief representatives or their substitutes were necessary. The Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics submitted a draft resolution concerning the terms of reference of the Subsidiary Group (S/P.V./133, page 48).

The discussion continued at the 134th, 135th, 136th and 137th meetings on 16, 20 and 22 May. Draft resolutions were submitted by the Representatives of Australia (S/P.V./135, page 81) and Syria (S/P.V./137, page 21). The USSR draft resolution was rejected, and the Australian and Syrian draft resolution withdrawn. After discussing several proposals for postponement, the Council resolved: "that further discussion of the Greek Question be postponed until such time as the Report of the Commission is submitted to the Security Council."

Discussion of the Report of the Commission of Investigation concerning Greek Frontier Incidents (document S/360) was commenced at the 147th and 148th meetings on 27 June 1947 and continued at the 150th and 151st meetings on 1 and 3 July. A draft resolution was submitted by the Representative of the United States (document S/391). The discussion was adjourned until 8 July.

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

By letter dated 27 December 1946 addressed to the Secretary-General (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 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 regarding the implementation of the General Assembly Resolution 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 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

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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.

The Commission was instructed to submit a plan of work to the Council. By letter dated 12 May 1947 (document S/352), the Chairman of the Commission brought to the attention of the Council a letter from the Chairman of the Commission's Sub-Committee which had been charged with submitting a plan of work. This letter stated that owing to a series of unexpected circumstances, the Sub-Committee was not in a position to submit any definite proposals to the Commission.

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. This letter has been placed on the provisional agenda for the 152nd meeting on 8 July.

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

By letter dated 13 June 1947, addressed to the Secretary-General, the Representative of the United Kingdom requested that an early date be fixed for the discussion by the Security Council of the question of the appointment of a Governor of the Free Territory of Trieste. The question was placed on the provisional agenda at the 143rd meeting of the Security Council, and discussed at the 144th meeting on 20 June 1947 in private session. The members of the Council exchanged views and decided to meet again on this matter in a few days.