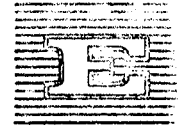


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Item 4 of the provisional agenda

RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL RESPECT FOR THE RIGHT
OF PEOPLES AND NATIONS TO SELF-DETERMINATION

Note by the Secretary-General

1. At its tenth session (February to April 1954), the Commission on Human Rights recommended two draft resolutions to the Economic and Social Council for transmittal to the General Assembly (E/2573, Annex IV). In draft resolution F I, it was proposed that the General Assembly establish a commission to conduct a full survey of the status of the right of peoples and nations to "permanent sovereignty over their natural wealth and resources" and to make recommendations, where necessary, for strengthening this right. In draft resolution F II, the establishment of a commission by the General Assembly was proposed which would examine any situation resulting from alleged denial or inadequate realization of the right of self-determination; provide its good offices for the peaceful rectification of any such situation; and, if within six months no adjustment of the situation could be effected, report the facts with appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly.

2. The Council considered these two draft resolutions at its eighteenth session (July 1954). It adopted resolution 545 G (XVIII) in which it:

"Decides to transmit the draft resolutions to the Commission on Human Rights together with the records of the meetings of the Council and the Social Committee on this question so that it may reconsider them in the light of the Council's discussions."

The Council debates may be found in the summary records E/SR.820 and E/AC.7/SR.289-292.

3. At its ninth session the General Assembly, when examining Chapter V of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/2686), discussed the action which the Council had taken on the two draft resolutions proposed by the Commission. It adopted resolution 837 (IX) in which it requested the Commission on Human Rights "to complete its recommendations concerning international respect for the right of peoples and nations to self-determination, including recommendations concerning their permanent sovereignty over their natural wealth and resources, having due regard to the rights and duties of States under international law and to the importance of encouraging international co-operation in the economic development of under-developed countries, in order that the General Assembly may give those recommendations full and due consideration at its next session". The Council formally transmitted this request to the Commission at its resumed eighteenth session on 16 December 1954.
