

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Chairman: Sir Leslie MUNRO (New Zealand).

AGENDA ITEM 69

Complaint about threats to the security of Syria and to international peace (continued)

1. Mr. SASTROAMIDJOJO (Indonesia): On behalf of the Government and people of Indonesia, I would like to make some brief observations as regards the question now before us.

2. The General Assembly has debated this question for almost two weeks. During these hectic days, my delegation—as I am sure all other delegations here—has watched with deep concern the development of a situation that has created increasing tension between two Member nations. Speakers who have preceded me in this debate have set out the different elements which, according to their views or position, have led to this serious situation.

3. Without touching upon these elements, we would like to note with appreciation that the United Nations has felt it opportune to concern itself with the grave situation that has arisen in the Middle East. In fact, my delegation is of the opinion that the United Nations is indeed the most appropriate place in which to review this situation. By placing this issue on its agenda, this Assembly has indeed shown that it is fully conscious of its duties under the Charter. By the same token, it should be stressed that the comprehensive discussion that has taken place on this problem, along with the endeavours to find a peaceful settlement, are in keeping with our obligations as Members of this Organization.

4. At the same time, we feel that the thoroughness of the debate has served to give us all a better understanding of the issues involved. We see now that these issues are quite intricate and delicate indeed. And it appears, as already noted by some delegations, that this Assembly is not in a position to propose any definite line of action or to pronounce a judgement in this matter. On the other hand, we know, too, that the whole world looks to the United Nations and, in particular, to the parties directly concerned, to find a peaceful solution, in accordance with the principles of the Charter.

5. Both parties to the present dispute participated in the Bandung Conference and subscribed to these principles. Therefore I would like, in all humility, but

most earnestly, to urge both parties to resolve their differences in an atmosphere of good will, mutual confidence and respect, in accordance with the principles and purposes of the Charter and of the Bandung Conference, thereby refraining from any actions or measures likely to aggravate existing tensions. Surely the time has come not only to reaffirm but to put in practice the ten principles enunciated at Bandung as the basis on which, "free from mistrust and fear, and with confidence and good will towards each other, nations should practise tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours and develop friendly co-operation".

6. In this conciliating spirit of Bandung, my delegation would like to appeal to the sponsors of the draft resolutions contained in documents A/L.226 and A/L.227 not to press, at this particular juncture, for a vote on their respective resolutions.

7. Mr. ENGEN (Norway): I have listened to the statement just made by the representative of Indonesia, not only with great care but also with a considerable amount of appreciation for the merits of his intervention. I am satisfied that I speak on behalf of the sponsors when I say that the suggestion he has made to the sponsors of the two draft resolutions now before the Assembly to the effect that they should refrain from pressing their proposals to a formal vote, corresponds with the basic purposes of the movers of the draft resolution which my delegation has the honour to co-sponsor together with six other delegations [A/L.227].

8. The basic purpose of our draft resolution is to reaffirm the Assembly's confidence in the usefulness and efficiency of the machinery already at the disposal of the parties most directly concerned in this matter. Our draft resolution quite clearly recognizes the value of the friendly efforts at conciliation made by a distinguished Arab leader acting as a friend of both Turkey and Syria. The sponsors of the draft resolution highly value this regional effort to ease tension in the area.

9. Furthermore, the sponsors felt it would be appropriate, in the situation created by the request by the Government of Syria for some specific United Nations intervention in this matter, to point out that there was a permanent organ of the United Nations, namely, the Secretary-General, who under the Charter is entrusted with powers which in the view of the sponsors would enable him to take whatever steps he would deem fit to assist the parties if they so desired, without prejudice, of course, to any efforts made from friendly quarters in the area.

10. With these purposes in mind, which are all based on the desire of being helpful and constructive, it would seem natural for us to pay very close attention to the appeal just made by the representative of Indonesia. It seems to me that the aim of the Indonesian delegation

is to avoid bringing the question of United Nations machinery to a head. Such a position corresponds with the wishes of the sponsors of the joint draft resolution.

11. I am empowered to speak on behalf of all the sponsors when I say that, if the representative of Syria, who moved the other draft resolution, is prepared to heed the appeal of the representative of Indonesia, then we for our part would have no desire to request that a vote be taken on our draft resolution. Accordingly, if the representative of Syria shares our view that no formal vote should be taken on either draft resolution now before the house, then I am confident that it will be possible to leave our present deliberations at this stage in the manner which the representative of Indonesia has suggested.

12. Mr. BITAR (Syria) (translated from French): In submitting our complaint to the United Nations, we were firmly convinced that this Organization was the proper authority to which Member States should submit their complaints. It was only after we had exhausted all normal means of diplomatic recourse, as we have already told the Assembly, that we addressed ourselves to the United Nations, in order that the concentration of Turkish troops on our frontier, which is creating tension and threatening international peace, might be brought to an end.

13. Moreover, when we proposed the establishment of a fact-finding commission, we were of the opinion that the dispatch of such a commission to the Syrian-Turkish border would be one of the best means of pacific settlement provided for in the Charter. As all the Members of the Assembly know, however, one major difficulty stood in the way of the adoption of a proposal of this kind: according to our draft resolution, the membership of such a fact-finding commission must be approved by the other party.

14. In the meantime, sincere and praiseworthy efforts have been made. This has just been eloquently shown by Mr. Sastroamidjojo, who presided over the Bandung Conference and enjoys special esteem among the Asian and African nations; moreover, he represents an Asian country for which we have the greatest admiration and friendship. We have therefore decided to respond to his appeal by not insisting that our draft resolution be put to a vote, while at the same time insisting that the item be retained on the General Assembly's agenda.

15. In adopting this attitude, we sincerely hope that the other party concerned, our neighbour Turkey, will act in the same way and will take the necessary steps to eliminate the causes of tension created by troop concentrations on our frontier. Such action will make the continuation of the examination of our complaint unnecessary and will thus contribute to the improvement of relations between our two neighbouring countries.

16. Mr. SARPER (Turkey): It is my pleasant duty to convey the thanks and the gratitude of my delegation to the representative of the Indonesian delegation for his wise suggestions made from this rostrum. At the same time I must say, I think, that I regret to have to take the floor again; that might have been avoided.

17. We have heard the statement made by the delegation of Syria to the effect that it is not going to press for a vote on its draft resolution [A/L.226]. However, this statement was subject, in a way, to

conditions. Our position on the question which has been debated here was made clear from the statements made by my delegation from this rostrum on 27 September [692nd meeting], on 22 October [708th meeting], and on 28 October [711th meeting]. The Members of the General Assembly will also recall that during the general debate it was Turkey which drew the attention of the General Assembly to its concern over recent developments in Syria, before the Syrian delegation had made its complaint.

18. It will also be remembered that when the item under discussion was proposed for inclusion in the agenda, my delegation welcomed the opportunity of having the United Nations consider the reasons for the present tension in the Middle East.

19. This having been our position, the actions of the Syrian delegation during the debates, and even today, and of the Syrian Government at the time when these discussions were taking place, have not been of a nature to dispel our concern.

20. My delegation and various other delegations have pointed to certain developments in Syria and to certain contradictions between the assertions and the actions of the Syrian delegation in the Assembly.

21. This debate will have served a useful purpose if world opinion has been focused on the real reasons which have brought about the situation now prevailing. It is to be hoped that the debate which has taken place in the General Assembly and the awareness of world opinion may contribute to dissipate the real causes of the present concern and thereby alleviate the existing tension in the Middle East.

22. This debate has brought forth further evidence of the fact that Turkey is a peace-loving country and that the Turkish Government has eagerly accepted all peaceful proposals for solving the present difficulties. Turkey has accepted the benevolent offer of mediation by His Majesty King Saud of Saudi Arabia. According to the information of my delegation, this offer is still open to the acceptance of the Syrian Government.

23. It is our hope that the principles embodied in the Charter will act as a guide in the pursuance of all efforts aimed at bringing calm and tranquillity to the Middle East.

24. The PRESIDENT: The position now is, as I understand it, that neither party will ask for a vote on the draft resolutions before the General Assembly. I feel sure that the Assembly will regard this attitude as a satisfactory outcome of the debate.

AGENDA ITEM 38

Question of South West Africa (continued)*

25. The PRESIDENT: I wish to draw the attention of Members of the Assembly to a matter which will interest them. At its 709th meeting, the General Assembly adopted resolution 1143 (XII) by which it decided to establish a Good Offices Committee on

*/Resumed from the 709th meeting.

South West Africa. In operative paragraph 1 of the resolution, two of the three members of this Committee were specified as the United States of America and the United Kingdom. The third member was to be nominated by the President of the General Assembly.

I have the honour to inform the Assembly that I now nominate Brazil as the third member of the Good Offices Committee on South West Africa.

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.