



Tenth session
Agenda item 61

QUESTION OF THE SAFETY OF COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT FLYING IN THE VICINITY OF,
OR INADVERTENTLY CROSSING, INTERNATIONAL FRONTIERS

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Hermod LANNUNG (Denmark)

1. The General Assembly, at its 530th meeting on 30 September 1955, decided to allocate item 61 of the agenda of its tenth session, entitled "Question of the safety of commercial aircraft flying in the vicinity of, or inadvertently crossing, international frontiers", to the Third Committee for consideration and report.
2. The Third Committee discussed the item at its 682nd and 683rd meetings held on 5 and 6 December 1955. It had before it the letter (A/2940) dated 21 August 1955 addressed to the Secretary-General by the representative of Israel requesting the inclusion of the item in the agenda.
3. The basis of the Committee's discussion was a draft resolution submitted by Israel (A/C.3/L.501) by which the General Assembly, mindful of a number of incidents which had occurred in recent years involving attacks on civilian aircraft innocently deviating from fixed plans in the vicinity of, or across international frontiers, would (1) call upon all States to take the necessary measures to avoid the recurrence of such incidents in the future; (2) invite the attention of the appropriate international organizations to this resolution and to the debate on this item held in the General Assembly at its tenth session.
4. Several representatives supported the draft resolution before the Committee. Some, however, expressed surprise that the problem had been introduced as a humanitarian matter.

5. Afghanistan proposed the following amendments (A/C.3/L.502) to the Israeli draft resolution (A/C.3/L.501):

1. First paragraph of preamble, line 1: delete the following:
"a number of" and "which have occurred in recent years".
2. Operative paragraph 1: delete the following:
"the recurrence of" and "in the future".

The representative of Israel accepted the amendments proposed by Afghanistan.

6. Czechoslovakia submitted an amendment (A/C.3/L.503) to the Israel draft resolution in accordance with which the first paragraph of the preamble would be replaced by the following: "Mindful of a number of incidents which have occurred in recent years involving civilian aircraft deviating from fixed plans in the vicinity of, or across, international frontiers;".

7. The Committee rejected the Czechoslovak amendment by 23 votes to 6, with 18 abstentions.

8. The Israel draft resolution (A/C.3/L.501), as amended by Afghanistan (A/C.3/L.502), was adopted by 35 votes to none, with 13 abstentions.

The Committee therefore recommends that the General Assembly approve the following draft resolution:

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The General Assembly,

Mindful of incidents involving attacks on civilian aircraft innocently deviating from fixed plans in the vicinity of, or across, international frontiers,

Noting that such incidents cause loss of human life and affect relations between States, and that the problem is therefore a matter of general international concern,

1. Calls upon all States to take the necessary measures to avoid such incidents;
2. Invites the attention of the appropriate international organizations to the present resolution and to the debate on the item held in the General Assembly at its tenth session.
