



Twelfth session  
Agenda item 62

THE QUESTION OF WEST IRIAN (WEST NEW GUINEA)

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Franz MATSCH (Austria)

1. On 16 August 1957 Afghanistan, Burma, Ceylon, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen requested the inclusion of the item "The question of West Irian (West New Guinea)" in the agenda of the twelfth session of the General Assembly.
2. An attached explanatory memorandum referred to the discussion of the question at the three previous sessions of the Assembly and the failure of the resolution recommended by the First Committee to receive a two-thirds majority at the eleventh session. It also stated that the dispute continued to exist as a persistent deterrent to friendlier relations between Indonesia and the Netherlands and that, no negotiation having taken place between them since February 1956, it was incumbent on the General Assembly to promote a peaceful solution of the long-standing dispute.
3. At its 682nd plenary meeting on 20 September 1957, the Assembly decided, by a roll-call vote of 49 to 21, with 11 abstentions, to include the item in the agenda, and referred it to the First Committee.
4. The First Committee considered the item at its 905th to 912th meetings, held from 20 to 26 November 1957.
5. At the 906th meeting on 20 November, the representative of Ceylon introduced a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.193) submitted jointly by Afghanistan, Bolivia, Burma, Ceylon, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, and Yemen. It provided that the

General Assembly, viewing with deep concern that the prolongation of the political dispute involved in the question of West Irian (West New Guinea) was likely to endanger the peaceful development of that area and realizing that a peaceful solution of the problem should be obtained without further delay, would:

- (1) invite both parties to pursue their endeavours to find a solution of the dispute in conformity with the principles of the United Nations Charter; and
- (2) request the Secretary-General to assist the parties concerned as he deemed it appropriate in the implementation of the resolution and submit a report of the progress to the thirteenth session of the General Assembly.

6. At the 912th meeting on 26 November, the Committee voted on the nineteen-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.193) as follows, a separate vote being taken at the request of the representative of Mexico on operative paragraph 2.

The preamble and operative paragraph 1 were adopted by 45 votes to 27, with 9 abstentions.

Paragraph 2 was adopted by 42 votes to 28, with 11 abstentions.

The draft resolution as a whole was adopted by a roll-call of 42 to 28, with 11 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Ceylon, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Laos, Lebanon, Libya, Malaya (Federation of), Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, Tunisia, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, France, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Abstaining: Cambodia, Ecuador, Finland, Liberia, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Turkey, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

7. The First Committee, therefore recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

THE QUESTION OF WEST IRIAN (WEST NEW GUINEA)

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of West Irian (West New Guinea),

Viewing with deep concern that the prolongation of this political dispute is likely to endanger the peaceful development of that area,

Realizing that a peaceful solution of this problem should be obtained without further delay,

1. Invites both parties to pursue their endeavours to find a solution of the dispute in conformity with the principles of the United Nations Charter;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to assist the parties concerned, as he deems it appropriate, in the implementation of this resolution and to submit a report of the progress to the General Assembly at its thirteenth session.

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