



Twelfth session
Agenda item 59

THE QUESTION OF ALGERIA

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Dr. Franz MATSCH (Austria)

1. By a letter dated 16 July 1957, Afghanistan, Ceylon, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen requested the inclusion of the item "The question of Algeria" in the agenda of the twelfth session of the General Assembly (A/3617). By a letter dated 23 July 1957, the representative of Burma requested that Burma be added to the above list of countries (A/3617/Add.1). Attached to the first letter was an explanatory memorandum in accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure.
2. At its 682nd plenary meeting on 20 September 1957, the General Assembly decided to include the item in the agenda, and referred it to the First Committee.
3. The First Committee considered the item at its 913th to 926th meetings inclusive, held between 27 November and 6 December 1957.
4. At the 924th meeting on 5 December 1957, the representative of Indonesia introduced a draft resolution sponsored by Afghanistan, Burma, Ceylon, Egypt, Ghana, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen (A/C.1/L.194). By this draft resolution, the General Assembly (a) having discussed the Algerian question, (b) recalling its resolution 1012 (XI) of 15 February 1957, (c) regretting that the hope expressed in that resolution had not yet been realized, (d) recognizing that the principle of self-determination was applicable to the Algerian people, (e) noting that the situation in Algeria continued to cause much suffering and loss of human life, would (in the operative part) call for negotiations for the purpose of arriving

at a solution in accordance with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

5. At the same meeting, a draft resolution was submitted by Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Italy, Peru and Spain (A/C.1/L.195). By this draft resolution, the Assembly (a) having heard the statements made by various delegations and having discussed the question of Algeria, and (b) bearing in mind the situation in Algeria, which continued to cause much suffering and loss of lives, would: (1) take note of the attempts which had been reported to the Assembly to settle the problem both through the good offices of Heads of State and by French legislative measures; and (2) express the hope once again that in a spirit of co-operation, a peaceful, democratic and just solution would be found, through appropriate means, in conformity with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

6. At the 925th meeting on 6 December 1957, amendments to the seventeen-Power draft resolution were submitted by Canada, Ireland and Norway (A/C.1/L.196). The first amendment would substitute for paragraph (d) of the preamble a new paragraph recognizing that the people of Algeria were entitled to work out their own future in a democratic way. The second amendment would replace the operative paragraph by a new text under which the Assembly would propose effective discussions for the purpose both of resolving the present trouble situation and of reaching a solution in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

7. At the 926th meeting on 6 December 1957, the seventeen-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.194) and the amendments thereto (A/C.1/L.196) were voted on first.

8. The three-Power amendments were adopted as a whole by a roll-call vote of 37 to 36, with 7 abstentions, as follows:

<u>In favour:</u>	Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Laos, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela.
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Against: Afghanistan, Albania, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Ceylon, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Greece, Haiti, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Malaya (Federation of), Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, Tunisia, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Abstaining: Bolivia, Cambodia, Guatemala, Liberia, Mexico, Philippines, Turkey.

The seventeen-Power draft resolution, as amended, was voted on by roll-call. It received 37 votes in favour, 37 against and 6 abstentions, and was therefore not adopted. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Laos, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela.

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

Abstaining: Bolivia, Cambodia, Guatemala, Mexico, Philippines, Turkey.

9. The representative of Argentina, on behalf of the sponsors of the seven-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.195) stated that they would not press that draft resolution to a vote but reserved the right to introduce it in the plenary meeting of the General Assembly.

10. The First Committee, therefore, is unable to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of any draft resolution on this item.
