



Fourteenth session  
Agenda item 61

QUESTION OF RACE CONFLICT IN SOUTH AFRICA RESULTING FROM THE POLICIES  
OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Report of the Special Political Committee

Rapporteur: Dr. Leopoldo H. TETTAMANTI (Argentina)

1. In a letter dated 15 July 1959 (A/4147) Ceylon, Cuba, the Federation of Malaya, Ghana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, the United Arab Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela requested the inclusion of the following item in the provisional agenda of the fourteenth session of the General Assembly: "Question of race conflict in South Africa resulting from the policies of apartheid of the Government of the Union of South Africa". In the explanatory memorandum it was stated that there had not been the slightest indication that the Government of the Union of South Africa had taken any step in the matter in consonance with the declarations and the call of the General Assembly. On the contrary, all available information indicated that the developments which for so many years had caused concern to the General Assembly continued to be aggravated. A grave threat to the peaceful relations between ethnic groups of the world was being made more dangerous every day. In the circumstances, it would undoubtedly be the wish of the General Assembly to address itself once again to the question with a view to making appropriate recommendations designed to secure adherence to the provisions of the Charter and of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Burma subsequently joined the sponsors of the proposal (A/4147/Add.1).
2. At its 803rd plenary meeting on 22 September 1959, the General Assembly decided to place the item on its agenda and to refer it to the Special Political Committee for consideration and report.

3. The Special Political Committee considered the item at nine meetings held between 30 October and 10 November 1959.
4. On 3 November a draft resolution sponsored by Afghanistan, Bolivia, Burma, Ceylon, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Ethiopia, the Federation of Malaya, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Morocco, Nepal, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, the Philippines, Sweden, the Sudan, Tunisia, the United Arab Republic, Uruguay, Venezuela, and Yugoslavia (A/SPC/L.37) was circulated. Under the operative part, the General Assembly would: (1) express its opposition to the continuance or preservation of racial discrimination in any part of the world; (2) solemnly call upon all Member States to bring their policies into conformity with their obligation under the Charter to promote the observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms; (3) express its deep regret and concern that the Government of the Union of South Africa had not yet responded to appeals of the General Assembly that it reconsider governmental policies which impaired the right of all racial groups to enjoy the same fundamental rights and freedoms; (4) appeal to all Member States to use their best endeavours as appropriate to achieve the purposes of the resolution.
5. At its 147th meeting on 9 November 1959 the Committee concluded its general debate on the item after having heard more than fifty speakers.
6. At the same meeting, the representative of Uruguay formally introduced the thirty-six-Power draft resolution (A/SPC/L.37), voting on which was postponed until the next meeting.
7. At its 148th meeting on 10 November 1959, the Committee proceeded to vote on the draft resolution before it, as follows:

The first paragraph of the preamble was adopted by 51 votes to 3, with 7 abstentions.

The second paragraph of the preamble was adopted by a roll-call vote of 67 to none, with 2 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Ceylon, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, Finland, France, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Mexico, Morocco,

Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia,

Against: None.

Abstaining: Portugal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The third paragraph of the preamble was adopted by 66 votes to 1, with 6 abstentions.

The fourth paragraph of the preamble was adopted by 66 votes to 3, with 6 abstentions.

Operative paragraph 1 was adopted by 72 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

Operative paragraph 2 was adopted by a roll-call vote of 61 to 1, with 14 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Argentina, Brazil, Burma, Cambodia, Canada, Ceylon, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, Finland, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Republic, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: Portugal.

Abstaining: Albania, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Dominican Republic, France, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Operative paragraph 3 was adopted by 63 votes to 3, with 9 abstentions.

Operative paragraph 4 was adopted by 66 votes to 3, with 6 abstentions.

The thirty-six Power draft resolution (A/SPC/L.37), as a whole, was adopted by a roll-call vote of 67 to 3, with 7 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cambodia, Ceylon, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: France, Portugal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Abstaining: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Dominican Republic, Finland, Netherlands, Spain.

Recommendation of the Special Political Committee

8. The Special Political Committee therefore recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

QUESTION OF RACE CONFLICT IN SOUTH AFRICA RESULTING FROM THE POLICIES  
OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1248 (XIII) of 30 October 1958 on the question of race conflict in South Africa resulting from the policies of apartheid of the Government of the Union of South Africa,

Deeply convinced that the practice of racial discrimination and segregation is opposed to the observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Considering that government policies which accentuate or seek to preserve racial discrimination are prejudicial to international harmony,

Noting with concern that the policy of apartheid is still being pursued,

1. Expresses its opposition to the continuance or preservation of racial discrimination in any part of the world;

2. Solemnly calls upon all Member States to bring their policies into conformity with their obligation under the Charter of the United Nations to promote the observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

3. Expresses its deep regret and concern that the Government of the Union of South Africa has not yet responded to appeals of the General Assembly that it reconsider governmental policies which impair the right of all racial groups to enjoy the same fundamental rights and freedoms;

4. Appeals to all Member States to use their best endeavours as appropriate to achieve the purposes of the present resolution.

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