



Eleventh session
Agenda item 55

QUESTION OF CYPRUS

- (a) Application, under the auspices of the United Nations, of the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples in the case of the population of the Island of Cyprus
- (b) Complaint by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of support from Greece for terrorism in Cyprus

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Dr. Franz MATSCH (Austria)

1. By a letter (A/3120) dated 13 March 1956, the Permanent Representative of Greece, on instructions from his Government, requested the inclusion of an item entitled "Application, under the auspices of the United Nations, of the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples in the case of the population of the Island of Cyprus" in the agenda of the eleventh session of the General Assembly. By a letter (A/3120/Add.1) dated 12 June 1956, the Permanent Representative of Greece transmitted an explanatory memorandum in accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure.

2. By a letter (A/3204) dated 12 October 1956, the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, on instructions from his Government, requested the inclusion of an item entitled "Support from Greece for terrorism in Cyprus" in the supplementary list of items for the agenda of the eleventh session. By a letter (A/3204/Add.1) dated 12 November 1956, the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom transmitted an explanatory memorandum.

3. At its 578th plenary meeting held on 15 November 1956, the General Assembly decided to combine both items and to include them in the agenda of the present session under the title "Question of Cyprus: (a) Application, under the auspices of the United Nations, of the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples in the case of the population of the Island of Cyprus and (b) Complaint by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of support from Greece for terrorism in Cyprus" and referred the combined item to the First Committee for consideration and report.

4. The First Committee considered the item at its 847th to 856th meetings inclusive, held between 18 and 22 February 1957.

5. By letters (A/C.1/788 and 789) dated 18 and 19 February 1957, the Permanent Representatives of the United Kingdom and Greece respectively submitted further documentation with regard to part (b) of the item.

6. At the 848th meeting held on 18 February 1957, three draft resolutions were introduced.

7. Under the first draft resolution, introduced by Greece (A/C.1/L.168), the General Assembly, having examined the question of Cyprus, recognizing the right of the people of Cyprus to self-determination in accordance with the Purposes and Principles of the Charter of the United Nations, considering that the situation in Cyprus had gravely deteriorated, considering that the establishment of conditions of freedom and peace in the Island not only was of vital importance to the people of Cyprus but was also of concern to all peoples in the area of the Eastern Mediterranean, considering further that an equitable solution of this question would contribute to peace and stability in that area, would express the wish that the people of Cyprus be given the opportunity to determine their own future by the application of their right to self-determination.

8. Under the second draft resolution, introduced by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (A/C.1/L.169), the General Assembly, considering that it was inherent in the Charter of the United Nations that States should live together as good neighbours and refrain from intervening in the internal affairs of other States, noting the complaint of the Government of the United Kingdom that, over a considerable period, terrorist organizations in Cyprus had received support

from Greece in the form of arms, ammunition and money, noting the fact that despite repeated representations by the Government of the United Kingdom, Athens Radio had regularly broadcast special programmes to Cyprus containing incitements to insurrection and violence, would call upon the Government of Greece to take effective measures to prevent support or encouragement from Greece for terrorism in Cyprus.

9. Under the third draft resolution, introduced by Greece (A/C.1/L.170), the General Assembly, having considered the British complaint on support from Greece for terrorism in Cyprus as well as the Greek arguments and complaints in reply, considering that, in order to be in a position to evaluate adequately the situation, it should be in possession of the fullest and most objective information and facts concerning these complaints, would (1) establish for the above-mentioned purpose a fact-finding Committee composed of representatives of,,,,,, (seven members), to investigate through direct observation as appropriate and to report its findings to the next session of the General Assembly; (2) call upon the Governments of the United Kingdom and Greece to assist the Committee in its task and to extend their full co-operation to it; and (3) request the Secretary-General to provide the Committee with the necessary staff and facilities.

10. At the 853rd meeting held on 21 February 1957, a draft resolution was introduced by Panama (A/C.1/L.171). Under this draft resolution, the General Assembly, taking note of the different points of view expressed during the debate on the question of Cyprus, considering the desirability of making a further study of the question of Cyprus, with a view to finding a satisfactory solution reaffirming the United Nations ideal of ensuring the peaceful co-existence of peoples in accordance with the principles of the Charter, would (1) decide to set up a Committee composed of the representatives of,,,, (five members), for the purpose of: (a) making an on-the-spot study of the present situation in Cyprus; (b) reporting to the General Assembly at its twelfth session on the results of its work; (c) making such recommendations as it deemed appropriate; and (2) request the Governments of the United Kingdom, Greece and Turkey to provide the Committee with all the facilities and assistance it would require for the execution of its task.

11. At the 855th meeting held on 22 February 1957, a draft resolution was introduced by India (A/C.1/L.172). Under this draft resolution, the General Assembly, having considered the question of Cyprus, and believing that the solution of this problem required an atmosphere of peace and freedom of expression, would express the earnest desire that a peaceful, democratic and just solution would be found in accord with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, and the hope that negotiations would be resumed and continued to this end.
12. At the 856th meeting held on 22 February 1957 before the foregoing draft resolutions were put to the vote, the Committee decided to give priority in voting to the Indian draft resolution (A/C.1/L.172).
13. The Indian draft resolution was thereupon put to the vote and adopted by 76 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.
14. The representatives of Greece, the United Kingdom and Panama thereupon announced that they would not press their respective draft resolutions to a vote.
15. The First Committee, therefore, recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

THE QUESTION OF CYPRUS

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of Cyprus,

Believing that the solution of this problem requires an atmosphere of peace and freedom of expression,

Expresses the earnest desire that a peaceful, democratic and just solution will be found in accord with the Principles and Purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, and the hope that negotiations will be resumed and continued to this end.
