



seventh session
Agenda item 60

THE TUNISIAN QUESTION

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Thor THORS (Iceland)

1. By a letter dated 20 June 1952 (A/2137), the Permanent Representatives of Afghanistan, Burma, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Pakistan, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Yemen requested that a special session of the Assembly should be summoned to consider the Tunisian question. Twenty-three Member States (including the above thirteen States) expressed their support of the request (A/2143). Accordingly, no special session was convened, since the majority required under rule 9 (a) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly had not been obtained.
2. By a letter dated 30 July 1952 (A/2152), the Permanent Representatives of Afghanistan, Burma, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Pakistan, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Yemen requested that the Tunisian question be included in the provisional agenda of the seventh session.
3. At its 380th meeting on 16 October 1952, the General Assembly decided to include the Tunisian question in the agenda of its seventh session as item 60. At its 382nd meeting on 17 October, the General Assembly referred the item to the First Committee for consideration and report.
4. The First Committee considered the question at its 537th to 546th meetings inclusive.
5. By a letter dated 4 December (A/C.1/737) the representative of France informed the Chairman of the Committee that, in accordance with the statement made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of France at the 392nd plenary meeting of the General Assembly on 10 November, the French delegation would be unable to

participate in the discussion on agenda item 60. At the 537th meeting, the representative of Iraq moved that the Committee should address an appeal to the representative of France to attend its meetings. The Chairman stated that he would address such an appeal to the representative of France.

6. The First Committee held a general debate on the item at its 537th to 541st and 543rd to 546th meetings inclusive, and the following draft resolutions were submitted:

(a) A joint draft resolution submitted at the 537th meeting by Afghanistan, Burma, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Pakistan, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Yemen (A/C.1/736), which provided, inter alia, that the General Assembly should (i) recall that the Charter affirmed the equal rights of nations large and small, and that among the purposes of the United Nations was the development of friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples; (ii) consider that the continuance of the present situation in Tunisia was detrimental to those rights and purposes and also endangered international peace and security; (iii) urge the Government of France to establish normal conditions and normal civil liberties in Tunisia; (iv) recommend that negotiations should be resumed between the Government of France and the true representatives of the Tunisian people for the purpose of implementing the right of self-determination and the fulfilment of the national aspirations of the Tunisian people; (v) decide to appoint a commission of good offices, composed of three members, to arrange and assist in the proposed negotiations; (vi) request the commission to take all necessary steps for the aforesaid purposes and to report to the General Assembly on the progress made; (vii) invite all concerned to give to the commission their full co-operation; and (viii) decide to include the item on the provisional agenda of the eighth session of the General Assembly.

(b) A joint draft resolution submitted at the 539th meeting by Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Nicaragua, Uruguay, and Venezuela (A/C.1/L.8) which provided, inter alia, that the General Assembly should (i) express its confidence that, in pursuance of its proclaimed policies, the Government of France would endeavour to further the effective development of the free institutions of the Tunisian people, in

conformity with the Purposes and Principles of the Charter; (ii) express the hope that the parties would continue negotiations on an urgent basis with a view to bringing about self-government for Tunisians in the light of the relevant provisions of the Charter; and (iii) appeal to the parties concerned to conduct their relations and settle their disputes in accordance with the spirit of the Charter and refrain from any acts or measures likely to aggravate the present tension.

7. At the 541st meeting, Pakistan submitted a proposal which, after revision (A/C.1/L.9) provided that the First Committee should (a) express its regret at the absence of the French delegation from its deliberations on the Tunisian question and appeal to the Government of France to reconsider its decision and to instruct its delegation to take its rightful seat in the Committee with a view to taking part in the discussion on the question; and (b) decide that the Bey of Tunis should be invited to depute his representative to participate in the debates, without the right of vote.

8. After discussion at the 542nd meeting, the Committee proceeded to vote paragraph by paragraph on the draft resolution of Pakistan (A/C.1/L.9) with the following results:

The first paragraph was adopted by a roll-call vote of 19 to 16, with 22 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Bolivia, Burma, Chile, China, Egypt, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Thailand, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: Australia, Belgium, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti, Honduras, Israel, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay.

Abstaining: Argentina, Brazil, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ethiopia, Iceland, Liberia, Mexico, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America, Venezuela.

The second paragraph was rejected by a roll-call vote of 26 to 24, with 7 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Bolivia, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Chile, China, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Thailand, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Sweden, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Abstaining: Argentina, Brazil, Ethiopia, Israel, Liberia, Mexico, Turkey.

The resolution, minus the second paragraph, was rejected by a roll-call vote of 21 to 2, with 34 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Chile, Guatemala.

Against: Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Israel, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay.

Abstaining: Afghanistan, Argentina, Brazil, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, China, Colombia, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Liberia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

As a result of these decisions, no resolution was adopted.

9. At the 546th meeting, India submitted an amendment (A/C.1/L.10) to the eleven-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.8), (a) deleting the fourth paragraph, which provided that the General Assembly should express its confidence that, in pursuance of its proclaimed policies, the Government of France would endeavour to further the effective development of the free institutions of the Tunisian people, in conformity with the Purposes and Principles of the Charter; and (b) adding a new paragraph requesting the President of the General Assembly to keep under

observation the progress of the negotiations, and to give, in his discretion, such assistance as might be necessary or useful.

10. At the same meeting, the Committee proceeded to vote paragraph by paragraph on the thirteen-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/736), with the following results:

The first and second paragraphs were adopted by 29 votes to 9, with 18 abstentions.

The third paragraph was adopted by 36 votes to 6, with 15 abstentions.

The fourth paragraph was rejected by 29 votes to 24, with 6 abstentions.

The fifth paragraph was adopted by 28 votes to 16, with 14 abstentions.

The sixth paragraph was rejected by 27 votes to 26, with 4 abstentions.

The seventh paragraph was rejected by a roll-call vote of 28 to 25, with 5 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Liberia, Mexico, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Thailand, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Sweden, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Abstaining: Argentina, Bolivia, Greece, Israel, Panama.

The eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh paragraphs were rejected by 31 votes to 23, with 4 abstentions.

The twelfth paragraph was rejected by a roll-call vote of 26 to 25, with 7 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Liberia, Mexico, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Thailand, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Iceland, Israel, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Sweden, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Abstaining: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Greece, Haiti, Panama, Turkey.

The draft resolution as a whole was rejected by a roll-call vote of 27 to 24 with 7 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Liberia, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Thailand, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Iceland, Israel, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Sweden, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Abstaining: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Cuba, Greece, Haiti, Mexico.

11. At the same meeting, the Committee proceeded to vote paragraph by paragraph on the eleven-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.8) and the Indian amendment (A/C.1/L.10), with the following results:

The first paragraph was adopted by 50 votes to 3, with 4 abstentions.

The second paragraph was adopted by 51 votes to 3, with 4 abstentions.

The third paragraph was adopted by 52 votes to 3, with 3 abstentions.

The Indian amendment, deleting the fourth paragraph, was rejected by a roll-call vote of 31 to 21, with 6 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Liberia, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Israel, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Sweden, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Abstaining: Argentina, Bolivia, Ethiopia, Mexico, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The fourth paragraph was adopted by 28 votes to 19, with 11 abstentions.

The fifth paragraph was adopted by 42 votes to 5, with 11 abstentions.

The sixth paragraph was adopted by 46 votes to 3, with 9 abstentions.

The Indian amendment, providing for the addition of a new paragraph, was rejected by a roll-call vote of 31 to 20, with 7 abstentions, as follows:

- In favour: Afghanistan, Bolivia, Burma, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Liberia, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Thailand, Yemen, Yugoslavia.
- Against: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Israel, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Sweden, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela.
- Abstaining: Argentina, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

The draft resolution as a whole was adopted by a roll-call vote of 45 to 3, with 10 abstentions, as follows:

- In favour: Afghanistan, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, Liberia, Mexico, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia.
- Against: Belgium, Luxembourg, Union of South Africa.
- Abstaining: Argentina, Australia, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Guatemala, Netherlands, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

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

THE TUNISIAN QUESTION

The General Assembly,

Having debated the question proposed by thirteen Member States in document A/2152;

Mindful of the necessity of developing friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples,

Considering that the United Nations, as a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of their common ends under the Charter, should strive towards removing any causes and factors of misunderstanding among Member States, thus reasserting the general principles of co-operation in the maintenance of international peace and security,

1. Expresses its confidence that, in pursuance of its proclaimed policies, the Government of France will endeavour to further the effective development of the free institutions of the Tunisian people, in conformity with the Purposes and Principles of the Charter;

2. Expresses the hope that the parties will continue negotiations on an urgent basis with a view to bringing about self-government for Tunisians in the light of the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations;

3. Appeals to the parties concerned to conduct their relations and settle their disputes in accordance with the spirit of the Charter and to refrain from any acts or measures likely to aggravate the present tension.
