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Fifth session
Agenda item 73

ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT COMMISSION OF GOOD OFFICES

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Thor THORS (Iceland)

1. By a letter dated 26 September 1950 (A/1401), the Vice-President and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia requested that the item, "Establishment of a permanent commission of good offices" should be included in the agenda of the fifth session of the General Assembly. A draft resolution was attached, together with an explanatory memorandum. The draft resolution recommended all States to develop the greatest measure of initiative in view of direct negotiations and other means for peaceful settlement in accordance with Article 33 of the Charter, and provided for the establishment of a permanent commission of good offices for the purpose of facilitating the opening of direct negotiations and of applying other means of peaceful settlement of disputes. Provisions were included setting out the terms of reference of the Commission, which was to be composed of the six non-permanent members of the Security Council and of six Member States, other than the permanent members of the Security Council, elected by the General Assembly.
2. The General Committee decided, at its 71st meeting, to recommend the inclusion of the item in the agenda, and the recommendation was approved at the 294th meeting of the General Assembly. The item was referred to the First Committee for consideration and report, and was considered at the 390th and 391st meetings of the Committee.
3. In the course of the general debate two additional draft resolutions were submitted:

(a) A draft resolution by Uruguay (A/C.1/616), submitted at the 390th meeting, which, after calling attention to the provisions of Article 33

/of the Charter
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of the Charter and to the terms of reference of the Interim Committee, proposed to refer the item to the Interim Committee for consideration, together with the relevant proposals and records of the discussions on the item, in connexion with its systematic study of machinery for the peaceful settlement of disputes.

(b) A draft resolution by Lebanon (A/C.1/617), submitted at the same meeting, which called attention to the study by the Interim Committee on the question of the establishment of a permanent organ of conciliation; proposed to refer to the Interim Committee the Yugoslav draft resolution for study in connexion therewith; and requested the Interim Committee to give priority to the consideration of the question in its programme of work.

4. The representatives of Lebanon and Uruguay presented, at the 391st meeting, a joint draft resolution (A/C.1/621) which combined the provisions of the draft resolutions of Lebanon (A/C.1/617) and Uruguay (A/C.1/616), with the omission of the final provision of the Lebanese draft resolution by which the Interim Committee was requested to give priority to its consideration of the question.

5. The First Committee proceeded at the same meeting to a vote, with the following result:

The joint draft resolution of Lebanon and Uruguay (A/C.1/621) was adopted by 46 votes to 5, with 5 abstentions.

6. The Chairman ruled that a vote on the Yugoslav draft resolution was accordingly unnecessary.

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

ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT COMMISSION OF GOOD OFFICES

The General Assembly,

Mindful of the provision in Article 33 of the Charter that the parties to any dispute, the continuance of which is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security, shall, first of all, seek a solution by negotiation, inquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements, or other peaceful means of their own choice,

/Recalling that

Recalling that in General Assembly resolution 295 (IV) the Interim Committee of the General Assembly is charged to consider systematically the further implementation of Article 11 (paragraph 1) relating to the general principles of co-operation in the maintenance of international peace and security and of that part of Article 13 (paragraph 1 a) which deals with the promotion of international co-operation in the political field,

Considering that the Interim Committee of the General Assembly has already begun to study the question of the establishment of a permanent conciliation organ like that proposed by Yugoslavia (A/1401),

Considering that the study of this question is important and urgent,

1. Decides to refer to the Interim Committee item 73 of the agenda of the present session (Establishment of a permanent commission of good offices);
2. Recommends to the Interim Committee, in continuing its systematic examination of machinery for the pacific settlement of disputes, to study this item in connexion with the question of the establishment of a permanent organ of conciliation and taking into account the proposal introduced by Yugoslavia pursuant to item 73 and the discussions of the fifth session of the General Assembly on that item.
