

GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL
A/2384
10 April 1953
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Seventh session
Agenda item 73

QUESTION OF IMPARTIAL INVESTIGATION OF CHARGES OF USE BY UNITED NATIONS FORCES OF BACTERIOLOGICAL WARFARE

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Thor THORS (Iceland)

1. By a letter dated 20 October 1952 (A/2231), the United States of America requested that the item "Question of impartial investigation of charges of use by United Nations forces of bacteriological warfare" should be placed on the agenda of the seventh session of the General Assembly. In an accompanying explanatory memorandum, the United States presented the grounds for its statement that the charges were false and that the situation should be considered by the General Assembly.
2. At its 386th meeting on 21 October 1952, the General Assembly decided to include the item in its agenda. At the same meeting, the General Assembly referred the item to the First Committee for consideration and report.
3. The following documents relating to the question were circulated to the Committee: (a) a cable dated 24 October 1952 from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Korean People's Democratic Republic to the President of the General Assembly (A/C.1/727); (b) a cable dated 27 October 1952 from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Central People's Government of the people's Republic of China to the President of the General Assembly (A/C.1/728); (c) a letter dated 5 March 1953 from the head of the delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics forwarding statements of captured United States Air Force officers (A/C.1/L.28); ^{(d) a note dated} ~~(d) a note dated~~ 27 March 1953 from the representative of the United States of America transmitting statements by certain members of the United States armed forces (A/C.1/L.37).

4. The First Committee considered the question at its 590th and 593rd meetings held between 27 March and 8 April 1953.
5. At the 590th meeting, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.35) under the terms of which the representatives of the People's Republic of China and the Korean People's Democratic Republic would be invited to participate in the discussion of the question in the First Committee.
6. At the same meeting, the Committee proceeded to vote on the USSR draft resolution. It was rejected by 40 votes to 15, with 5 abstentions.
7. Also at the 590th meeting, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines, Thailand, Turkey, the Union of South Africa, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America submitted a joint draft resolution (A/C.1/L.36) providing that the General Assembly should, inter alia: (1) establish, after the President of the General Assembly had received an indication from all the governments and authorities concerned of their acceptance of the proposed investigation, a Commission composed of five States to carry out an investigation of the charges; (2) call upon the governments and authorities concerned to enable the Commission to travel freely throughout such areas of North and South Korea, the Chinese mainland, and Japan as the Commission might deem necessary in the performance of its task and otherwise to facilitate the task of the Commission; (3) request the President of the General Assembly to transmit the resolution immediately to the governments and authorities concerned requesting them to indicate their acceptance of the proposed investigation; (4) request the President of the General Assembly to report to the General Assembly at the earliest practicable date on the results of his efforts; (5) direct the Commission to enlist the aid of scientists of international reputation; and (6) direct the Commission, after acceptance of the investigation proposed in the resolution by all the governments and authorities concerned, to report to the Members of the General Assembly no later than 1 September 1953.
8. At the 593rd meeting, the sixteen Powers submitted a revision (~~A/C.1/L.36~~ (A/C.1/L.36/Rev.2) of their joint draft resolution, proposing that the Commission should be composed of Brazil, Egypt, Pakistan, Sweden and Uruguay.

9. At the same meeting, the Committee proceeded to vote on the sixteen-Power revised draft resolution. It was adopted by 52 votes to 5, with 3 abstentions.

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

QUESTION OF IMPARTIAL INVESTIGATION OF CHARGES OF USE BY
UNITED NATIONS FORCES OF BACTERIOLOGICAL WARFARE

The General Assembly,

Noting that accusations have been made by certain governments and authorities charging the use of bacteriological warfare by United Nations forces, and that the Unified Command has repeatedly denied such charges,

Recalling that when the charges were first made the Unified Command requested that an impartial investigation be made of them,

Noting that the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China and the North Korean authorities have so far refused to accept an offer by the International Committee of the Red Cross to carry out an investigation,

Noting that the draft resolution submitted in the Security Council by the Government of the United States of America proposing an investigation of these charges by the International Committee of the Red Cross failed to carry because of the negative vote of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics,

Desiring to serve the interests of truth,

1. Resolves that, after the President of the General Assembly has received an indication from all the governments and authorities concerned of their acceptance of the investigation proposed in the present resolution, a Commission composed of Brazil, Egypt, Pakistan, Sweden and Uruguay, shall be set up and shall carry out immediately an investigation of the charges that have been made;

2. Calls upon the governments and authorities concerned to enable the Commission to travel freely throughout such areas of North and South Korea, the Chinese mainland and Japan as the Commission may deem necessary in the performance of its task and to allow the Commission freedom of access to such persons, places and relevant documents as it considers necessary for the fulfilment of its task and to allow it to examine any witness, including prisoners of war, under such safeguards and conditions as the Commission

shall determine: all prisoners of war who are alleged to have made confessions regarding the use of bacteriological warfare shall, prior to examination by the Commission, be taken to a neutral area and remain under the responsibility and custody of the Commission until the end of the Korean hostilities;

3. Requests the President of the General Assembly to transmit the present resolution immediately to the governments and authorities concerned, requesting them to indicate their acceptance of the investigation proposed in the present resolution;

4. Requests the President of the General Assembly to report to the General Assembly at the earliest practicable date on the results of his efforts;

5. Directs the Commission, when set up, to enlist the aid of such scientists of international reputation, especially epidemiologists, and such other experts as it may select;

6. Directs the Commission, after acceptance of the investigation proposed in the present resolution by all the governments and authorities concerned, to report to the Members of the General Assembly through the Secretary-General as soon as possible and no later than 1 September 1953;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to furnish the Commission with the necessary staff and facilities.
