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THE QUESTION OF MOROCCO Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Thor THORS (Iceland).

1. By a letter dated 9 July 1953 (A/2406), the Permanent Representatives of Afghanistan, Burma, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Liberia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Thailand and Yemen requested that the question of Morocco should be included in the provisional agenda of the eighth session of the General Assembly. This letter was followed by an explanatory memorandum (A/2406/Add.1).
2. At its 435th meeting on 17 September 1953, the General Assembly decided to include the question in its agenda and referred it to the First Committee for consideration and report.
3. The First Committee considered the question at its 629th to 640th meetings inclusive, held from 7 to 19 October.
4. By a letter dated 7 October (A/C.1/L.58) the representative of France informed the Chairman of the First Committee that the French delegation would not participate in the Committee's discussions on the item. The French delegation considered that such discussions represented outright intervention by the United Nations in matters which were essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of France.
5. On 7 October, Pakistan submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.59), providing that the Chairman of the First Committee, on behalf of the members of the Committee, should request the Government of France to reconsider its decision to abstain from the debate on the Moroccan question in the Committee and by its

presence assist the Committee to come to a fair and equitable solution of the question. At the 630th meeting on 8 October, the representative of Pakistan stated that he would withdraw his draft resolution, since it appeared that it would not have the unanimous support of the members of the Committee.

6. On 9 October, Afghanistan, Burma, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Pakistan, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Yemen submitted a joint draft resolution (A/C.1/L.60), which provided, inter alia, that the General Assembly should (a) recommend that the existing state of martial law and all other exceptional measures in Morocco should be terminated, that political prisoners should be released and that all public liberties should be restored; (b) recommend that democratic representative institutions for the people of Morocco through free elections on the basis of universal suffrage should be established; (c) recommend that all necessary steps should be taken to ensure, within five years, the complete realization by the people of Morocco of their rights to full sovereignty and independence; and (d) request the Secretary-General to communicate with the French Government with a view to the implementation of the resolution and to report to the General Assembly at its ninth session.

7. On 16 October, Bolivia submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.61), which provided, inter alia, that the General Assembly, bearing in mind its resolution 612 (VII) of 19 December 1952, should renew its appeal for the reduction of tension in relation to the question of Morocco and again express its confidence and hope that the free political institutions of the people of Morocco would be developed in conformity with the spirit of the United Nations Charter.

8. On 19 October, India, Indonesia and Burma submitted amendments (A/C.1/L.62) to the Bolivian draft resolution (A/C.1/L.61) which, inter alia, (a) added to the preamble a new paragraph recognizing the right of the people of Morocco to complete self-determination in conformity with the Charter; and (b) amended the operative paragraph to provide that the General Assembly should renew its appeal for the reduction of tension in Morocco and urge that the right of the people of Morocco to free democratic political institutions should be ensured.

9. At the 640th meeting on 19 October, the Committee rejected the thirteen-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.60) by a roll-call vote of 28 to 22, with 9 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Ethiopia, 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, Colombia, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Israel, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Abstaining: Argentina, Bolivia, China, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Greece, Mexico, Sweden, Thailand.

10. At the same meeting, the Committee proceeded to vote paragraph by paragraph on the Bolivian draft resolution (A/C.1/L.61) and the amendments thereto submitted by India, Indonesia and Burma (A/C.1/L.62), with the following results:

After the incorporation of several drafting amendments, the first and second paragraphs were adopted by 40 votes to 9, with 9 abstentions.

The amendments relating to the third paragraph were adopted by 33 votes to 15, with 10 abstentions.

The third paragraph, as amended, was adopted by 34 votes to 17, with 5 abstentions.

The amendment relating to the fourth paragraph was adopted by 30 votes to 18, with 9 abstentions.

The fourth paragraph, as amended, was adopted by 31 votes to 21, with 7 abstentions.

The amendment adding a new fifth paragraph to the preamble was adopted by a roll-call vote of 36 to 13, with 9 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, Ethiopia, Greece, Guatemala, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Liberia, Mexico, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Syria, Thailand, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: Australia, Belgium, Canada; Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Panama, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Israel, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Turkey.

The amendment to the operative paragraph was adopted by 30 votes to 18, with 9 abstentions.

The Bolivian draft resolution, as amended, as a whole, was adopted by a roll-call vote of 31 to 18, with 9 abstentions, as follows:

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

Against: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti, Honduras, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Panama, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Brazil, El Salvador, Greece, Israel, Paraguay, Peru, Turkey, Uruguay, Venezuela.

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

THE QUESTION OF MOROCCO

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of Morocco proposed by fifteen Member States in document A/2406,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 612 (VII) of 19 December 1952,

Considering that the motives and objectives of that resolution had and continue to have the merit of recognizing the necessity for the development of the free political institutions of the people of Morocco,

Considering that the fact that this item has been included in the agenda of the General Assembly at its eighth session indicates that those objectives have not yet been fulfilled,

Recognizing the right of the people of Morocco to complete self-determination in conformity with the Charter,

Renews its appeal for the reduction of tension in Morocco and urges that the right of the people of Morocco to free democratic political institutions be ensured.