



Eighth session  
Agenda item 56

## THE TUNISIAN QUESTION

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Thor THORS (Iceland)

1. By a letter dated 9 July 1953 (A/2405), 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 Tunisian question should be included in the provisional agenda of the eighth session of the General Assembly. This letter was followed by an explanatory memorandum (A/2405/Add.1).
2. On 17 September, at its 435th meeting, the General Assembly decided to include the question in its agenda and referred it to the First Committee for consideration and report.
3. By a letter dated 7 October 1953 (A/C.1/L.58), the representative of France informed the Chairman of the First Committee that the French delegation would abstain from participating in the discussions in the Committee on the item. The Government of the French Republic considered that such discussions represented outright intervention by the United Nations in matters which were essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of France.
4. The First Committee considered the question at its 641st to 647th meetings inclusive, held from 21 to 26 October 1953.
5. On 22 October, Afghanistan, Burma, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Yemen submitted a joint

draft resolution (A/C.1/L.64) which, after recalling General Assembly resolution 611 (VII) of 17 December 1952, provided, inter alia, that the General Assembly should (a) recommend that all necessary steps should be taken to ensure the realization by the people of Tunisia of their right to full sovereignty and independence; and especially (b) recommend that the existing state of martial law and all other exceptional measures in operation in Tunisia should be terminated, that political prisoners should be released and that all civil liberties should be established; (c) recommend that negotiations should be undertaken without delay with representatives of a Tunisian Government established through free elections held on the basis of universal suffrage and enjoying the necessary guarantees of freedom, with a view to enabling the Tunisian people to exercise all the powers arising from their legitimate rights to full sovereignty; and (d) request the Secretary-General to transmit the resolution, together with the record of the proceedings, to the French Government and to report to the General Assembly at its ninth session.

6. At the 647th meeting on 26 October, the Committee proceeded to vote by roll-call, paragraph by paragraph, on the thirteen-Power draft resolution, with the following results:

The first paragraph of the preamble was adopted by 38 votes to 11, with 5 abstentions, as follows:

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

The second paragraph of the preamble was adopted by 36 votes to 5, with 13 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Canada, China, Cuba, Denmark, Egypt, Ethiopia, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, Liberia, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Syria, Thailand, United States of America, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: Belgium, Chile, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Union of South Africa.

Abstaining: Australia, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Luxembourg, Poland, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The third paragraph of the preamble was adopted by 29 votes to 16, with 11 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Bolivia, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guatemala, 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, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Israel, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, New Zealand, Peru, Venezuela.

The fourth paragraph of the preamble was adopted by 33 votes to 13, with 10 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guatemala, 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, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

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

Abstaining: Canada, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Israel, Turkey.

The fifth paragraph of the preamble was adopted by 34 votes to 14, with 8 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, Ethiopia, Greece, Guatemala, 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, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

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

Abstaining: Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Israel, Turkey.

Paragraph 1 (a) of the operative part was adopted by 32 votes to 19, with 5 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Argentina, Bolivia, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guatemala, 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, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

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

Abstaining: Brazil, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Greece, Turkey.

Paragraph 1 (b) of the operative part was rejected by 26 votes to 23, with 7 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Liberia, Mexico, 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, Israel, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Peru, Sweden, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela.

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

Paragraph 1 (c) of the operative part was rejected by 26 votes to 22, with 8 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, Israel, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Peru, Sweden, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela.
- Abstaining: Argentina, Bolivia, China, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Greece, Mexico, Thailand.

Paragraph 2 of the operative part was adopted by 26 votes to 25, with 5 abstentions, as follows:

- In favour: Afghanistan, Bolivia, 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, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti, Honduras, Israel, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Sweden, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela.
- Abstaining: Argentina, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Greece, Norway.

The joint draft resolution as a whole, as amended, was adopted by 29 votes to 22, with 5 abstentions, as follows:

- In favour: Afghanistan, Bolivia, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guatemala, 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, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti, Honduras, Israel, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Panama, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela.
- Abstaining: Argentina, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Greece, Peru.

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

THE TUNISIAN QUESTION

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of Tunisia, as proposed by fifteen Member States in document A/2405,

Recalling its resolution 611 (VII) of 17 December 1952,

Noting that the objectives of this resolution have not yet been achieved,

Desirous of creating the necessary conditions for the restoration between France and Tunisia of normal relations based on the principle of equality of rights of nations large and small,

Convinced that full effect should be given to the sovereignty of the people of Tunisia by the exercise, as early as possible, of their legitimate rights to self-determination and self-government in conformity with the Charter,

1. Recommends that all necessary steps be taken to ensure the realization by the people of Tunisia of their right to full sovereignty and independence;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution, together with the record of the proceedings, to the French Government and to report to the General Assembly at its ninth session.

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