

GENERAL  
ASSEMBLYASSEMBLEE  
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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF THE QUESTION OF THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE  
REPORT OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Rapporteur: Mr. Finn Moe (Norway)

1. The Special Session of the General Assembly, at its one hundred and thirty-first meeting held on 19 April 1948, referred to the First Committee for consideration and report, the item: Further consideration of the future government of Palestine.
2. The First Committee at its one hundred and seventeenth meeting, elected Mr. Tsiang (China) as Chairman. Mr. Katz-Suchy, representative of Poland and Mr. Moe, representative of Norway, were elected Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur, respectively, at the one hundred and eighteenth meeting.
3. The First Committee invited the Chairman of the United Nations Palestine Commission and the representatives of the Arab Higher Committee and of the Jewish Agency to participate in its discussions and to render such assistance as the Committee might require.
4. At the opening of the general debate on the question, the representative of the United States introduced, at the one hundred and eighteenth meeting, a Draft Trusteeship Agreement for Palestine which was circulated as a working paper (A/C.1/277). The delegation of Australia submitted a proposal (document A/C.1/279) for specific means of implementing the General Assembly's resolution of 29 November 1947 [181 (II)]. This resolution was not voted on.
5. In the course of the general debate on this question, the representative of France submitted, at the one hundred and twenty-first meeting, a draft resolution (document A/C.1/280) stating that the maintenance of order and security in Jerusalem was an urgent question and

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that the Trusteeship Council should be asked to study and, in consultation with the Mandatory Power and the interested parties, take suitable measures for the protection of the City and its inhabitants. Amendments to it were submitted by the delegations of Sweden (A/C.1/281), Australia (A/C.1/282), Czechoslovakia (A/C.1/283). The French resolution as amended was adopted by the First Committee at the one hundred and twenty-fourth meeting, held on 26 April 1948 and was submitted to the General Assembly in the form of a Special Report (document A/542). The Trusteeship Council studied the question and reported to the General Assembly on 6 May 1948 (document A/544).

6. At the end of the general debate, the Committee decided at the one hundred and twenty-eighth meeting, by a vote of 38 in favour, 7 against and 7 abstentions, to start a detailed discussion of the Draft Trusteeship Agreement as circulated by the United States. The discussion of the working paper concentrated upon the list of selected topics, as prepared by the Chairman of the Committee, during which main points were examined and clarification was sought by various delegations.

7. Before and during the debate on the working paper, various draft resolutions concerning the procedure and the plan of work for the Committee were introduced. A draft resolution was submitted by the United States (A/C.1/278) proposing the reference of the United States working paper containing the Draft Trusteeship Agreement to the Fourth Committee for study and report, with recommendations thereon to the General Assembly. This draft resolution was not voted on.

8. A draft resolution submitted by the delegation of Guatemala (A/C.1/284) proposed the appointment of a Sub-Committee which, after hearing the United Nations Palestine Commission, the Mandatory Power, the Arab Higher Committee, the Jewish Agency and the various experts, would report to the First Committee its findings with respect to the questions whether Trusteeship was desired and would be acceptable to the population of Palestine, and whether it was possible to implement Trusteeship and make it workable.

Amendments to the draft resolution of Guatemala were proposed by the delegation of the United States (A/C.1/285) and accepted by the representative of Guatemala. Further amendments were submitted by the delegations of Peru (A/C.1/286), France (A/C.1/287), Argentina (A/C.1/288) and Cuba (A/C.1/290). The delegation of Guatemala submitted an amendment (A/C.1/291) to the Cuban amendment.

9. The resolution as amended, appointing a Sub-Committee, was adopted at the one hundred and thirty-seventh meeting held on 4 May 1948 by 33 votes in favour, 7 against and 13 abstentions (A/C.1/292). The proposal instructed the Sub-Committee to study the situation in Palestine in the light of the preceding discussions, taking into account all suggestions made in the course of the Committee's debate, and to formulate and report to the Committee a proposal for a Provisional Regime in Palestine. It was also instructed to take into account whether such a proposal would commend itself to the parties, whether it would be possible to implement it and make it workable, and the approximate cost of the proposal. The Sub-Committee was authorized to consult the representatives of the United Nations Palestine Commission, the Mandatory Power, the Arab Higher Committee, the Jewish Agency and other experts on Palestine.

10. The one hundred and thirty-eighth meeting of the First Committee was convened on 11 May 1948 to deal with the question of "further measures for the protection of the City of Jerusalem and its inhabitants", which, together with a French proposal (document A/546), was referred by the General Assembly to the Committee, under a resolution adopted at the one hundred and thirty-fourth plenary meeting held on 6 May (A/C.1/293).

11. After a discussion in the Committee, a draft resolution for the establishment of a Sub-Committee was proposed by the representative of the United States (document A/C.1/294). The proposal as amended by the representatives of France and Guatemala (documents A/C.1/295 and A/C.1/296) was voted paragraph by paragraph and was adopted. The Sub-Committee was

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instructed to examine further measures for the protection of the City of Jerusalem and its inhabitants, and after consultation with the Arab Higher Committee and the Jewish Agency for Palestine, to bring before the Committee, as promptly as possible, the appropriate recommendations. The resolution, as adopted, was circulated in document A/C.1/297.

12. Sub-Committee 9 and Sub-Committee 10 reported back to the Committee on 13 May (documents A/C.1/298 and A/C.1/299). The general debate on the report of Sub-Committee 10 was opened at the one hundred and thirty-ninth meeting and of Sub-Committee 9 at the one hundred and fortieth meeting.

13. In the course of the discussion of the two reports, a number of amendments were introduced. The delegations of Mexico (document A/C.1/302) and the United States (document A/C.1/304) submitted amendments to the resolution contained in the report of Sub-Committee 10. The delegations of Greece (document A/C.1/300), of New Zealand (A/C.1/301), of Poland (A/C.1/SC.9/2) and of France (A/C.1/303), submitted amendments to the resolution contained in the report of Sub-Committee 9.

14. The resolution contained in the report of Sub-Committee 9 was voted upon paragraph by paragraph. The amendments which were submitted to various paragraphs were voted on before the vote was taken on the respective paragraphs. The result of the voting was as follows:

a) The preamble was adopted by 36 votes in favour, none against and 13 abstentions.

b) The Polish amendment to paragraph I (document A/C.1/SC.9/2) was rejected by 28 votes against, 7 in favour and 14 abstentions.

c) Paragraph I was adopted by 39 votes in favour, none against and 13 abstentions.

d) The Polish amendment to paragraph II, 1 up to the word "functions" was rejected by 28 votes against, 1 in favour and 22 abstentions.

e) Paragraph II, 1 was adopted by 37 votes in favour, none against and 15 abstentions.

f) The Polish amendment to paragraph II, 1(a) was rejected by 25 votes against, 1 in favour and 22 abstentions.

g) Paragraph II 1 (a) was adopted by 35 votes in favour, none against and 16 abstentions.

h) Paragraph II, 1 (a) (i) was adopted by 34 votes in favour, none against and 15 abstentions.

i) Paragraph II, 1 (a) (ii) was adopted by 36 votes in favour, none against and 15 abstentions.

j) The French amendment to paragraph II, 1 (a) (iii) was adopted by 13 votes in favour, 7 against and 25 abstentions.

k) Paragraph II, 1 (b) was adopted by 36 votes in favour, none against and 15 abstentions.

l) The Polish amendment to paragraph II, 1 (c) was rejected by 30 votes against, 2 in favour and 17 abstentions.

m) Paragraph II, 1 (c) was adopted by 35 votes in favour, none against and 15 abstentions.

n) Paragraph II, 2 was adopted by 35 votes in favour, none against and 15 abstentions.

o) The first New Zealand amendment (document A/C.1/301) to paragraph II, 3 was adopted by 26 votes in favour, 6 against and 16 abstentions.

p) Paragraph II, 3 as amended was adopted by 34 votes in favour, none against and 16 abstentions.

q) Paragraph II, 4 was adopted by 33 votes in favour, 2 against and 14 abstentions.

r) The Greek amendment (A/C.1/300) to paragraph III was adopted by 24 votes in favour, 15 against and 11 abstentions.

s) The New Zealand amendment (A/C.1/301) to paragraph III was rejected by 26 votes against, 14 in favour and 11 abstentions.

t) Paragraph III as amended by the Greek amendment was adopted by 32 votes in favour, 8 against and 12 abstentions.

u) The resolution as a whole was adopted by 35 votes in favour, 6 against and 10 abstentions.

15. Discussion also took place on the question of the financial implications of the draft resolution recommended by Sub-Committee 9 and of the application of rule 142 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. In response to the request of the Chairman, the Secretary-General informed the Committee that, although it was not possible at this stage to give an exact figure, he estimated that the resolution would involve the expenditure by the United Nations of some \$100,000. He also pointed out that the second regular session of the General Assembly had authorized him to enter into commitments to meet unforeseen and extraordinary expenses not exceeding a total of \$2,000,000 on his certification that the expenses related to the maintenance of international peace and security. It was accordingly unnecessary to refer the resolution to the Fifth Committee for its report.

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

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Taking Account of the present situation in regard to Palestine,

### I

Strongly affirms its support of the efforts of the Security Council to secure a truce in Palestine and calls upon all governments, organizations and persons to co-operate in making effective such a truce.

### II.

1. Empowers a United Nations Mediator in Palestine, to be chosen by a committee of the General Assembly composed of representatives of China, France, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom and the United States, to exercise the following functions:

(a) to use his good offices with the local and community authorities in Palestine to:

(i) arrange for the operation of common services necessary to the safety and well being of the population of Palestine;

(ii) assure the protection of the Holy Places, religious buildings and sites in Palestine;

(iii) promote a peaceful adjustment of the <sup>future</sup> situation of Palestine.

(b) to co-operate with the Truce Commission for Palestine appointed by the Security Council in its Resolution of 23 April 1948.

(c) to invite, as seems to him advisable, with a view to the promotion of the welfare of the inhabitants of Palestine, the assistance and co-operation of appropriate Specialized Agencies of the United Nations such as the World Health Organization, of the International Red Cross, and of other governmental or non-governmental organizations of a humanitarian and non-political character

2. Instructs the United Nations Mediator to render progress reports monthly, or more frequently as he deems necessary, to the Security Council and to the Secretary-General for transmission to the Members of the United Nations.

/3. Directs

3. Directs the United Nations Mediator to conform in his activities with the provisions of this resolution, and with such instructions as the General Assembly or the Security Council may issue.

4. Authorizes the Secretary-General to pay the United Nations Mediator an emolument equal to that paid to the President of the International Court of Justice, and to provide the Mediator with the necessary staff to assist in carrying out the functions assigned to the Mediator by the General Assembly.

### III

Relieves the Palestine Commission from the further exercise of responsibilities under Resolution 181 (II) of 29 November 1947.

17. The First Committee decided at the one hundred and forty-first meeting held on 14 May 1948 to refer to the General Assembly the report of Sub-Committee 10 (document A/C.1/298) with the amendments submitted to it, without making any recommendations.

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