

11. Before doing so, however, we decided to inform the French (the Indians and other African-Asians were already aware of our intentions). Engen had a long discussion with Pineau and explained fully the position in which some of the Western Powers found themselves in the Assembly. Pineau said that he was not in a position to accept the amendments but Engen gained the impression that Pineau's personal attitude towards them was "positive". Engen made clear to Pineau, moreover, that we did not expect the French to accept the amendments but only to acquiesce in them. Engen argued that it would be to the advantage of France to have the amendments adopted and he hoped that the French delegation would urge their friends to support the amendments. Pineau, who apparently became aware for the first time, after Engen's explanation, that the Committee might adopt only one resolution, and that would probably be the African-Asian text, asked for time to discuss our amendments with his delegation, including his parliamentary colleagues. He and Engen will meet again tomorrow morning at 10:15, after which the amendments will probably be submitted.

12. There is no clear evidence that these amendments will be adopted. We can expect opposition to them from at least some of the African-Asians and from the USSR bloc. There may be a large number of abstentions. However, even if the amendments should fail, for reasons which we have given we consider it desirable to table them. If it should become apparent that the opposition to them is heavy, we might not press them to a vote. We are satisfied that if the African-Asian draft resolution should be adopted in the Committee, the majority will not be sufficient to meet the purpose of the African-Asians and that, therefore, they will be better disposed to accept amendments like ours in plenary, in order to widen the support for their position. At this stage, however, there seems little advantage in trying to forecast what action would be taken in plenary.

8.

DEA/12177-40

*Note du sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
pour le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures¹¹*

*Memorandum from Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs
to Secretary of State for External Affairs¹¹*

CONFIDENTIAL

[Ottawa], December 5, 1957

ALGERIA

The First Committee of the Assembly in New York has been considering the Algerian question so actively during the past two days that our Delegation has not had the opportunity to send us full reports by telegram. We are anxious to describe the immediate situation to you since the French Ambassador is to see you later this afternoon.

2. We have learned by telephone that the Arab-Asian proposed resolution contained in telegram no. 2670, attached, has now been introduced and circulated. It is sponsored, we understand, by most of the Arab States and a number of the Asian States, but not India and Pakistan. The Indians have not co-sponsored it and would apparently be prepared to see some modifications made to it. If it is put to a vote they would feel obliged to vote for it. Our own Delegation considers that the Afro-Asian countries have been surprisingly moderate in their statements as well as in the text they have submitted. In the atmosphere of

¹¹ Note marginale :/Marginal note:
Seen by the Minister