

diction of states), and political arguments concerning the harm likely to be done by a debate on Cyprus. The General Assembly decided, by a vote of 30 in favour, 19 against (including Canada), with 11 abstentions, that the item should be inscribed. With the exception of Iceland which voted for inscription and the United States which abstained, all Greece's NATO partners voted against inscription. The Canadian Delegation opposed inscription on the ground that inclusion of the item was likely to do more harm than good in Cyprus, in the region of Cyprus, and in the United Nations. This view was sustained by the wording of the item which implied that the General Assembly should not limit itself to discussing the question of Cyprus but that it should also consider action of a particular kind (for example, a United Nations-sponsored plebiscite for Cyprus as requested by the Greek Government). The Canadian Delegation considered it undesirable to place on the agenda an item which, by its very wording, prejudged the issue and presupposed intervention contrary to the Charter.

When the Cyprus item came up for debate in the General Assembly on December 15, 1954, New Zealand introduced a resolution "not to consider further" this contentious issue which had already produced undesirable consequences for relations between Greece and the United Kingdom and between Turkey and Greece. This resolution was amended by Colombia and El Salvador; these two states proposed a preambular paragraph that "for the time being" it did not appear appropriate to adopt a resolution on the question of Cyprus. The New Zealand resolution, as amended, was approved by the General Assembly on the last day of the session by a vote of 50 in favour (including Canada), 0 against, with 8 abstentions (Australia, Chile, South Africa and the Soviet bloc). In explanatory statements on December 17, both the United Kingdom and Greek delegates expressed satisfaction over the outcome of the Assembly proceedings. The former, which had strongly opposed inscription, greeted the vote on the New Zealand proposal as a victory for common sense, supporting the United Kingdom view that a debate on the issue could achieve no useful purpose and would serve to damage the solidarity of the free world. The Greek Representative, on the other hand, interpreted the vote on the procedural resolution as evidence that the United Nations recognized the Cyprus issue as an international problem; if the Cypriots' right to self-determination was not implemented, the question would be reintroduced in the United Nations.

As the tenth session of the Assembly in 1955, the Greek Government again made application for the inscription on the agenda of an item on Cyprus, worded in precisely the same terms as the agenda item for the ninth session. On September 23, 1955, the General Assembly excluded this item from the agenda by a vote of 28 in favour (including Canada), 22 against, with 10 abstentions. Canada opposed inscription of the item on the same grounds as at the ninth session.

West New Guinea

During the negotiations which preceded the transfer of sovereignty over the former Netherlands Indies from the Netherlands to Indonesia, the two parties found it impossible to agree on the future status of West New Guinea. Accordingly Article 2 of the Charter of Transfer of Sovereignty signed in 1949 stated: "The *status quo* of the residency of New Guinea shall be maintained with the stipulation that within a year from the date of transfer of sovereignty to the Republic of the United States of Indonesia the question of the political