

place because of lack of agreement on terms of reference; hostilities continued throughout the year though on a more limited scale than in previous years.

Twenty-five African-Asian nations requested on July 20 the inclusion of the "Question of Algeria" in the agenda of the fifteenth session of the General Assembly. On October 10 the General Assembly referred the item to its First Committee, which considered the Algerian question between December 5 and 15. France, in accordance with the declaration made by its Representative on September 22, did not participate in the debate.

The Tunisian Representative opened the debate in the First Committee, expressing the hope that the debate would lead to constructive measures and requesting United Nations intervention to supervise the referendum on self-determination. President de Gaulle had promised in 1959 that when circumstances would permit, the inhabitants of Algeria would decide freely on their future through a referendum on the following three courses: outright secession from France, complete unity with France, or self-government in association with France.

On December 10 a resolution on Algeria, sponsored by 21 African-Asian countries, was tabled in the First Committee. The operative paragraphs of the draft resolution recognized the right of the Algerian people to self-determination and the imperative need of efficient guarantees to ensure the sufficient and just implementation of this right on the basis of the respect for the unity and territorial integrity of Algeria. It recognized further that the United Nations had responsibility in this respect. Finally the draft resolution decided that a referendum should be conducted in Algeria, organized, controlled and supervised by the United Nations, whereby the Algerian people would freely determine the destiny of the entire country.

When the 21-power resolution was put to a vote, 48 member states voted in favour, 28 abstained and 20 (including Canada) voted against. Following the negative Canadian vote, the Canadian Representative stated that Canada agreed that the right of self-determination should apply to Algeria and that in fact irrevocable steps had recently been taken in that direction by General de Gaulle whose policy offered a realistic hope of achieving a solution. All men of goodwill, the Representative emphasized, would deeply regret it if responsibility for complicating further progress in Algeria could be laid at the door of the United Nations. Finally, he stressed that Canada thought that the kind of role advocated for the United Nations in the draft resolution was beyond its competence.

The First Committee recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of the resolution to which two amendments were introduced in plenary session. The first, by the Cypriot Delegation, "recommended" instead of "decided" that a referendum should be held in Algeria under United Nations auspices. It failed by two votes to obtain the required two-thirds majority. The