

At the end of January, the permanent representative of the United States wrote to the President of the Security Council requesting the Council to devote its most vigorous endeavours and its immense prestige to finding a prompt solution to the conflict. He affirmed that his country was not interested in a continuing military presence in Vietnam and was prepared for unconditional negotiations based on the Geneva Agreements of 1954 and 1962.

He submitted a draft resolution by which the Security Council would call for "immediate discussions without pre-conditions . . . among the appropriate interested governments to arrange a conference looking towards the application of the Geneva Accords". The Council would also recommend cessation of hostilities and offer to "assist in achieving the purposes of this resolution by all appropriate means including the provision of arbitrators or mediators".

The Soviet representative called the United States resolution a diversionary tactic to cover American plans for expanding the war. France objected to the involvement of the Security Council because all parties to the dispute could not appear before the United Nations on the same footing. Britain and China supported the United States. Opinion among the non-permanent members was divided. The Council voted nine to two to adopt the agenda, but France, Mali, Nigeria and Uganda abstained and the Council adjourned for private consideration of the matter.

Following the adjournment, the President of the Council (Akira Matsui of Japan) reported in a letter to the members and to the Secretary-General that there was no agreement as to whether further consideration of Vietnam by the Council would be useful. Some members of the Council had not been willing to participate in informal consultations on the subject. This letter aroused protests from France, the U.S.S.R., Bulgaria and Mali, which felt that the President of the Council had not been empowered to report the views of Council members.

India-Pakistan

On February 26, the Security Council was informed by the Secretary-General that India and Pakistan had completed the withdrawal of their troops to positions held before August 5, 1965, in conformity with the Tashkent Declaration of January 10 and with the withdrawal provisions of the Security Council resolutions of September 4, 6 and 20, 1965.⁽¹⁾ The task of the United Nations India-Pakistan Observer Mission had been successfully completed

¹ See *Canada and the United Nations 1965*, Page 58.