

(g) Spain

58. The position of the United Nations in regard to the Franco regime in Spain has been the subject of considerable discussion both at the San Francisco Conference and in subsequent sessions of the General Assembly and of the Security Council. At the Second Part of the First Session of the General Assembly a resolution was adopted which barred Spain from the international specialized agencies and from conferences arranged by the United Nations; which asked members to recall diplomatic representatives from Madrid; and which recommended that, unless a more democratic government were formed in Spain, the Security Council should consider measures to be taken to remedy the situation. Since the Franco regime continued in power and the request for the recall of Heads of Missions was not fully implemented, the question of Spain was placed on the agenda of the General Assembly again at its Second Regular Session in the autumn of 1947. In its discussions in 1947 the General Assembly adopted a resolution expressing confidence that the Security Council would exercise its responsibilities as soon as it considered that the situation in Spain so required. A paragraph in the General Assembly resolution, re-affirming its resolution of 1946 that members recall their Heads of Missions from Franco Spain, failed to obtain the necessary two-thirds majority and it was therefore defeated.

59. Canada has no diplomatic relations with the Franco Government in Spain and so it was not directly affected by the Assembly resolution requesting that the Heads of Missions be recalled. The position of the Canadian Government on the general question of the Franco regime was clearly given in a statement by the Canadian representative in the Political Committee of the General Assembly on December 3, 1946. He then said: "We abhor the record and the present policies of the Franco dictatorship. We earnestly hope that the Spanish people will be able to rid themselves of Franco by peaceful means and establish a democratic, responsible and enlightened administration. We are not prepared to support at this time outside intervention in Spain which might impede European recovery or revive in Spain the horrors of civil war". In accordance with this general policy the Canadian delegation to the 1947 Session of the General Assembly opposed a Polish resolution (which was not adopted) calling for the imposition of sanctions against Spain under Article 41 of the Charter. The position of the Canadian delegation on this point was that such action should not be taken except by the Security Council after it had been established that the Spanish situation constituted a threat to international peace. The Canadian representative also expressed the view that intervention of this type might strengthen rather than weaken the Franco regime. The Canadian delegation also considered that it would be unwise to re-affirm certain of the provisions of the 1946 resolution on Spain, particularly those which excluded Spain from membership in the various specialized agencies of the United Nations. The Canadian delegation did not feel that any useful purpose could be served by limiting the scope or weakening the effectiveness of the specialized agencies by debarring the Franco Government from the obligations of membership in them. Canada therefore voted against the paragraph in the final resolution which re-affirmed the 1946 decision of the General Assembly. As this section of the resolution was deleted in the Plenary Session, the Canadian representative voted in favour of the amended resolution, which was adopted by the General Assembly.

60. In accordance with the General Assembly resolution of 1947, the Security Council recently devoted a meeting to the Spanish situation. The majority of members of the Council (including Canada) took the position that the present situation in Spain did not constitute a threat to international peace and security and that there was, therefore, no present action required by the Security Council on this subject. The 1947