

condition being that African-Asian reaction should be favourable. It was clear from what was said that the representatives of Japan, Iran and Thailand hoped to persuade a majority, though not necessarily the whole group of African-Asians, to support the new text. There was more than an implication, moreover, that the group should be faced with a fait accompli. Under persuasion from Engen, Matusdaira and Entezam agreed to hold the draft in abeyance until after the African-Asians had met (tomorrow morning at ten; the Arabs will meet beforehand).

6. After the meeting of prospective co-sponsors, Engen learned from Fawzi that the Arabs were not happy about the new text but that the Moroccans and Tunisians were attracted by the substantial reference to the offer of good offices. The Arab group decided to leave it up to the Algerian representatives here whether the text should be accepted. The Algerian reaction will be made known at tomorrow's meeting of the Arabs.

7. Also this evening, Pineau tried to persuade Engen to co-sponsor the new text. Engen gave his reasons for not doing so and emphasized that if the delegation of Norway (like Canada and Ireland) should co-sponsor this draft resolution without knowing the full reaction of the Arabs and their Asian supporters, there would be more than suspicion that as co-sponsors of the amendment in committee Canada, Ireland and Norway had deliberately torpedoed the African-Asian text in order to clear the way for the watered-down version which they would help to promote in plenary. You will no doubt agree that Engen's views in this regard have considerable force.

8. We and the Norwegians tonight informed the USA delegation about these developments. We all agreed that the parliamentary situation as regards the Algerian item might continue to be confused even after the General Assembly has begun its plenary session tomorrow morning, but particularly until the African-Asians have had an opportunity to consider the new text.

12.

DEA/12177-40

*Le chef de la délégation à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies
au secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*Chairman, Delegation to United Nations General Assembly,
to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

TELEGRAM 2758

New York, December 10, 1957

SECRET. OPIMMEDIATE.

Reference: Our Tel 2749 Dec 9.

Repeat Washington, London, Paris, NATO Paris (Information).

Repeat Cairo deferred from Ottawa.

By Bag Beirut, Tel Aviv, Athens, Rome, Madrid from London.

ALGERIA

This morning December 10 proceedings in the plenary session were delayed while the African-Asian group discussed the draft resolution which was described in our telegram 2749 (paragraph 3). The first reports to come out of the group meeting confirmed our impression of last night that the Arabs were not happy about the new text. In the end, however, after the Assembly had already begun to discuss the report of the Credentials Committee we learned that the group as a whole had agreed to take the new text, but that