

initiate the necessary steps to bring its treatment of people of Indian origin into conformity with the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

South Africa, as in previous debates on this issue, rested its case substantially on the provisions of Article 2(7) of the Charter which precludes the United Nations from intervening in matters essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of member states. The South African attempt to prevent the discussion of this matter as being incompatible with the terms of the Charter failed, however, when the Ad Hoc Political Committee, by a vote of 35 in favour, 3 against with 17 abstentions (including Canada), upheld the competence of the United Nations to consider and vote upon any proposals relating to the issue under consideration.

In view of the fact that many delegations were convinced that a mere condemnation of the policy of racial segregation ostensibly followed by the South African Government would do little to alleviate the condition of Indians living in the Union, the General Assembly adopted, by a vote of 33 in favour, 6 against, with 21 abstentions (including Canada), a more constructive resolution originally put forward by Bolivia, Brazil, Denmark, Norway and Sweden, and substantially amended in the course of the subsequent debate on this item. This resolution recommended that the governments concerned resume their direct negotiations on the basis of an agenda previously agreed upon and, in the event of failure to arrive at an agreement within a reasonable time, avail themselves of the services of a mediation commission. The resolution further called upon the parties to the dispute to refrain from taking any steps likely to prejudice the success of their discussions, in particular the implementation or enforcement of the provisions of the "Group Areas Act", pending the conclusion of such discussions. The General Assembly decided, finally, to place the subject of the treatment of people of Indian origin on the agenda of its Sixth Session.

Canada's abstention from voting on the main resolution as well as on the question of competence was based on the recognition that, in the absence of an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice, the South African thesis that this was a matter essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of the Union Government could not be lightly dismissed. At the same time Canada has consistently held that a round-table conference of the parties concerned offered the best hope of reaching a satisfactory settlement of their dispute. Accordingly the Canadian Delegation supported those provisions of the substantive resolution which urged the three governments to make a further attempt at composing their differences by direct negotiation.

Indonesia

In preceding years, by virtue of its membership on the Security Council, Canada had a direct responsibility for the settlement of the Indonesian dispute. Canada's membership on the Council expired at the end of 1949. During 1950, Indonesian affairs occupied a much less important position in the work of the United Nations than they had in the preceding year. However, as a result of a