

pass the whole problem of Algeria and not merely a ceasefire. The Arabs are sensitive about a ceasefire because they believe that the French are trying to trick the FLN and others into surrendering their arms which would make them easier to deal with in subsequent negotiations. Lall did agree to try on the Arabs the words "including a cessation of hostilities" after "solutions".

7. However, it soon became apparent that the French would not take the language of the operative paragraph and for several hours Engen, Lodge and members of our delegation played with words in an effort to close the gap between the opposing sides concerning that paragraph. These efforts proved fruitless but they were sufficiently vigorous to persuade the African-Asians not to submit their own text to the Secretariat last night. Before midnight they agreed to allow the Canadian, Norwegian and USA delegations further time to explore the situation.

8. By that time we were aware that the Spaniards and some of the Latins were working on a feeble text (which was sent to you this evening). This would replace the earlier Italian-Peruvian text which was admittedly unacceptable to the Committee. The initiative by Japan and Iran had been placed in cold storage, partly because of the other activity and partly because the Japanese had encountered difficulties with the French.

9. Early this morning we and the Norwegians met with the USA delegation to review the situation. Our intention was to try once more to produce a text which might not be acceptable to either side but which might not be opposed because of the support which it would have in the Assembly. As in the early stages, we were concerned mainly with the operative paragraph. Before we had reached any conclusion, the discussion was resumed in the Committee and the only speaker was Pineau who wound up the general debate. Lall joined the drafting group, which eventually produced the following operative paragraph: "Proposes effective discussion for the purpose both of resolving the present troubled situation and of reaching a solution in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the UN".

10. Lall had little confidence that the African-Asians would take this text but he agreed to discuss it with them. Before he had reported their reaction we learned that the African-Asians had submitted to the Secretariat (immediately after lunch today) their own text (the one contained in our telegram 2670 December 3). Since this draft resolution would have priority in any voting in the Committee and since Lall and other African-Asians indicated to us that we should pursue our efforts to have our own text incorporated, we and the Norwegians, with some support from the USA, began to consider whether we should submit, as amendments to the African-Asian text, our own text for the fourth preambular and operative paragraphs. After considerable discussion with other delegations, including those of Austria, Brazil, Ireland, Sweden, Denmark and Iran, we and the Norwegians agreed with the USA delegation that amendments of this kind should be submitted, if only for tactical reasons (we discussed this with you on the phone and Mr. Nesbitt spoke to the Minister).⁹ This action would not only demonstrate to both sides that we were continuing our efforts to reach a middle ground but it would provide us with sufficient reason for abstaining on the African-Asian resolution, if the amendment should fail to be adopted.¹⁰ Late this evening, it was agreed that Canada, Ireland and Norway should submit the amendments.

⁹ Note marginale :/Marginal note:

no — spoke to Pick in absence of Minister [auteur inconnu/author unknown]

¹⁰ Note marginale :/Marginal note:

N.B. [auteur inconnu/author unknown]