

2. Nevertheless, during the day there was activity behind the scenes involving representatives of the seven co-sponsors of the Latin draft resolution (introduced but not pressed to the vote in committee); Iran, Japan and Thailand (at an earlier stage the prospective co-sponsors of a middle way); and India and Mexico. The delegations of Canada, Ireland and Norway were brought to these discussions late in the afternoon when the others had reached agreement, more or less, on a "compromise" text which was acceptable to the French delegation but which still had to be accepted by the Arab group and by the African-Asians as a whole. As you will see from the text, the operative part of which is contained in the next paragraph, the draft resolution falls considerably short of the earlier African-Asian text, even as amended by Canada, Ireland and Norway. It is difficult to see tonight how this diluted text could be accepted by the Arabs, but presumably the shortage of time for consultation and their desire to have a resolution of some kind might combine to persuade them to go along with the latest draft.

3. The preamble of the draft resolution refers to the discussion of the Algerian situation and recalls the resolution of the 11th Session. The operative paragraphs read as follows:

"1. Expresses again its concern over the situation in Algeria:

2. Takes note of the constructive possibilities suggested and particularly of the offer of good offices made by His Majesty the King of Morocco and by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Tunisia:

3. Expresses the hope that in a spirit of effective cooperation, pourparlers and other conciliatory means as appropriate will be utilized in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the UN".

4. It would appear that the origin of these paragraphs was mainly French. The second looks very much like the compromise which the Japanese were hinting at earlier in the committee stage and which they said at the time was acceptable to Pineau. The third is taken from a draft resolution which the Mexicans were promoting (probably with the drafting assistance of Lall) and which also had French blessing. The main concession by the French seems to be recognition of the offer of good offices. Paragraph 3, expressing hope concerning discussions is considerably weaker than either the African-Asian operative paragraph or the amended version which we and others submitted.

5. Earlier this evening the representatives of Italy, Spain, Mexico, Argentina, Cuba, Japan, Iran, Thailand, Canada, Ireland and Norway met to discuss this draft. Lall also attended for part of the time. We and the Irish and Norwegians were brought to the meeting at a stage when eight Latin powers (Brazil, Peru and Dominican Republic in addition to those already listed), Japan, Iran and Thailand had already agreed to co-sponsor the text. It was explained that the draft was acceptable to the French and that the Moroccans and Tunisians would probably accept it, although they would prefer the word "wish" rather than "hope" in the third operative paragraph. The other representatives wondered whether Canada, Ireland and Norway would co-sponsor it. Engen enquired about the attitude of the Arabs and of other African-Asians. Like us, he could not understand how this text could be acceptable when the stronger resolution (that is the amended African-Asian text) had been rejected in committee. The answer was that the Arabs were at the time considering the text and their reaction was expected soon. Before the meeting broke up, the Moroccan joined the group to report that the Arabs had reached no agreement on the text which they would refer to the whole group of African-Asians. Because the African-Asian reaction was by no means clear and because of our own reservations about the text, the Norwegians, Irish and ourselves postponed the reply on co-sponsorship. We also cautioned against a proposal by the Japanese that the text should be submitted on a conditional basis to the Secretariat, the