

draft resolution, which, among other things, urged the two parties to negotiate, was presented by the Brazzaville group of countries. This draft, which Canada supported, also failed to achieve the necessary two-thirds majority.

The problem of African independence was given special attention in a draft resolution co-sponsored by Nigeria and Liberia which proposed 1970 as the target date for the independence of all African territories. This resolution was not pressed to a vote. Nigeria, however, asked that the question be taken up again at the next session of the Assembly.

Representation of China

The General Assembly next turned to the question of Chinese representation in the United Nations. For the first time since the issue was originally considered by the General Assembly in 1950 a full-scale debate was held. At every session since 1950, procedural resolutions had been adopted which prevented both substantive discussion of the question and any move to replace the representatives of the Government of the Republic of China (Formosa) by the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China (Peking). The latter procedure — known as the moratorium — received steadily decreasing support with succeeding years and was abandoned at the sixteenth session. Two agenda items on the question were requested by New Zealand and the Soviet Union and approved by the General (Steering) Committee.

When the debate opened, two resolutions were before the Assembly, one submitted by the Soviet Union, which called for the expulsion of representatives of the Government of the Republic of China and their replacement in the United Nations and all its organs by representatives of the People's Republic of China, the other by Australia, Colombia, Italy, Japan and the United States, requesting a decision that any proposal to change the representation of China would be regarded as an "important" question under the United Nations Charter, thereby requiring a two-thirds majority vote for a decision. Because the Soviet resolution was generally regarded as being stated in objectionable terms, Cambodia, Ceylon and Indonesia introduced an amendment to it designed to replace the worst of the offending terminology with a simple decision to seat Communist Chinese representatives in the United Nations and all its organs.

At the conclusion of the debate, voting priority was obtained for the five-power resolution and, in the ensuing vote, it achieved more than the necessary simple majority in a vote of 61 in favour (including Canada), 34 against, with 7 abstentions, which meant that the Soviet resolution and its amendment then required two-thirds majorities to pass. In the event, both the original Soviet resolution and the three-power amendment to it were lost because they not only failed to obtain the support of two-thirds of the votes cast, but failed even to attract a simple majority. The vote on the Soviet draft resolution was 37 in favour, 48 against (including Canada), with 19 abstentions.