

included in the Council's agenda. The nationalist rebellion gained momentum, and on April 2, 1955 the French Assembly approved a state of emergency in Algeria and the despatch of substantial military reinforcements to the territory. On June 5 the Arab League called the Algerian situation to the attention of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, asking that steps be taken to put an end to a situation which was endangering international peace. On August 20 the Algerian rebels attacked more than 20 towns, killing hundreds of Europeans and Algerians.

The 14 Asian-African nations requested a discussion of the Algerian question at the tenth session of the General Assembly on the grounds that "the continuance of this situation is creating a serious threat to peace in the Mediterranean area" and "there is an imperative need for negotiations between the Government of France and the true representatives of the Algerian people". France opposed the inscription of the Algerian item on the General Assembly's agenda, and when the General Committee of the Assembly met to consider the Asian-African request, the French Representative declared that the matter fell exclusively within the competence of France; that Article 2 (7) of the Charter was applicable; and that the United Nations "should not lend such interference a support which would be unjust and fatal". The Asian and African delegations contested the application of Article 2 (7) to this case, and insisted that the Algerian situation created a serious threat to peace. The vote in the General Committee on whether the Algerian question should or should not be inscribed on the agenda was 5 in favour (Egypt, Mexico, Poland, Thailand, U.S.S.R.), 8 against (France, Haiti, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, U.K., U.S., Chile), with 2 abstentions (China and Ethiopia). The General Committee therefore recommended against the Algerian item being put on the Assembly's agenda.

When this question of inscription was raised in the Assembly on September 27, an acrimonious debate commenced. France's Algerian policies and practices were severely criticized by some Asian and African delegations, while others insisted on the competence of the Assembly to discuss the question. The United Kingdom, the United States, the Belgian and other delegations declared that Article 2 (7) of the Charter was clearly applicable and warned the Assembly of the danger of the United Nations inquiring into the constitutional arrangements of member states or into the problems which members might have with minority groups within their territories. By a vote of 27 in favour (including Canada), 28 against, with 5 abstentions, the General Assembly decided against the General Committee's recommendation to exclude the item from the Assembly's agenda. After this vote the head of the French Delegation (Foreign Minister Antoine Pinay) said that the United Nations and not France would have to face the consequences of this clear violation of Article 2 (7); he also stated that France would refuse to accept the decision of the majority and that it would consider any recommendation made by the Assembly as null and void. The French Delegation then withdrew from the General Assembly. The French Government announced that France would not return unless the Assembly struck the Algerian item from its agenda. During the next two months efforts were made to find a formula which would make it possible for the French Delegation to resume participation in the General Assembly and which would also satisfy the Asian-African group. To this end, on November 25 the Assembly unanimously approved an Indian resolution stating that "the General Assembly decides not to consider further the item entitled 'The question of Algeria' and is, therefore, no longer seized of this item on the agenda of the tenth session". The French Delegation resumed participation in the Assembly and the Canadian Delegation issued a statement in which it