

new members included two Commonwealth countries, Cyprus and Nigeria; the remainder were from Africa, an area in which many new nations have moved rapidly towards independence in the last few years. With this large increase in membership from Africa, which previously had been represented in the United Nations by only a few states, the Organization took an important step toward the ultimate goal of universal membership.

Mauritania

On August 20, 1960, the Moroccan Representative at the United Nations requested that "The problem of Mauritania" be inscribed on the agenda of the fifteenth session of the General Assembly. Morocco claimed that Mauritania should be integrated into Morocco for reasons of history, economics and religion. According to Morocco, such integration would be welcomed by the people of Mauritania. Morocco stated, in addition, that France had not fulfilled her part of an agreement made at the time of Moroccan independence in 1956 under which France and Morocco agreed to set up a commission to investigate the Moroccan boundary problem. France contended that the boundary problem concerned was that of Algeria and Morocco. Both France and Mauritania have rejected the Moroccan claims.

The item was adopted and referred to the First Committee. In the debate the Arab States, supported by the U.S.S.R., Indonesia and Guinea defended the Moroccan claim, while France and the African States of the French Community opposed it. A draft resolution put forward by Indonesia, Jordan and Libya was revised to incorporate views expressed by Afghanistan. The revision reaffirmed the principle of respect for the territorial integrity of member states and recommended that the "parties concerned enter into negotiations with a view to reaching a peaceful solution of the problem on the basis of the right of self-determination." An Indian amendment to the draft resolution was withdrawn but re-introduced by Iraq and subsequently put to a vote. This amendment expressed "the hope that the parties concerned will reach a peaceful solution of the problem on the basis of the right of self-determination". It was rejected by a roll-call vote of 39 against (including Canada) to 31 in favour, with 25 abstentions. As a result India submitted a motion of withdrawal which was agreed to by Indonesia, Jordan and Libya and the revised draft resolution was withdrawn and was therefore not put to a vote.

On November 28, 1960, Mauritania became independent, and the same day applied for membership in the United Nations. The Canadian Government recognized Mauritania and was prepared to vote for its admission to the United Nations. The question was considered by the Security Council in a long session on December 3, but as a result of a veto by the U.S.S.R., the Mauritanian application was not approved.