

them unacceptable to many of the original co-sponsors. In the impasse thus created, the amended draft resolution on the Security Council was rejected by 38 votes in favour to 41 against (including Canada) with 17 abstentions; that on ECOSOC was also rejected by 36 votes in favour to 42 votes against (including Canada) with 17 abstentions. The Indian draft resolution, which had obtained very little support, was subsequently withdrawn.

The debate in committee therefore ended inconclusively, and the elections to both Councils proved very difficult to complete in the absence of agreement on the allocation of seats. In plenary session, the Netherlands motion to have discussions on the question of enlargement of the Councils taken up again at the resumed session was approved by the Assembly by a vote of 60 in favour (including Canada), to 16 against with 11 abstentions.

Elections to the Security Council

Article 23 of the Charter provides that the Security Council be composed of five permanent and six non-permanent members. Three of the latter are elected each year by the General Assembly for a two-year term and retiring members are not eligible for immediate re-election. A two-thirds majority of the votes of member states present and voting is required and the voting is secret.

The term of office of Argentina, Italy and Tunisia expired on December 31, 1960, and in accordance with the "gentleman's agreement" of 1946 governing the distribution of non-permanent seats, they were to have been replaced by members from Latin America, Western Europe and the Middle East respectively. The candidates were Chile, Portugal and the U.A.R. Turkey was required to be elected as well in accordance with the compromise agreement reached at the fourteenth session, that Turkey should share the term with Poland.

Elections were not held until near the end of the first part of the fifteenth session. The large increase in the membership of the African group increased the pressure for African representation on the Councils and the failure of attempts to expand them or to redistribute the seats added complication to the current elections. Accordingly, when elections to the Security Council took place, Turkey, Chile and the U.A.R. were all elected quickly with large majorities, but for the remaining seat a contest developed between Portugal and Liberia, which emerged as the African candidate. Seven inconclusive ballots served only to confirm the deadlock which resulted because neither candidate could obtain the necessary two-thirds majority.

It was widely regarded as essential to fill the third non-permanent seat before the end of 1960 in order not to paralyse the Security Council by reason of incomplete membership. Consequently, Portugal agreed to withdraw on behalf of another Western European candidate, and much of the