

During the debate in the First Committee, a draft resolution was sponsored by seventeen Asian and African countries. After recalling previous United Nations action, the resolution recognized the right of the Algerian people to independence, expressed deep concern with the continuance of the war, considered that the present situation in Algeria constituted a threat to international peace and security, took note of the willingness of the provisional government of the Algerian Republic to enter into negotiations with the Government of France, and urged negotiations "between the two parties concerned with a view to reaching a solution in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations."

The Canadian Delegation voted against the 17-power resolution. In explaining the Delegation's position, the Canadian Representative stated that the Canadian Government had no self-interested motive, but only wanted to see "the free development of the people of Algeria along lines which will ensure their good fortune, liberty and happiness." He recognized the need for negotiations, but doubted whether a resolution of the First Committee laying down the objectives of negotiations would help this aim. He also pointed out that the resolution's reference to "the Provisional Government of the Algerian Republic" carried an implication of recognition, and the Canadian Government did not recognize the provisional government.

The draft resolution was adopted in the Committee by a roll-call vote of 32 in favour and 18 against, with 30 abstentions. When the draft resolution recommended by the First Committee was discussed in plenary session, it became evident that the resolution would not command the required two-thirds majority. The co-sponsors of the resolution, therefore, agreed to a proposal by the Representative of the Federation of Malaya that the passage taking note of "the willingness of the Provisional Government of the Algerian Republic to enter into negotiations with the Government of France", should be deleted, but even with this amendment the resolution failed to pass. The decision was close, however, for the resolution obtained only one vote less than the required two-thirds majority.

Complaints by Tunisia and France Concerning an Incident at Sakiët-Sidi-Yousseff

On February 8, 1958, French aircraft bombed the Tunisian frontier village of Sakiët-Sidi-Yousseff which, the French authorities alleged, was being used by Algerian rebels for raids into Algeria and attacks on French aircraft. The Tunisian Government, in protests against the bombing, recalled its Ambassador in Paris, forbade all movements by French troops in Tunisia, demanded the evacuation of French troops and on February 13, complained to the Security Council about this "act of aggression." On February 14, the Permanent Representative of France informed the President of the Security Council of the "situation resulting from the aid furnished by Tunisia to rebels enabling them to conduct operations from Tunisian territory directed against the integrity of French nationals." At the February 18 meeting of the Security Council the Representatives of Tunisia and France confirmed that their governments had accepted an offer by the United States and the United Kingdom to exercise their good offices in resolving the dispute. In the light of this development, the Security Council adjourned.

Negotiations carried on through the Anglo-American "good offices" mission continued during the next seven weeks. President Bourguiba agreed to exclude the Algerian problem from the scope of the talks, not to insist on