

would be partition of the country between the European coastal cities on the one hand and the Muslim hinterland on the other.

The Tunisian Representative, Mr. Mongi Slim, stressed his country's desire to work towards the goal of peaceful negotiations. While admitting that France had a legitimate interest in North Africa, he attacked what he termed the "fiction" that Algeria was an integral part of France. He criticized the French insistence on a cease-fire and elections as prerequisites to negotiations and pointed to Indonesia, Morocco and Tunisia where negotiations had preceded a cease-fire. He cited the example of Tunisia and Morocco to disprove the French argument that a recognition of the principle of self-determination for Algeria would lead to anarchy or partition. In closing, Mr. Slim expressed the hope that agreement could be reached on the basis of the offer of "good offices" from the Tunisian and Moroccan Heads of State.

The general debate on the Algerian question was marked by a more moderate tone than had characterized previous United Nations discussions of this subject. The debate seemed to indicate a growing desire on both sides for some kind of negotiated settlement. There continued however to be differences of opinion as to the right formula for bringing about these negotiations. A group of seventeen African and Asian countries introduced a resolution recognizing that the principle of self-determination should be applied in Algeria and calling for negotiations designed to reach a solution in accord with the United Nations Charter. A second resolution sponsored by five Latin American countries, Italy and Spain, expressed the hope that a just solution would be found to the Algerian problem. A number of delegations, including the Canadian, felt that the seventeen-power resolution could, if suitably amended, obtain wide support in the Committee. Ireland, Norway and Canada therefore joined in proposing amendments designed to produce a compromise to which both sides could acquiesce. These amendments provided that the Algerian people should be entitled to work out their future in a democratic way and proposed "effective discussions to resolve the present troubled situation" and to find a solution to the Algerian question.

In accordance with Assembly procedure, the amendments to the seventeen-power resolution were voted on first by the Committee and were adopted by a vote of 37 in favour, 36 against, with 7 abstentions. France did not participate in the vote and South Africa was absent. Those voting against the amendments included the Soviet bloc, and most of the African and Asian countries. When the seventeen-power resolution, as amended, was put to a vote, the Liberian Representative, who had abstained on the amendments, joined those voting against the resolution. The draft resolution was therefore rejected by a tie vote of 37 to 37, with 6 abstentions and the Algerian item was passed to the General Assembly without any Committee recommendation.

In the three days between the final Committee vote and the consideration of this item in the Assembly, a series of consultations resulted in the production of a compromise resolution co-sponsored by a group of Asian, European and Latin American countries and Canada. Once an informal agreement had been reached behind the scenes regarding this compromise proposal, the General Assembly quickly gave it unanimous approval by a vote of 80 in favour, with France not participating in the vote and South Africa absent. The resolution took note of the offer of good offices made by the Moroccan and Tunisian Heads of State and expressed "the wish that in a spirit of effective co-operation, *pourparlers* will be entered into, and other appropriate means utilized, with a view to a solution, in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations".