

welfare or friendly relations among nations". India's concern over the question was increased when the South African Government enacted the Group Areas Act, under which the various racial groups in South Africa would be restricted to specific areas of residence and economic activity. This Act came into force early in 1950.

In reply to the Indian case, South Africa claims that racial policy is a matter essentially within its own domestic jurisdiction, as defined in Article 2(7) of the Charter and that the General Assembly is therefore not competent to deal with the question. South Africa further maintains that the living conditions of non-European peoples in the Union have been misrepresented by India in the Assembly debates.

It had been hoped that the General Assembly's resolution of December 2, 1950 would bring some progress in the dispute. This resolution recommended that India, Pakistan and South Africa hold a round-table conference; if the conference were not held by April 1, 1951, or if it failed to produce agreement within a reasonable time, a three-member commission would be created to assist in carrying through negotiations; one member of this commission was to be nominated by South Africa, another by India and Pakistan, and the third by the first two or, failing agreement, by the Secretary-General.

In March 1951 the South African Government informed the Secretary-General that it was unable to accept this resolution as the basis for a round-table conference, since the resolution constituted intervention in a matter essentially within South Africa's domestic jurisdiction. The South African Government was unable, moreover, to accept the part of the resolution relating to the establishment of the three-member commission. In spite of these objections, the South African Government was willing to convene a round-table conference (although not on the basis of the Assembly resolution), without prejudice to its position on domestic jurisdiction. This offer was not acceptable to India.

The question came before the *Ad Hoc* Political Committee at the sixth session of the General Assembly in December 1951. The South African Delegate reasserted his Government's position on the question of domestic jurisdiction. He said that India was preventing any progress towards a solution of the problem by insisting that, as a preliminary step, South Africa should abandon its position on the domestic jurisdiction issue and in the meantime refrain from taking any administrative measures to implement the Group Areas Act.

Only one resolution, sponsored by Burma, India, Indonesia, Iran and Iraq, was proposed in the *Ad Hoc* Political Committee. This resolution was largely a repetition of the December 1950 resolution, but recommended the setting up of the three-member commission described in the 1950 resolution within 60 days. The resolution called upon South Africa to suspend the enforcement of the Group Areas Act pending the conclusion of negotiations. In support of this resolution, the Indian Delegate said that South Africa's policy was designed to make the position of people of Indian origin untenable and thus force their repatriation to India