

contain a threatening local situation was what provoked Mr. Khrushchov at the outset of the session to attack the Secretary-General, his office, and the Secretariat in the strongest terms. Mr. Khrushchov proposed the replacement of the office of the Secretary-General by a committee of three, representing the East, the West and the uncommitted countries. It quickly became evident that this principle of division by three was intended to apply to the entire functioning of the Secretariat and to the parallel functions of the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations. Furthermore, the Soviet Delegation appeared to make further progress in disarmament dependent on the acceptance of this principle.

The membership at large showed little indication of willingness to accept Mr. Khrushchov's position in this matter, however. It was clear that the majority of members realized that the adoption of the proposal would have amounted, in effect, to extending a form of the veto to the Secretariat. Thus the powers of the United Nations to take effective executive action in international crises, already sharply limited by the abuse of the vote in the Security Council, would have been completely paralyzed. In making this proposal, it appeared to be the Soviet Union's purpose to do what it could to reduce the effectiveness of the United Nations operations in the Congo and to ensure that the organization would be unable to act effectively to meet any similar crisis in the future. Despite the negative reception of the Soviet proposals, there was no indication that the Soviet Union was prepared to abandon its attack; and, because of this and the dissatisfaction felt by a number of other states at the turn of events in the Congo, the first half of the session concluded with an unproductive debate on the Congo in which no resolution designed to clarify and define the mandate of the United Nations proved sufficiently acceptable to be adopted by the Assembly. An item on the Congo was therefore inscribed on the agenda of the resumed session, the previous decisions of the Assembly on this subject were reaffirmed, and further debate was put off in the absence of any consensus that might have given further guidance to the Secretary-General.

Political Committees

Meanwhile, the seven main committees of the Assembly proceeded with a detailed consideration of the agenda items assigned to them, with greater or less success in completing their work depending upon the extent to which the items they had to consider were divorced from these fundamentally contentious issues. The Assembly's two political committees, for example, experienced considerable difficulty in proceeding with their work. The First Committee debated the question of Mauritania without adopting a resolution, and approved a resolution on Algeria calling for a referendum under United Nations control. The vote on the resolution was 47 in favour, 20 opposed, with 28 abstentions. Canada cast a negative vote, on the ground that United Nations intervention could only complicate or jeopardize General de Gaulle's initiative without being able to effect a solution itself. (The deletion of the reference to United Nations intervention in