

5. For this reason we have been considering with the USA and Norwegian delegations what action we might take to try to improve the position of the Western Powers in the eyes of other delegations and particularly our friends from Africa and Asia. The most effective method would be, of course, to persuade the French to accept the African-Asian text. Alternatively they might be urged to accept a real compromise and not one to which they had agreed beforehand. Such a compromise would have to contain some comfort for each side and it might be a modification of either the African-Asian text or the one which Japan and Iran are contemplating. We had in mind that as a start the Japanese might indicate to the French their misgivings about pursuing their own initiative in the face of the moderate text put forward by the African-Asians. This would make the French less complacent about the outcome of the debate and perhaps influence them to have more flexibility toward the African-Asian approach. At the same time we and others, but especially the USA and Norwegian delegations, could indicate to the French that we might find it difficult to oppose the African-Asian text. These tactics might help to bring about some accommodation of opposing views in the Assembly.

6. We emphasize that our aim would be not to weaken the position of France in the Assembly but to give the French government an opportunity to adjust its policies to meet the moderate approach by the African-Asians. The USA delegation believe that the French should be persuaded by one means or another to take advantage of the Tunisian-Moroccan initiative. Apparently USA officials have some concern about the USA position in those two countries. For our part we are much more concerned about the general position of the Western Powers in the whole of Africa and Asia and of course Canada's own relations with the individual countries. We have in mind too the position which Canada has carefully built over the years at the UN. We shall be exploring these ideas in further conversations during the next day or so and specifically we shall approach the UK delegation who have tended to stand on the sidelines, but who have shown some misgiving about the inflexibility in the French position.

[W.K.] NESBITT

6.

DEA/12177-40

*Le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
au chef de la délégation à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies*

*Secretary of State for External Affairs
to Chairman, Delegation to United Nations General Assembly*

TELEGRAM S-392

Ottawa, December 4, 1957

SECRET. EMERGENCY.

Reference: Your Tel 2677 of Dec 3.

Repeat London, Washington, Paris, NATO Paris (Information) (Routine).

By Bag Cairo, Beirut, Tel Aviv, Athens, Rome, Madrid.

ALGERIA

It seems to us that the happiest end of the present debate on Algeria would be a resolution introduced by the Arab-Asian group which could be supported by the French. We are impressed by the moderate wording of the Arab-Asian resolution (your telegram 2670 of December 3) and wonder whether it might not be possible to have it introduced with some