

Withdrawal of South African Delegation from Assembly Delegation

On November 9 the South African Government recalled its Permanent Representative and its delegation from the tenth session, following the approval by the Ad Hoc Political Committee of a resolution expressing concern over the continuation of policies of *apartheid* and calling upon the United Nations Commission on the racial situation in the Union of South Africa to keep the matter under review and report back to the eleventh session. Thirty-seven countries voted in favour of the resolution, seven against (Australia, Belgium, Canada, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Union of South Africa, the United Kingdom) and 13 abstained.

The South African delegation maintained that the activities of the Commission constitute intervention in matters within the domestic jurisdiction of the Union, in direct violation of Article II (7) of the Charter. This view was supported by the majority of the countries which opposed the resolution. The Canadian position was, however, based primarily upon the principle that it was undesirable to continue a commission which was unable to discharge the responsibilities assigned to it, and that there was risk of damage to the prestige of the United Nations if courses of action were decided upon which were not capable of producing workable results.

Return of the French Delegation to the General Assembly

Following the withdrawal of the French Delegation from the General Assembly on October 3, 1955, in protest against the inscription of the Algerian item on the agenda,* there was considerable informal consultation among delegations regarding a compromise which would allow the French to return. The members of the United Nations remained divided on the question whether the Assembly was competent to discuss Algeria (which, the French claimed, lay essentially within their domestic jurisdiction). However all United Nation members eventually accepted the view that, without prejudice to existing differences of position with respect to competence, it was not expedient to discuss Algeria at this time, especially in view of the recent improvement in the North African political situation.

Taking advantage of this favourable atmosphere, the Indian Delegation introduced a motion to the effect that the General Assembly would not consider further the item entitled "The Question of Algeria" and that it was therefore no longer seized of this item on the agenda of the tenth session. On November 25 the Assembly adopted this resolution without objection and many of the 22 delegates who gave explanations of their vote appealed to the French Delegation to return speedily and also expressed confidence that France would promote a peaceful settlement of the Algerian problem. All those speaking made it clear that there had been no change in the views they had expressed in the earlier debate on the subject regarding the General Assembly's competence to discuss the Algerian item.

The French Government immediately announced that France would return to the Assembly and its Delegation resumed its seat on November 29.

* See *External Affairs*, November 1955, p. 302.