

by that Government's refusal to participate except on the basis of the highly unreal and provocative resolution submitted by the Soviet Union.

The Security Council is still seized of this question but has not discussed it since February 14, 1955.

Tunisia, French Morocco and Algeria

Although previous sessions of the General Assembly had adopted resolutions urging France to enter into negotiations with representatives of Tunisia and Morocco to bring about self-government in the two territories, the eighth session of the General Assembly in 1953 had been unable to agree on the texts of the resolutions and none was adopted¹.

Neither the French residents nor the Tunisian nationalists were satisfied with the new Tunisian Government which had been established in March 1954, and terrorist activities brought about the downfall of this Government on June 16, 1954. In July, the Prime Minister of France, M. Mendes-France, announced that his Government was prepared to transfer to Tunisia complete internal sovereignty, reserving only the control of defence and foreign affairs. A new Tunisian Government was formed, and negotiations with France commenced on September 11, 1954. Although the Asian-African states had again requested a discussion of the Tunisian question at the ninth session of the General Assembly in 1954, it soon became apparent that nothing very useful could be accomplished by debate in New York. A moderate resolution was presented to the General Assembly by the Asian and African delegations, and amendments approved during the debate produced an even more innocuous text. The final wording of the resolution expressed confidence that the Franco-Tunisian negotiations would bring about a satisfactory solution, and postponed further consideration of the item. It was adopted on the last day of the session in 1954 by a vote of 54 in favour (including Canada), 0 against, with 3 abstentions (Australia, South Africa and the United Kingdom). The abstaining delegations maintained that the General Assembly was not competent to consider the Tunisian question because of Article 2 (7) of the Charter which deals with domestic jurisdiction.

In Morocco, 1954 was a year of increasing violence. On August 10, 1954, the French Government declared that democratic institutions would be developed with the eventual aim of internal sovereignty in Morocco but that public order must be restored before the implementation of political, economic and social reforms. The Asian-African nations considered these policies inadequate and requested the inscription of the Moroccan question on the agenda of the ninth session of the General Assembly. However, they found it difficult to press the issue because of the goodwill created by Prime Minister Mendes-France who visited the United Nations on November 22, 1954, and because of the general satisfaction with the progress of the Franco-Tunisian negotiations. Only a few delegations spoke in the debate on Morocco and the Asian-African group withdrew their original resolution in favour of the one which expressed confidence that a satisfactory solution of the Moroccan problem would be achieved. The resolution also postponed further consideration of the item; it was adopted by a vote of 55 in favour (including Canada), 0 against, with 4 abstentions (Australia, Belgium, South Africa and the United Kingdom).

Substantial progress had been made in the negotiations between France and Tunisia when the Government of M. Mendes-France was defeated in

¹See *Canada and the United Nations 1953-54*, pp. 20-23.