

dures for holding a referendum under United Nations auspices leading to independence of the territory. The Spanish delegation voted against the resolution because it contained a reference to consultations with Mauritania and Morocco over the referendum. A resolution on Equatorial Guinea, adopted by 108 in favour (Canada) to none opposed, with seven abstentions, noted that Spain intended to convene a constitutional conference in the territory during 1967. It also requested Spain to ensure that the territory acceded to independence as a single political and territorial entity in accordance with the Spanish Basic Law of 1963, which recognized Fernando Po and Rio Muni as a single territory called Equatorial Guinea.

Gibraltar

During the Gibraltar debate, Spain reiterated its claim to the territory and charged Britain with having recently for the first time asserted its sovereignty over the isthmus. Britain denied these claims, emphasized the need to safeguard the interests of the people of Gibraltar and pointed to its own willingness to negotiate. The Fourth Committee's subsequent compromise resolution (approved in plenary by a large majority including Britain, Spain and Canada), regretted certain acts prejudicial to smooth negotiations and called upon Britain and Spain to continue their talks, taking into account the interests of the people of the territory, with a view to expediting its decolonization, in consultation with the Spanish Government.

Fiji

The question of Fiji had been considered a number of times by the Fourth Committee but at the twenty-first session, as the result of the decision taken at the previous session, it was a separate item on the Assembly's agenda.

In speaking to the item, the British representative pointed out that there were stresses among the groups of different origin who inhabited the Fiji Islands, and that it had been British policy to proceed on lines that would avoid communal animosity. These stresses resulted from the Indian immigration which had started in the late nineteenth century; today the original inhabitants of Fiji were being overtaken in numbers by Indian immigrants and their descendants, who now comprised 50 per cent of the population.

The British representative described constitutional changes which came into effect on September 20, 1966, and stated that, while communal-roll seats had not been abolished, an important step had been taken to reduce their exclusive importance. In sum, the British representative stressed that further constitutional progress must be achieved in conditions of calm, and that Britain could not ignore the voice of one community in favour of another.