

Assembly on November 14. In its operative paragraphs it calls upon all concerned to continue to make available relevant information to the Scientific Committee, and requests that the Committee complete its report as soon as possible and make it available to all members of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies, and to the Second Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy. The resolution also requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Committee, to "consider the question of the strengthening and widening of scientific activities in this field", and to report to the General Assembly at its next session. Finally, it recommends the inclusion of the report of the Scientific Committee in the agenda of the thirteenth session of the General Assembly, and transmits to the Scientific Committee a report of the First Committee's discussion of the item at the twelfth session.

Algeria

The troubled situation in Algeria was discussed at the tenth and eleventh sessions of the United Nations General Assembly in 1955 and 1956¹. On July 16, 1957 twenty-two African and Asian states requested that Algeria again be put on the Assembly agenda on the ground that the situation in that territory had deteriorated rather than improved since previous Assembly discussions.

During the first months of 1957, rebel activities in Algeria seemed to continue unabated. Towards the end of the year, however, there were some signs of an improvement in the situation, at least in the more settled areas of the country. While continuing slowly to introduce local reforms in the area, the French Government proceeded, in 1957, with its plans to obtain parliamentary approval of a basic legal framework for Algeria. This basic statute or *loi-cadre*, which was approved in first reading by the French National Assembly on November 29, 1957², provides for the setting up of a single electoral college, the division of Algeria into a number of regions with a larger measure of local autonomy and increased Algerian representation in the French National Assembly. In November the King of Morocco and the Tunisian President, Mr. Bourguiba, issued a joint statement containing an offer of "good offices" to assist in reaching a settlement of the Algerian problem.

Debate on the Algerian item commenced in the First Committee of the General Assembly on November 27 with a statement of the French position by the French Foreign Minister, Mr. Pineau. He did not oppose the debate but reiterated the French view that the Assembly was incompetent to deal with a problem falling entirely within the framework of French sovereignty. Denying that France had ever refused to undertake negotiations with the Algerian rebels, Mr. Pineau said that the three stage offer of a cease-fire, elections (with a single electoral college) and negotiations, which had been made by Mr. Mollet in January 1957 was still valid. It was not possible for the French to accept the offer of "good offices" made by the President of Tunisia and the King of Morocco, since it was evident that the rebels still insisted on a prior recognition of the right to independence. Mr. Pineau referred to the lessening of incidents towards the end of the year in Algeria and outlined the social and political reforms which had taken place there. In his view, the *loi-cadre* for Algeria was proof of the French desire to find a political solution to the problem. Mr. Pineau foresaw that if one turned blindly to the principle of self-determination for guidance the inevitable result

¹See *Canada and the United Nations, 1956-57*, pp. 10-12.

²The *loi-cadre* was given final approval by the French Parliament on January 30, 1958.