

At the ninth session of the General Assembly in 1954 a Greek item concerning self-determination for Cyprus was inscribed on the agenda over the opposition of the United Kingdom, Canada, and most of the other Commonwealth and NATO countries. On the grounds that a United Nations debate on the Cyprus issue would do more harm than good and because the wording of the agenda item implied intervention in a matter of domestic jurisdiction, contrary to Article 2(7) of the Charter, the Canadian Delegation supported a resolution subsequently adopted by the Assembly deferring consideration of the Cyprus issue¹.

At the tenth session of the Assembly in 1955, the Greeks attempted to have a similar item inscribed on the agenda but it was rejected by a close vote of 28 (including Canada) to 22.

In the autumn of 1955 the Foreign Ministers of the United Kingdom, Greece and Turkey conferred in London on new constitutional proposals for Cyprus. Subsequent discussions between the United Kingdom authorities and Archbishop Makarios, the Ethnarch of Cyprus, broke down. In March 1956 the Archbishop was exiled to the Seychelles for complicity in terrorist activities.

When the eleventh session of the General Assembly was convened in November 1956, the Greek Delegation again sought United Nations approval for self-determination for Cyprus. The United Kingdom Delegation this time did not oppose inscription of the item but instead entered a complaint that terrorism in Cyprus was being supported from Greece.

In December, before the Cyprus item was considered by the United Nations, Lord Radcliffe's proposals for substantial self-government, protection of minority rights, and maintenance of the United Kingdom's strategic interests in Cyprus were presented to the House of Commons in London. The Radcliffe constitution was accepted as a basis of negotiation by the Turkish Government but was summarily rejected by the Greeks. It was therefore against a background of international stalemate and continued violence in Cyprus that the Cyprus question came up for debate in the First (Political and Security) Committee of the General Assembly on February 18, 1957.

Three resolutions were tabled—one by the United Kingdom calling on the Government of Greece "to take effective measures to prevent support or encouragement from Greece for terrorism in Cyprus"; one by the Greek Delegation expressing the wish that "the people of Cyprus be given the opportunity to determine their own future by the application of their right to self-determination"; and a second Greek resolution which would have established a United Nations fact-finding committee of seven members to investigate the complaint of the United Kingdom Government.

The debate began with three strongly worded statements by the Representatives of Greece, the United Kingdom and Turkey. Speaking for the Greek Delegation, Foreign Minister Averoff held the United Kingdom Government responsible for failing to respect the United Nations Charter in the case of Cyprus. He denied that the Greek Government was abetting terrorism or seeking to claim Cyprus but he supported "liberation from

¹See *Canada and the United Nations 1954-55*, pp. 20-21.