

whether the United Nations may properly intervene in the issue. South Africa has refused to recognize the GOC, maintaining that its establishment was an unconstitutional act since Article 2(7) of the Charter forbids intervention in the domestic policies of any state belonging to the United Nations; the Commission has consequently been unable to carry out its task of assisting in negotiations.

No progress was made during 1956 in bringing about negotiations between the parties to the dispute. When the General Committee of the United Nations on November 14, 1956 considered whether the item should be inscribed on the agenda of the eleventh session, the Representative of South Africa made a statement in which he reiterated that this question was within the jurisdiction of his Government. Nevertheless, the General Committee recommended the inclusion of the item on the eleventh session's agenda; this recommendation was then considered in plenary session. Thereupon Mr. Louw, the South African Minister for External Affairs, made a lengthy statement of protest against the inscription of the two items—Race Conflict in South Africa¹ and the Treatment of Indians in South Africa. He announced that this would be the last occasion on which his Government would state its objections to the inscription of these two items and concluded by suggesting to the Assembly "in great earnestness . . . that the patience of a loyal member of the United Nations should not be overtaxed". The inclusion in the agenda of this item was approved by the General Assembly by a vote of 63 in favour (including Canada), 2 against, with 13 absentions. On November 27, Mr. Louw announced that his Government had decided that "until such time as the United Nations shows that it is prepared to act in accordance with the spirit of the San Francisco Conference of 1945, and to conform to the principles laid down by the founders of the organization in Article 2, paragraph 7 of the Charter, the Union of South Africa, while as yet continuing to be a member of the U.N. will in future maintain only a token or nominal representation both at the meetings of the Assembly, and at the headquarters of the Organization".

The item was considered at three meetings of the Special Political Committee where the debate, which was on the whole moderate in tone, recognized that the General Assembly's efforts had "remained without effect". A resolution was adopted by a vote of 49 in favour, 0 against, with 11 abstentions (including Canada) urging India, Pakistan and South Africa "to enter into negotiations to facilitate a settlement of the problem", and appealing particularly to South Africa to co-operate. The parties to the dispute were invited to report, jointly or separately, to the General Assembly. When this matter came before the General Assembly as a whole on January 29, the Special Political Committee's resolution² was adopted by a vote of 42 in favour, 0 against, with 12 abstentions (including Canada).

While Canada has always supported the inscription of this item on the agenda, Canada has not voted for most of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on this question because of doubts whether the United Nations may properly intervene in the issue and whether the measures taken serve any useful purpose.

¹See above, p. 24.

²General Assembly resolution 1015 (XI) of January 30, 1957.