

The 15 African and Asian states then asked, in a letter of August 21, for an urgent meeting of the Security Council to investigate "the danger to international peace and security" which had arisen "by the unlawful intervention of France in Morocco and the overthrow of its legitimate sovereign". A long discussion took place in the Security Council from August 26 to September 3 on the proposed inclusion of this question in the agenda. Finally, however, the Council rejected the inclusion by a vote of 5 in favour (Chile, China, Lebanon, Pakistan and U.S.S.R.) 5 against (Colombia, Denmark, France, United Kingdom and United States) and 1 abstention (Greece).

In Tunisia, physical force rather than political negotiation dominated the scene during the summer of 1953. The murder of pro-French Tunisians culminated in the assassination of the Bay de Camp, Prince Azzedine, in July. The tension in the protectorate was eased, however, in September after the appointment of M. Pierre Voizard as French Resident-General.

When the General Assembly began its eighth session, it decided without debate to include both questions on its agenda and to refer them to the First Committee. As in the previous year, the French Delegation refused to take any part in the discussion of the Tunisian and Moroccan items and absented itself from the Committee and from plenary sessions when these debates took place. The French Delegation based its position on the view that such discussion represented outright intervention by the United Nations in matters which were essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of France.

A number of delegations, including Australia, Belgium, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States, supported the French case on the legal grounds of lack of competence of the Assembly to discuss the Tunisian and Moroccan questions. A third group, including Canada, New Zealand and the Scandinavian countries, upheld the right of the Assembly to discuss and defended the position taken the previous year in favour of continuing efforts for negotiation between the French on one hand and the Tunisians and Moroccans on the other with a view to the development of free political institutions. The Canadian Representative pointed to the value of peaceful evolution towards self-government and to the usefulness, if not the necessity, of maintaining in this interdependent world economic, cultural and even political ties between newly emerging states and their former protectors. As it turned out, however, no acceptable compromise resolution along these lines was ever proposed, and the Assembly in the end adopted no resolutions on the subject.

No resolution at all was submitted by the African-Asian states until October 9, the third day of the Committee's debate. On Morocco, their resolution provided for the Assembly to:

- (1) recommend that the existing state of martial law and all other exceptional measures in Morocco should be terminated, that political prisoners should be released and that all public liberties should be restored;