

political and military terms of a cease-fire and the methods of carrying out self-determination. On September 30, in the course of the general debate, the French Representative stated that the right of self-determination could apply to Algeria through a plebiscite, the conditions of which were outlined by General de Gaulle. Referring to the manner in which such a consultation would be held, he indicated that anyone who wished could without hindrance come from abroad to observe the vote. The French Delegation thereafter absented itself from all discussion of this question.

President de Gaulle declared in a press conference on November 10 that all Algerians would be able not only to take part in the voting, but also in the preparatory discussions to determine the way in which it would take place and in the campaign preceding it. He repeated that French officials would be ready at any time to receive representatives of the rebel fighters under safe-conduct and to arrange a cease-fire with them. On November 20 the GPRA announced that five of their leaders interned in France had been charged with negotiating conditions and guarantees for the applications of self-determination. This counter-offer was unacceptable to the French Government, who maintained that a cease-fire agreement should be concluded before any steps were taken towards a political settlement.

The First Committee of the General Assembly discussed the question of Algeria between November 30 and December 7. The debate opened with a statement by the Tunisian Representative, who commended President de Gaulle for having recognized the right of the Algerian people to decide freely on their own political future, and the GPRA for having accepted self-determination as a way of ending the conflict. He appealed for personal contacts in order that an outline of a solution could be accepted by both sides without ambiguity and considered that this should entail both the political conditions for a referendum and the material conditions for a cease-fire. On behalf of 22 African and Asian countries, the Burmese Representative introduced a draft resolution which recalled the previous United Nations action, recognized the right of the Algerian people to self-determination, considered the threat to international peace and security constituted by the existing situation, noted that the two parties concerned had accepted the right of self-determination as the basis for a solution and urged "the two parties concerned to enter into pourparlers to determine the conditions necessary for the implementation, as early as possible, of the right of self-determination of the Algerian people, including conditions for a cease-fire".

The Vice-Chairman of the Canadian Delegation intervened in the debate to express Canada's confidence in President de Gaulle's intention and ability to carry out the liberal policy he had enunciated and Canada's concern that any action, however well-intentioned, by the United Nations, might hamper the chances of the peaceful solution to which these proposals had opened the way. "I should like to suggest", he concluded, "that this is an occasion for self-restraint,—for the United Nations, recognizing the indirect but very powerful influence which flows from our discussions here, to refrain from intervening at this delicate stage by way of a formal resolution."

The Canadian Delegation voted against the 22-power resolution. In explaining the Delegation's position, it was submitted that since the debate had revealed such wide agreement on the principles, purposes and prospects for a solution, it would not be a responsible and helpful action to adopt a resolution emphasizing the remaining differences. In the Canadian view such action would complicate rather than simplify the situation at a time when those concerned were making efforts to find a solution in peace and justice which would safeguard the legitimate rights of all involved.