

Since the signing of the Gruber-de Gasperi accord, sporadic disputes have recurred between Italy and Austria over the proper interpretation and application of its provisions. The Austrian contention, that Italy did not fully implement the Agreement, was disputed by Italy and repeated attempts by the two friendly countries to solve their difficulties by bilateral discussion have failed to produce results. Hence, on the initiative of the Austrian Government, the question was submitted to the fifteenth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

When the item was first placed before the General Committee, the Italian Delegation objected to the wording of the title "The Problem of the Austrian Minority in Italy". The Canadian Delegation, which was represented on the General Committee, was instrumental in assisting the parties to reach agreement on a restatement of the title. Following this, two draft resolutions were submitted in Committee; one by the Austrian Delegation incorporating Austrian demands and another (introduced by Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) taking account of Italian views. Amendments to these two resolutions were offered by a group of twelve countries and a new draft resolution emerged which obtained a sufficiently favourable response from both Austria and Italy to lead to a final compromise resolution sponsored by seventeen members, including Canada.

The text of this resolution referred to the terms of the Gruber-de Gasperi Agreement and called upon Austria and Italy to resume bilateral negotiations on its implementation; it recommended that in the event that negotiations should not succeed within a reasonable time both parties should give favourable consideration to seeking a solution by any of the means provided in the charter, including recourse to the International Court of Justice or any other peaceful means of their own choice. It also recommended that both countries refrain from any action which might impair their friendly relations. This text was adopted unanimously by the Committee without a formal vote and none of the earlier draft resolutions was pressed to a vote. Action in plenary session followed immediately and the General Assembly adopted the resolution by acclamation.

Incidents Arising from Racial Discrimination in South Africa

On March 25, 1960, twenty-eight African and Asian delegations requested "an urgent meeting of the Security Council to consider the situation arising out of the large scale killings [at Sharpeville and Langa] of unarmed and peaceful demonstrators against racial discrimination and segregation in the Union of South Africa." A resolution was passed (1) recognizing that the situation in South Africa is one that has led to international friction and, if continued, might endanger international peace and security; (2) de-