

determination for Algeria would lead to anarchy or partition, Mr. Slim pointed to the example of Tunisia and Morocco which were now stable and united countries. In closing, the Tunisian representative expressed the hope that agreement could be reached on the basis of the offer of good offices from the Tunisian and Moroccan Heads of State.

Debate Moderate in Tone

The general debate which made up the first part of the Committee's deliberations on the Algerian question was marked by a more moderate tone than had characterized previous United Nations' discussions of this matter. During the debate, it became clear that there existed a growing desire on both sides for some kind of negotiated settlement. But, as in previous years, there were differences of opinion as to the right formula for bringing about these negotiations. After a period of intensive consultation and negotiation, a group of seventeen Arab and Asian countries introduced a resolution which, in its preamble, recognized that the principle of self-determination should be applied to the people of Algeria and which called for negotiations for the purpose of reaching a solution in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter. A second resolution sponsored by five Latin American countries, Italy and Spain, expressed the hope that a just solution would be found to the Algerian problem.

A number of delegations, including the Canadian, felt that the seventeen-power resolution could, if suitably amended, obtain wide support in the Committee. Ireland, Norway and Canada therefore joined in proposing amendments to this resolution designed to produce a compromise to which both sides could acquiesce. These amendments provided that the Algerian people should be entitled to work out their future in a democratic way, and proposed "effective discussions to resolve the present troubled situation" and to find a solution to the Algerian question. Mr. Wallace Nesbitt, Vice-Chairman of the Canadian Delegation, in his statement to the Committee on December 6, 1957, had the following to say about the Canadian position in regard to these amendments:

During the debate on the Algerian question this year, we have been impressed by one noticeable trend which we continue to hope may be encouraging. The debate at this session, as compared with earlier discussions, has been on the whole more restrained and therefore more constructive. We have been gratified by the moderation of the views expressed by all concerned and this has led to hope that something constructive may be achieved in this case.

During this debate we have been endeavouring to find out how much agreement does exist and, in co-operation with others, we have been consulting closely with those delegations more directly concerned with the question. In our view, the problem with which the Committee is now faced will not be resolved by wholesale concession by one side or the other. Accordingly, the path of progress lies in the direction of mutual accommodation rather than in insistence by one side that its objectives or its methods provide the only solution.

In saying this, I certainly do not wish to over-emphasize the difference of opinion in this Committee. On the contrary, I think that most of the members here, having due regard for the purposes and the principles of the Charter, are prepared to support a course of action which would afford appropriate recognition to the legitimate interests of the parties. They may be divided on what should be the method for bringing about a happier situation in Algeria, and they may have even greater difficulty in defining that method in terms of a draft resolution, but the majority of the members of this Committee are surely not divided in the fundamental aim which is to resolve the present troubled situation in Algeria and to promote a peaceful solution in accordance with the basic purposes and principles of this organization . . . We have reached the conclusion that, although this Committee might not reach a unanimous acceptance of any one definition of the procedural problem which divides the opposing sides, it should be possible to