

The eighth session of the General Assembly extended the life of the GOC but the Commission could make no progress because the Union of South Africa continued to insist that it had no jurisdiction over the Union's domestic policies.

Again in 1954 the GOC reported to the General Assembly that no advance towards a settlement had been made; after a rather perfunctory debate the Assembly adopted, on November 4, 1954 a milder resolution¹ than had been the case in previous years. This resolution expressed appreciation for the efforts of the GOC; suggested that the Governments of India, Pakistan and South Africa initiate direct negotiations; and asked them to designate some government, person or agency to facilitate contacts between them. If the terms of the resolution were not fulfilled within six months, the Secretary-General was given the authority to designate a person to try to bring the disputants together and assist them in their negotiations; this person was to report to the 1955 session of the General Assembly.

Because of the milder tone of this resolution and the belief that direct negotiations between the Governments presented the best hope for a solution, the Canadian Delegation voted in favour of the part of the resolution which suggested this course of action. A number of years ago South Africa had expressed willingness to participate in a round-table conference on the question with India and Pakistan; India had been unwilling to do so until the Group Areas Act of 1950 had first been suspended. As in previous years, Canada abstained on the remainder of the resolution passed on November 4, 1954.

The parties to the dispute failed to nominate a mediator, and the mediator appointed by the Secretary-General, Sr. Luis de Faro of Brazil, found that he was unable to make any progress toward bringing the disputants into direct negotiation. In his letter of explanation dated September 15, 1955², Sr. de Faro told the Secretary-General that the South African Government had "declined any co-operation with me as an Agent of the United Nations, since it feared that it otherwise would prejudice its juridical position".

During the tenth session of the General Assembly in 1955, it became apparent that any resolution which would have the effect of inscribing the item on the agenda for the following session would in all likelihood cause the South African Government to withdraw from the General Assembly. The tenth session adopted by a vote of 46 in favour, 0 against, with 8 abstentions, a resolution³ which merely noted that the negotiations envisaged in the November 1954 resolution had not been pursued; urged the parties again to take part in negotiations; and requested them to report, jointly or separately, to the 1956 session of the General Assembly. During the debate on this resolution the Indian and Pakistani Delegations stated that if direct negotiations could be pursued, it was probable that the item might not be included in the agenda of subsequent United Nations sessions. Since Canada had in past years favoured the initiation of direct negotiations by the parties to the dispute, the Canadian Delegation voted in favour of the resolution.

Trieste

Although no solution to the Trieste problem had been found, the Security Council decided on December 14, 1953 to postpone discussion of this question⁴, because the United Kingdom and the United States were endeavouring

¹General Assembly resolution 816 (IX).

²General Assembly document A/3001.

³General Assembly resolution 919 (X).

⁴See *Canada and the United Nations 1953-54*, p. 27.