

had been causing considerable trouble had started to turn over their arms. The French Prime Minister, in a speech to the General Assembly on November 22, had refused to admit that there was no solution and had reiterated his faith in the future of a liberal policy of mutual understanding and political, economic and social progress.

Under these circumstances, it was apparent that a discussion at the United Nations could not be useful and a resolution calling for the postponement of the consideration of the item was tabled by the Afro-Asian Delegations. After some delegations had suggested that no resolution at all be adopted, and others that any words implying criticism be dropped, a resolution for postponement which noted with satisfaction that the negotiations were taking place and expressed confidence that the negotiations would bring about a satisfactory solution was adopted in plenary by a vote of 54 in favour (including Canada), none against and three abstentions.

Moroccan Question

In 1952 Canada voted in favour of a resolution expressing the hope that both parties would continue negotiations with a view to developing free political institutions.

Again in 1953, the question of Morocco was discussed at the Assembly against a troubled background. The Sultan, Sidi Mohammed ben Youssef, had been deposed as the spiritual and temporal leader of Morocco, and had been replaced by Sidi Mohammed ben Moulay Arafa. An atmosphere of suspicion prevailed in Morocco and the authorities had resorted to severe police measures. In the Assembly, a number of African and Asian delegations failed to obtain support for a resolution recommending complete independence within a limited time, the removal of oppressive measures and the establishment of democratic institutions. A milder Bolivian resolution recommending the development of free political institutions failed in plenary to obtain a two-thirds majority vote. When the question was discussed this year at the Assembly, circumstances had changed. M. Mendès-France had proposed reforms which included the progressive management by the Moroccans of their own affairs and the establishment of local assemblies with authority over economic and social matters to be followed later by the creation of central elected assemblies. All reforms were to be achieved on recommendations from round-table conferences to be attended by French and Moroccan representatives. In the course of the debate at the Assembly, the African and Asian delegations, while declaring that they had no desire to create trouble for France, asked for the return of the former Sultan and the recognition of Moroccan independence and sovereignty. The resolution which they first introduced recommended negotiations between the "true representatives" of the Moroccan people and the French Government. However, they later submitted a new text under which the Assembly, noting that negotiations between France and Morocco would be initiated, decided to postpone for the time being the further consideration of the question. The resolution was adopted in Committee by a vote of 39 in favour, 15 against and four abstentions (including Canada). When the matter came up for discussion in plenary, the Dominican Republic submitted an amendment expressing confidence that a satisfactory solution would be achieved. The resolution, as amended, was approved by a vote of 55 in favour, including Canada, none against, and four abstentions.