

dence. The United Nations had a right and a duty to try to reconcile the dispute over the interpretation of the protectorate treaties, which were valid international instruments.

The representatives of Australia, Belgium, South Africa, and the United Kingdom, rejected this argument and supported the French view that the United Nations was not competent to examine the Tunisian and Moroccan questions. They referred to the specific prohibition in Article 2 (7) of the Charter regarding domestic jurisdiction, to the terms of Article 6 of the Treaty of Bardo between France and Tunisia, and to the records of the San Francisco Conference which, it was argued, made it clear that the framers of the Charter did not wish the United Nations to assume direct responsibilities in respect of non-self-governing territories.

Canada, New Zealand, the United States, and the Scandinavian countries were among the nations favouring a resolution put forward by eleven Latin-American states which urged the parties to continue negotiations with a view to bringing about self-government for Tunisians and to refrain from acts likely to aggravate the present tension. The states which favoured this proposal broadly took the view that, although the situation in Tunisia was not a threat to international peace, the United Nations was nonetheless competent at least to discuss it. These states underlined the publicly expressed intentions of the French authorities to bring Tunisia progressively toward self-government and considered that it would be unwise for the United Nations to attempt to intervene, both because the best solution would be one achieved by mutual agreement and because the United Nations represented a moral authority and could not impose solutions except in the case of threats to the peace.

#### **Latin-American Proposal Approved**

After the Committee had rejected an Indian amendment designed to "strengthen" the Latin-American draft, African and Asian states gave their support to this proposal which was finally approved by the General Assembly in plenary session by a vote of 44 in favour, including Canada, 3 against and 8 abstentions, including the Soviet bloc.

The Moroccan debate followed closely the pattern established in the debate on the Tunisian item. African and Asian states, supported by the Soviet bloc, were strongly critical of French administration and submitted a resolution by which the United Nations would specifically recognize Moroccan sovereignty. The powers responsible for the administration of dependent territories contended that the whole discussion was outside the competence of the United Nations. The eleven Latin-American states again put forward a compromise proposal which was supported by Canada, New Zealand, the United States, and the Scandinavian countries. This resolution referred to the developing of "free political institutions" in Morocco rather than "self-government" — the phrase used in the Latin-American proposal on Tunisia. The sponsors explained this difference in drafting in terms of the more intricate racial structure in Morocco and the relative lack of experience of Moroccans in the processes of democratic government. An attempt was made by the Pakistan delegation to introduce a reference to "self-government", but this did not receive conclusive support and the resolution on Morocco finally adopted by the General Assembly was that originally put forward by the Latin-American and Asian states except Pakistan and carried by a vote of 45 including Canada to 3 against with 11 abstentions. Since the Assembly adjourned, the Bey of Tunis has enacted two draft laws for municipal and regional representative institutions in Tunisia which were put forward by the French authorities. Although agreement on similar proposals has not been achieved in Morocco, the situation in that territory has been relatively quiet since the United Nations discussions of this problem.