

III. Political and Security Questions

A. PROPOSALS FOR STRENGTHENING WORLD PEACE

1. Uniting for Peace

The item "United Action for Peace" was included in the agenda of the fifth session of the General Assembly on the request of the United States delegation. It was considered by the Assembly's First Committee at its 354th to 371st meetings from 9 to 21 October, and by the Assembly at its 299th to 302nd plenary meetings from 1 to 3 November 1950.¹

a. CONSIDERATION IN THE FIRST COMMITTEE

The Committee had before it five draft resolutions: one submitted by Chile (A/C.1/575); one submitted jointly by Canada, France, the Philippines, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and Uruguay (A/C.1/576); two submitted by the USSR (A/C.1/579, A/C.1/580) offered principally as a substitute for particular parts of the joint draft resolution; and one submitted jointly by Iraq and Syria (A/C.1/585). The joint seven-Power draft resolution and the USSR draft resolutions formed the basis of the general discussion in the Committee, the Iraqi-Syrian draft resolution being discussed separately.

(1) Joint Seven-Power Draft Resolution

Amendments to the joint seven-Power draft resolution were proposed by Greece (A/C.1/577), Lebanon (A/C.1/578), Egypt (A/C.1/581), Yugoslavia (A/C.1/582), the USSR (A/C.1/583) and Israel (A/C.1/584).

At the Committee's 363rd meeting on 13 October a seven-Power revised draft resolution (A/C.1/576/Rev.1) was submitted, which incorporated certain parts of the amendments proposed by Egypt, Greece, Lebanon and Yugoslavia and contained a new section (E) which embodied the principles set forth in the Chilean draft resolution (A/C.1/575).

The text of the revised seven-Power resolution follows:²

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that the first two stated Purposes of the United Nations are:

"To maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the Peace", and

"To develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the³ principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace",

Finding that international tension exists on a dangerous scale,

Recalling its Resolution 290(IV) entitled, "Essentials of Peace", which states that disregard of the Principles of the Charter of the⁴ United Nations is primarily responsible for the continuance of international tension, and desiring to contribute further to the objectives of that resolution,

Reaffirming the importance of the exercise by the Security Council of its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, and the duty of the permanent members to seek unanimity and to exercise restraint in the use of the veto,

Reaffirming that the initiative in negotiating the agreements for armed forces provided for in Article 43 of the Charter belongs to the Security Council and desiring to ensure that, pending the conclusion of such agreements, the United Nations have at its disposal means for maintaining international peace and security,

Conscious that failure of the Security Council to discharge its responsibilities on behalf of all the Member States, particularly those referred to in the two preceding paragraphs, does not relieve Member States of their obligations or the United Nations of its responsibility under the Charter to maintain international peace and security,

Recognizing in particular that such failure does not deprive the General Assembly of its rights or relieve it

¹At its 371st meeting on 21 Oct., the Committee agreed to the suggestion of the representative of Chile that the agenda item "Strengthening of democratic principles as a means of contributing to the maintenance of universal peace", proposed by his delegation, should be withdrawn as it was covered in a resolution adopted by the Committee. See p. 190.

²Phrases have been italicized (other than initial words of paragraphs) and footnotes have been added editorially to indicate changes incorporated from the amendments of various delegations.

³⁴Incorporating amendment (A/C.1/578, points 1 & 2) by Lebanon.