The French proposal was opposed by the USSR representative, who insisted that the Committee continue the consideration of the Soviet complaint of United States aggression against China, the discussion of which had begun on 27 November. The problem on which it was proposed to postpone discussion, he said, was of no less urgency than any other. Any delay in the discussion of that problem, he argued, would constitute a flagrant and intolerable violation of the practice of the United Nations.

The French proposal was supported by the representatives of Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Egypt, Greece, Lebanon, Nicaragua, Syria, Turkey, the United Kingdom and Uruguay, among others. The representatives of the Byelorussian SSR, Czechoslovakia, Poland and the Ukrainian SSR associated themselves with the opposition to the French proposal expressed by the USSR representative.

The French proposal was adopted by the First Committee, at its 409th meeting on 7 December, by 42 votes to 5, with 4 abstentions. No further action during 1950 was taken on the USSR complaint regarding aggression against China by the United States.

c. ITEM PROPOSED BY THE UNITED STATES
IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

By a letter (A/1373) dated 20 September 1950, the United States requested that the question of Formosa should be included in the agenda of the fifth session of the General Assembly. In an explanatory note (A/1381), dated 21 September, the United States recalled the provisions of the Cairo Declaration of December 1943 and the Potsdam Declaration of July 1945. In the Cairo Declaration, the President of the United States, the British Prime Minister and the President of China stated that it was their purpose that Manchuria, Formosa and the Pescadores should be restored to the Republic of China, and that, in due course, Korea should become free and independent. In the Potsdam Declaration, defining the terms for Japanese surrender, the three Allied leaders declared that the terms of the Cairo Declaration should be carried out. The provisions of the Potsdam Declaration, the letter stated, were accepted by Japan at the time of its surrender, and the General Order of the Japanese Imperial Headquarters, issued pursuant to the terms of surrender, provided for the surrender of the Japanese forces in Formosa to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek.

The United States also recalled that, on 27 June 1950, President Truman had stated that the North Korean forces had defied the orders of the Security Council and that, in those circumstances, the occupation of Formosa by communist forces would be a direct threat to the security of the Pacific area and to United States forces. Accordingly, President Truman had ordered the United States Seventh Fleet to prevent any attack on Formosa and had called upon the Chinese Government on Formosa to cease all air and sea operations against the mainland. The President also stated that the determination of the future status of Formosa must await the restoration of security in the Pacific, a peace settlement with Japan or consideration by the United Nations. The letter added that the United States Government had made it abundantly clear that the measures it had taken with respect to Formosa were without prejudice to its long-term political status and that the United States had no territorial ambitions and sought no special position or privilege with Formosa. The United States further believed that the future of Formosa should be settled by peaceful means, in accordance with the Charter. Finally, it was suggested that the General Assembly should study the general situation with respect to Formosa, with a view to formulating appropriate recommendations.

The question of whether or not this item should be included in the agenda of the fifth session of the General Assembly was considered by the General Committee at its 69th-71st meetings, held on 21 and 22 September and 5 October, and by the General Assembly, at its 249th plenary meeting on 7 October.

Representatives of China and the USSR in the General Committee and of China, Czechoslovakia and the USSR in the General Assembly opposed the inclusion of the item.

The representative of China stated that it was unprecedented in the United Nations for the Government of one Member State to question the right of another State to its territorial possessions. In so doing, the United States delegation had taken a very grave step. In accordance with the principles laid down by the Charter, the Cairo Declaration and the Potsdam Declaration, the Chinese delegation, he asserted, felt that it was beyond the competence of the General Assembly to consider the proposed item. He went on to state that so long as Formosa stood, the communist conquest of the mainland of China could not be

79 The First Committee resumed consideration of this item at its 439th meeting, on 2 Feb. 1951.