

of New Guinea for the time when they would be able to determine their own future. That statement had no military implications. It was not directed against the interests of the Indonesian people. Nor was it connected in any way with SEATO (the South-East Asia Treaty Organization).

Indonesia's claim for negotiations was purely political, the Australian representative continued, since it had refused to submit its case to the International Court of Justice and had unilaterally abrogated the very Agreements it sought to invoke. In Australia's view, adoption of the 19-power draft resolution would mean that the United Nations was implicitly supporting a unilateral claim of one Member State to some of the territory of another Member State.

Support for the 19-power draft resolution came, however, from the representatives of a number of Members, among them: Afghanistan, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Burma, the Byelorussian SSR, Ceylon, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Greece, Haiti, India, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Laos, the Federation of Malaya, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, the Ukrainian SSR, the USSR and Yemen.

The arguments they advanced included one that a call for new negotiations could not prejudice the substance of the case, but might rather lead to a relaxation of tension between Indonesia and the Netherlands.

Opposition to the 19-power draft resolution came from the spokesmen for Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, China, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, France, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Uruguay and others.

One argument against the draft resolution was that the General Assembly, under Article 2, paragraph 7, of the United Nations Charter, was not competent to discuss the question. Another argument was that the Charter of Transfer of Sovereignty expressly provided that the status quo of New Guinea was to be maintained, thereby best protecting the right of the inhabitants to self-determination under the present circumstances.

Some representatives mentioned the possibility of establishing a United Nations Trusteeship for the entire island of New Guinea, in order that the population as a whole might in due course decide its own future.

On 26 November 1957, the First Committee approved the 19-power draft resolution by a roll-call vote of 42 to 28, with 11 abstentions. It failed to be adopted, however, when it came up for final approval at a plenary meeting of the Assembly, since it did not secure the required two-thirds majority. The vote in plenary, by roll-call, was taken on 29 November 1957. The result was 41 votes in favour, 29 against, with 11 abstentions.

DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES

GENERAL ASSEMBLY—12TH SESSION
Plenary Meetings 682, 724.
General Committee, meeting 111.
First Committee, meetings 905-912.

A/3644. Letter of 16 August 1957 from Permanent Representatives of Afghanistan, Burma, Ceylon, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Yemen requesting inclusion in agenda of 12th Assembly session of item entitled "Question of West Irian (West New Guinea)".

A/C.1/L.193. Afghanistan, Bolivia, Burma, Ceylon, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Yemen draft resolution adopted by roll-call vote of 42 to 28, with 11 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian SSR, Ceylon, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia,

Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Laos, Lebanon, Libya, Federation of Malaya, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, Tunisia, Ukrainian SSR, USSR, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, France, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom.

Abstaining: Cambodia, Ecuador, Finland, Liberia, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Turkey, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela.

A/3757. Report of First Committee.

Draft resolution, as recommended by First Committee, A/3757, having failed to obtain the required two-thirds majority, was not adopted by the Assembly on 29 November 1957, meeting 724. The vote by roll-call, was 41 to 29, with 11 abstentions as follows: