

adjourn the meeting in order to allow the parties to avail themselves of the good offices offer.

COMPLAINTS ABOUT INCIDENTS AT REMADA

On 29 May, Tunisia requested a meeting of the Security Council to consider the following question: "Complaint by Tunisia in respect of acts of armed aggression committed against it since 19 May 1958 by the French military forces stationed in its territory and in Algeria". In an explanatory memorandum, Tunisia stated that the good offices offer of the United Kingdom and the United States had resulted, on 15 March, in a compromise laying down, among other things, the procedure for the evacuation of the French troops from Tunisia. France, however, had been unable to ratify it.

On 24 and 25 May, the Tunisian memorandum added, French forces had undertaken military actions in the Remada area in southern Tunisia. They had opened fire against Tunisian posts, and French aircraft coming from Algeria had bombed and machine-gunned the region. The Tunisian Government drew the attention of the Council to the extreme gravity of the situation, resulting from what it considered to be acts of armed aggression against its territorial integrity by the French forces stationed on its territory, and by those operating in Algeria. Finding that its efforts at conciliation had failed and that its sovereignty was gravely threatened, it requested the Council to take measures in accordance with Article 40 and subsequent Articles of the Charter in order to end this situation. (These Articles deal with Security Council action with respect to threats to the peace, breaches of the peace and acts of aggression.)

Also on 29 May, France asked the Council to consider the following questions: "(1) The complaint brought by France against Tunisia on 14 February 1958; (2) The situation arising out of the disruption, by Tunisia, of the *modus vivendi* which had been established since February 1958 with regard to the stationing of French troops at certain points in Tunisian territory".

An explanatory memorandum from France recalled that the Council had noted the accept-

ance of the good offices offer of the United Kingdom and the United States. The parties had agreed that supplies to the French troops in Tunisia would continue normally and that no measure likely to modify the status quo would be adopted. The Tunisian Government, however, had created conditions likely to lead to incidents, by such measures as the movements of troops and the arming of the civilian population. Nevertheless, all measures taken by the French authorities during the Remada incidents had shown the concern of the French not to aggravate the incidents provoked by the Tunisians. The French air force had only been used as a very last resort after French casualties had occurred.

At the political level, the memorandum continued, the French Government had never ceased to seek a settlement of the various difficulties. Yet, at the very moment when conversations were in progress and despite the many manifestations of good will on the part of France, Tunisia had, by deciding to come before the Council again, seen fit to create the impression that France was preparing to violate Tunisian sovereignty. These contradictory attitudes on the part of Tunisia would not discourage France in its efforts to settle the difficulties by an amicable understanding, and France therefore called upon the Council to recommend that Tunisia should restore conditions favourable to a resumption of negotiations.

On 2 June, the items submitted by Tunisia and France were included in the Council's agenda and the representative of Tunisia was invited to take a place at the Council's table. After debates on 2 and 4 June, the Council adopted a French proposal to adjourn consideration of these items until 18 June, in order to allow direct conversations to take place between the parties.

On 18 June, France and Tunisia informed the Council, that, under an exchange of letters on the previous day, it had been agreed that all French forces, with the exception of those stationed at Bizerte, would be evacuated from Tunisia within four months. A provisional statute for the base at Bizerte would be the subject of negotiations.