

representatives of India, Morocco and Venezuela urged that an investigation should be carried out under the auspices of an international body in order to satisfy public opinion and allay the world-wide concern aroused by the magnitude of the tragedy and its political and historical importance. The representatives of Cyprus, Ghana, Morocco, Togo and Tunisia considered that the United Nations owed it to Mr. Hammarskjöld and the others who perished with him to conduct a proper investigation which would also be a tribute to their memory. The representative of Cyprus held that an international investigation conducted under United Nations auspices would ensure an independent and impartial inquiry.

Many representatives, including those of Cyprus, Ghana, Honduras, Morocco, Sweden, Tunisia and Venezuela, considered it necessary to examine the rumours, fears and speculations to which the tragedy had given rise and to provide answers thereto. The representatives of Togo, Morocco and Venezuela thought the investigation should determine any responsibilities involved. The representatives of India and Venezuela stressed that the investigation should help to prevent the occurrence of such disasters in the future and to ensure maximum protection for those performing functions in the service of the United Nations.

Representatives of Cyprus, India, Tunisia and Venezuela considered that there should be no conflict between the United Nations investigation and other investigations and that the results of previous investigations could facilitate the task of the United Nations Commission.

The Swedish representative noted that his Government was represented on the Rhodesian commission of experts already established, the work of which would be of value when the new body began its work.

The United Kingdom representative welcomed the statements that the United Nations investigation would in no way conflict with the investigations conducted and contemplated by the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. The United Kingdom, he assured the Assembly, would co-operate in carrying out the resolution and in assisting the work of the United Nations Investigation Commission.

The representatives of Cyprus, Ghana, India

and Venezuela pointed out that the United Nations investigation would cover a much wider field and would be more embracing in its character than the national or technical inquiries.

At the same meeting, on 26 October 1961, the General Assembly unanimously approved the 14-power draft resolution by 97 votes to 0, as resolution 1628 (XVI).

The question of offering suitable remuneration to the families of the victims of the tragedy was considered by the Assembly's Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary) Committee on 28 November 1961 in accordance with the resolution of 26 October, on the basis of a note by the Secretariat. This note described the existing rules and regulations governing compensation in cases of this kind and the application of these provisions to the specific instances involved. The note also indicated that the adequacy and equity of the existing system of compensation provisions had recently been studied by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination. It was anticipated that the inter-organizational review would be completed in the early part of 1962 and that any favourable adjustments in the existing compensation provisions would be applied from their effective date to any previously approved compensation annuities then being paid. The information contained in this Secretariat note was transmitted by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly in a report dated 7 December 1961.

On 8 December 1961, the General Assembly appointed the following as members of the United Nations Commission of Investigation: Justice Samuel Bankolé Jones of Sierra Leone, Raúl Quijano of Argentina, Justice Emil Sandström of Sweden, Rishikesh Shaha of Nepal and Nikol Srzentic of Yugoslavia.

The Commission held an organizational session at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 15 to 22 December 1961 and unanimously elected Rishikesh Shaha as Chairman and Raúl Quijano as Rapporteur. During its session in New York, the Commission considered the programme and organization of its work, decided on the relationship of its investigation to those going on in Rhodesia and heard a preliminary report from one of the United Nations observers about the Rhodesian investigation in which he had participated.