

ternational agreements. Certain representatives, however, maintained that Article 102 allowed states to exercise their own judgment on the necessity of registration.

A number of representatives stressed the need for a precise definition of the meaning of "treaties and international agreements" and the representative of Colombia proposed the setting up of a sub-committee to establish such a definition. The majority of the Committee, however, considered that it was too early to attempt a precise definition and that experience and precedent would gradually solve the problem.

The representative of the United Kingdom proposed that the General Assembly should recommend Members to be prompt in sending in treaties for registration, while the Chairman suggested that it might be advisable to set a time limit for the registration of treaties. The Committee considered, however, that it was not necessary to adopt a formal recommendation in this connection.

As regards the question whether there existed an obligation to register unilateral commitments, the Committee agreed generally with the point of view adopted by the Secretariat that those commitments might be considered as unilateral engagements of an international character in accordance with the definition of Committee IV/2 of the San Francisco Conference.<sup>194</sup>

The representative of the U.S.S.R. proposed verbally a draft resolution to the effect that the General Assembly should note the Secretary-General's report regarding the registration and publication of treaties and international agreements.

To give expression to the majority view that Article 102 of the Charter imposed a definite obligation, the representative of Egypt proposed an amendment to the effect that the General Assembly should call the attention of Member States to the obligation contained in Article 102 of the Charter.

The Sixth Committee adopted this amendment by a vote of 33 to 0, with 8 abstentions. The resolution as amended was then adopted unanimously.

On the recommendation of the Sixth Committee (A/457) the General Assembly at its 113th plenary meeting on November 14, 1947, adopted, without objection, the following resolution (172(II)):

"The General Assembly

"Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General (document A/380) on the registration and publication of treaties and international agreements, and

"Draws the attention of the States Members to the obligations imposed by Article 102 of the Charter."

#### e. UNITED NATIONS FLAG

The Secretary-General submitted a memorandum (A/342) to the second session of the General Assembly in which he stated that the need for a United Nations flag had already been felt, and would undoubtedly be increasingly felt in the future, in connection with the work of the committees or commissions sent by organs of the United Nations to different parts of the world, for use at headquarters and at United Nations offices and information centres.

The Secretary-General reported that in order that the Commission of Investigation concerning Greek Frontier Incidents might enjoy the protection of and be identified by a neutral symbol while travelling through troubled areas or sitting at meetings under the jurisdiction of several countries, an unofficial flag had been designed by the Secretariat.

This flag was composed of the official emblem of the United Nations, as approved by the General Assembly on December 7, 1946 (resolution 92(I)),<sup>195</sup> centred on a ground of light blue and encircled by the words "United Nations: Nations Unies".

The Secretary-General stated that he felt that the design already used bearing the United Nations emblem but without encircling words possessed the essential requirements of simplicity and dignity for an official United Nations flag and he therefore proposed a draft resolution that the General Assembly should adopt this design as the flag of the United Nations.

At its 91st plenary meeting on September 23 the General Assembly referred this question to the Sixth Committee, which at its 43rd meeting on October 7 unanimously adopted, with a minor change, the draft resolution recommended by the Secretary-General.

On the recommendation of the Sixth Committee (A/414) the General Assembly at its 96th plenary meeting on October 20, 1947, adopted without objection the following resolution (167(II)):

"The General Assembly

"Recognizes that it is desirable to adopt a distinctive flag of the United Nations and to authorize its use and, therefore,

"Resolves that the flag of the United Nations shall be the official emblem adopted by the General Assembly under the terms of its resolution 92 (I) of 7 December 1946, centred on a light blue ground;

<sup>194</sup>See Documents of the United Nations Conference on International Organization, *op. cit.*, Vol. 13, p. 705, doc. 933, IV/2/42 (2).

<sup>195</sup>See Yearbook of the United Nations, 1946-47, pp. 251-52.