

the two-thirds majority. Since the Assembly did not adopt such a decision, Tunisia would withdraw its draft resolutions which had been intended to provide for an Assembly invitation to the People's Republic of China.

After the first two Saudi Arabian amendments were rejected by roll-call vote, the representative of Saudi Arabia stated that the remainder need not be put to a vote. Neither did he wish to press to a vote the draft resolution he had submitted.

The Assembly then voted on a United States motion for a separate vote on the provision in the 23-power proposal whereby the Assembly would expel forthwith the representatives of Chiang Kai-shek from the place which they unlawfully occupied at the United Nations and in all the organizations related to it. The United States motion was defeated by a recorded vote of 61 against to 51 in favour, with 16 abstentions.

Thereupon, the representative of China, speaking on a point of order, made a declaration to the following effect: The rejection of the 22-power draft resolution calling for a two-thirds majority was a flagrant violation of the United Nations Charter which governed the expulsion of Member States. The delegation of the Republic of China had decided not to take part in any further proceedings of the General Assembly.

The Assembly then adopted the 23-power text, by a roll-call vote of 76 to 35, with 17 abstentions, as resolution 2758(XXVI). It did not proceed to a vote on the 19-power draft text.

By this action, the General Assembly, recalling the principles of the Charter and considering that the restoration of the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China was essential both for the protection of the Charter and for the cause that the United Nations must serve under the Charter, recognized that the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China were the only lawful representatives of China to the United Nations and that the People's Republic of China was one of the five permanent members of the Security Council. It accordingly decided to restore all its rights to the People's Republic of China and to recognize the representatives of its Government as the only legitimate representatives of China to the United Nations, and to expel forthwith the representatives of Chiang Kai-shek from the place which they unlawfully occupied at the United Nations and in all the organizations related to it. (For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

On 26 October 1971, the General Assembly decided that in view of its adoption of resolution 2758(XXVI), it would not consider the agenda item entitled "The representation of China in the United Nations."

Discussion in Security Council concerning representation of China

At a meeting of the Security Council held on 9 February 1971, the representative of Somalia, speaking on a point of order, placed on record his Government's strong objections "to acceptance of the credentials of the representative who, since December 1962, has been occupying the seat reserved for the true representative of the Government of the State of China." These credentials, he continued, had been issued by the régime of Chiang Kai-shek which had been ousted from authority by the Chinese people 21 years previously. The refusal to allow the representatives of the People's Republic of China—the effective Government—to occupy the seat of the State of China was, in his delegation's view, tantamount to nullifying China's membership in the United Nations. It was obvious that the State of China could not exercise its membership unless it was properly represented. China's exclusion, he added, had been sparked by the ideological factor in the cold-war struggle supported by cold-war power politics. Demands for a more realistic approach to the question had, however, been continually increasing. Somalia expressed the hope that the Security Council would respond to that call for reason and realism and for a just solution to the problem of the representation of the great State of China.

In support, France, Poland, the Syrian Arab Republic and the USSR also made the point that only the representatives of the People's Republic of China were entitled to the Chinese seat in the United Nations.

Italy shared the reservations expressed by previous speakers on the representation of China in the United Nations.

The representative of China said that the question raised by Somalia was not a question of credentials but that of the representation of the Republic of China on the Security Council. Such a question was a political one of far-reaching consequences. The Republic of China was specifically mentioned in Article 23 of the United Nations Charter⁴ as one of the five permanent members of the Security Council. Its representation on the Council was not a matter that concerned members of the Council alone; it was a matter in which all Member States of the United Nations had an interest. It would therefore be in the interest of the proper functioning of the United Nations as a whole and in the interest of the sanctity and integrity of the Charter that the Security Council not engage in any substantive debate on the question of China's representation.

⁴ For text of Article 23 of the Charter, see APPENDIX II.