

Tunisian Government would not discourage the French Government in its efforts to settle the unresolved difficulties between the two countries by an amicable understanding. The French Government therefore called upon the Security Council "to recommend to the Tunisian Government that it should restore conditions favourable to a resumption of negotiations".

At the 819th meeting on 2 June 1958, the Security Council had before it a provisional agenda²¹⁶ in which were listed, as item 2, the letter from the representative of Tunisia of 29 May 1958 and as item 3, the letter from the representative of France of 29 May 1958.

After the adoption of the agenda,²¹⁷ the President (China) invited the representative of Tunisia to take a place at the Council table.²¹⁸

The Security Council considered the question at its 819th to 821st meetings, held on 2 and 4 June 1958.

At the 819th meeting on 2 June 1958, the representative of Tunisia* contended that the presence on Tunisian territory of French armed forces stationed there against its will constituted a threat to the peace within the meaning of Article 39 of the Charter and a threat to the security of Tunisia itself, and therefore asked the Council to take, in accordance with Article 39, all appropriate measures provided for in Articles 40 and 41 and the following Articles of the Charter, to assist Tunisia to obtain the withdrawal of French troops. Pending such withdrawal, the representative of Tunisia asked the Council, acting under Article 40 of the Charter, to offer the following provisional measures:

"...formally to request France: first, to ensure that its troops stationed in Tunisia observe the preventive security measures taken in respect of them by the Government of the Republic of Tunisia on 8 February 1958 and communicated to the President of the Security Council on 13 February 1958, measures which included a prohibition of all French troop movements in Tunisia; and secondly, to ensure that all other French forces observe the decision taken on 8 February 1958 to prohibit naval units from entering Tunisian ports, and to prohibit any landing or parachuting of reinforcements and all flights over Tunisian territory..."²¹⁹

Decision of 4 June 1958 (821st meeting): Statement by the President noting the statements of the Head of the French Government and of the President of Tunisia

At the 821st meeting on 4 June 1958, the representative of France referred to the exchange of messages between the Prime Minister of France and the President of Tunisia and proposed "to have a two-week postponement of this debate" so as to allow conversation for the settlement of existing difficulties between France and Tunisia to take place.²²⁰

The representative of Tunisia* preferred an adjournment until 18 June 1958.²²¹

The President (China) stated that there being no objection to this proposal, it was so decided.²²²

The President then stated that with the taking of this decision, it remained for him to express the good wishes of the Council "for the success of negotiations which are to be undertaken between France and Tunisia". He stated further:

"I note with particular interest that the head of the French Government, in his message to President Bourguiba, specifically pledged to prevent any action on the part of French authorities that might aggravate the situation. I also note that President Bourguiba has responded in a spirit of ready co-operation."²²³

At the 826th meeting on 18 June 1958, the representatives of France and of Tunisia informed the Council of the agreement in the form of an exchange of letters reached by their Governments on 17 June. The agreement provided for evacuation of French troops from all Tunisian territory except Bizerte and for complete restoration of the freedom of movement of French forces. In the four-month interval until completion of the evacuation of French forces, the two Governments would engage in negotiations to define a provisional statute for the strategic base at Bizerte.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the President extended the congratulations of the Security Council to the two Governments on their success in removing their difficulties through direct negotiations.

LETTER DATED 20 FEBRUARY 1958 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SUDAN ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

INITIAL PROCEEDINGS

By letter²²⁴ dated 20 February 1958, the representative of the Sudan requested the Secretary-General to call an urgent meeting of the Council "to discuss the grave situation existing on the Sudan-Egyptian border, resulting from the massed concentrations of Egyptian troops moving towards the Sudanese frontiers".

To the letter was attached a communication dated 20 February 1958 from the Prime Minister of the Sudan indicating that the Government of Egypt claimed sovereignty over certain Sudanese territories which it proposed to include in arrangements for a plebiscite to take place in Egypt. Since the Sudanese Government, which had twice asked the Egyptian Government for time to negotiate, was determined to defend its territories, Sudan requested the Secretary-General "to ask the Security Council to meet immediately and use its good offices to stop the impending Egyptian aggression".

²¹⁶ S/Agenda 819.

²¹⁷ 819th meeting: para. 2.

²¹⁸ 819th meeting: para. 2.

²¹⁹ 819th meeting: paras. 66-67.

²²⁰ 821st meeting: para. 51.

²²¹ 821st meeting: para. 57.

²²² 821st meeting: para. 62; see also chapter I, part V.2.d, Case 37.

²²³ 821st meeting: paras. 59-61.

²²⁴ S/3963, O.R., 13th year, Suppl. for Jan.-Mar. 1958, pp. 21-22.

At the 812th meeting on 21 February 1958, the Security Council decided to include the question in its agenda.²²⁵ After the adoption of the agenda, the President (USSR) invited the representatives of Egypt and the Sudan to participate in the discussion.²²⁶

The Council considered the question at its 812th meeting on 21 February 1958.

Decision of 21 February 1958 (812th meeting): Statement by the President (USSR) summarizing the views of the members of the Council

At that meeting, the representative of Sudan * stated that the Government of Egypt in a note of 29 January 1958 had requested that appropriate measures be taken by the Sudan Government to hand over two areas of Sudan territory north of 22 latitude to the Egyptian Government, which had indicated willingness to hand over to the Sudan a region near the north-eastern frontier, previously ceded to Egypt. Before a reply to the Egyptian notes could be prepared, the Sudan Government had received reports that a contingent of the Egyptian Army was on its way to one of the claimed areas. After having explained the point of view of the Sudan Government on the matter, the representative of the Sudan expressed the hope that the Council would adopt "a measure which will calm the situation that exists between Egypt and the Sudan and pave the way for a peaceful and friendly solution".²²⁷

The representative of Egypt * deplored the fact that the Government of Sudan had decided to submit the question to the Security Council after having rejected several suggestions submitted by Egypt with a view to finding a solution to this dispute in accordance with the spirit of the Charter, and before having exhausted recourse to the other pacific means of settlement mentioned particularly in Article 33.²²⁸ The representative of Egypt observed further that the letter submitted by the Sudan used the term "aggression". In the meaning of the Charter, "aggression" referred to an armed aggression and this was not the case with regard to the question before the Council. The kind of "aggression" referred to in this connexion, which had been called "imminent", was difficult to conceive. The representative of Egypt quoted a communiqué issued by the Egyptian Government on 21 February 1958 in which it was stated that it had decided to postpone the settling of the frontier question until after the Sudanese elections and that negotiations were to begin for the settling of all undecided questions after the new Sudanese Government was chosen.²²⁹

After the resumption²³⁰ of the meeting, which, on the

²²⁵ 812th meeting : preceding para. 1.

²²⁶ 812th meeting : para. 1 ; see also chapter III, part I, Case 21.

²²⁷ 812th meeting : paras. 5, 16, 33.

²²⁸ For consideration of the bearing of Article 33 on the proceedings, see chapter X, part I, Case 2.

²²⁹ 812th meeting : paras. 41, 46.

²³⁰ 812th meeting : para. 49.

proposal of the representative of Japan, had been suspended for an hour, the representatives of the United States, Japan, the United Kingdom, Iraq, France and the President, speaking as the representative of the USSR, expressed the views that the question before the Council should be settled by the two Governments concerned by direct negotiations.

The President (USSR) summed up the views of the members of the Council as follows :

"The Security Council has heard the statements of the representatives of the Sudan and Egypt and notes the Egyptian representative's assurances that his Government has decided to postpone the settlement of the frontier question until the elections in the Sudan are over. Of course, the question put forward by the Sudan remains before the Council."²³¹

URGENT MEASURES TO PUT AN END TO FLIGHTS BY UNITED STATES MILITARY AIRCRAFT ARMED WITH ATOMIC AND HYDROGEN BOMBS IN THE DIRECTION OF THE FRONTIERS OF THE SOVIET UNION

INITIAL PROCEEDINGS

By letter²³² dated 18 April 1958, the representative of the USSR requested the President of the Security Council to call an urgent meeting of the Council to consider the following question :

"Urgent measures to put an end to flights by United States military aircraft armed with atomic and hydrogen bombs in the direction of the frontiers of the Soviet Union."

He added that the threat to the cause of peace as a result of the danger arising out of the numerous cases of flights in the direction of the frontiers of the USSR by United States bombers carrying hydrogen bombs made it imperative that this question should be considered without delay. The Charter conferred on the Security Council primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security; the Government of the USSR, therefore, hoped that the Council would give this question the most urgent consideration and would take "the necessary steps to eliminate this threat to the cause of peace".

At the 813th meeting on 21 April 1958, the Security Council included the question in its agenda, and considered it at the 813th to 817th meetings held between 21 April and 2 May 1958.

Decision of 2 May 1958 (816th meeting): Rejection of the United States draft resolution; rejection of the USSR draft resolution

At the 813th meeting on 21 April 1958, the representative of the USSR submitted a draft resolution²³³

²³¹ For texts of relevant statements, see :

812th meeting : President (USSR), paras. 80-81 ; Canada, paras. 67-68 ; France, paras. 65-66 ; Iraq, para. 62 ; Japan, para. 48 ; United Kingdom, paras. 59-61 ; United States, paras. 50-53.

²³² S/3990, O.R., 13th year, Suppl. for Apr.-June 1958, p. 8.

²³³ S/3993, O.R., 13th year, Suppl. for Apr.-June 1958, p. 13.