

Chapter IX

DECISIONS IN THE EXERCISE OF OTHER FUNCTIONS AND POWERS

NOTE

Decisions of the Security Council relative to recommendations to the General Assembly regarding the admission of new Members have been dealt with in chapter VII, and the decisions on questions considered under the Council's responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security in chapter VIII.

During the period under review, there has been one instance in which a decision¹ was taken by the Council in the exercise of other functions and powers under the Charter.² The case history is presented below.

¹ Resolution 286 (1970).

² Note that decisions concerning the relations of the Security Council with other organs of the United Nations, arising from Articles 12, 93 (2) and 97 of the Charter are covered in chapter VI.

THE SITUATION CREATED BY INCREASING INCIDENTS INVOLVING HIJACKING OF COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT³

By a letter⁴ dated 9 September 1970 addressed to the President of the Security Council, the representative of the United States requested that an urgent meeting of the Security Council be called to consider the situation created by increasing incidents involving the hijacking of commercial aircraft engaged in international commerce and the threat to the lives of innocent travellers.

By a letter⁵ dated 9 September 1970 addressed to the President of the Security Council, the representative of the United Kingdom requested that an urgent meeting of the Security Council be convened to consider the question of the hijacking of civil aircraft with particular reference to the incidents which had taken place during the past few days.

By a letter⁶ dated 9 September 1970, the representative of Algeria requested to participate, without vote, in the Council's discussion on the question before it.

Similarly, by a letter⁷ dated 9 September 1970, the representative of Israel also requested participation in the Council's discussion in accordance with Article 31 of the Charter.

The Security Council considered the situation created by increasing incidents involving hijacking of commercial aircraft at its 1552nd meeting on 9 September 1970.

Decision of 9 September 1970 (1552nd meeting): resolution 286 (1970)

After adoption,⁸ without objection, of the agenda at the 1552nd meeting on 9 September 1970, the representative of Finland made a formal motion that the Council should, in view of the urgency of the situation and considering that as a result of consultations a consensus had been reached, adopt that consensus immediately and then adjourn without any debate.⁹

The Finnish motion was adopted without objection.¹⁰

Subsequently, the President (Sierra Leone) declared¹¹ the draft resolution adopted, without vote, and as representing the consensus¹² of the members of the Security Council:

"The Security Council,

"Gravely concerned at the threat to innocent civilian lives from the hijacking of aircraft and any other interference in international travel,

"1. Appeals to all parties concerned for the immediate release of all passengers and crews without exception, held as a result of hijackings and other interference in international travel;

"2. Calls on States to take all possible legal steps to prevent further hijackings or any other interference with international civil air travel."

Thereafter, the meeting was adjourned in conformity with the decision that had been reached earlier.¹³

³ In connexion with this item, the Security Council did not pronounce itself on the question of the Charter article under which it acted.

⁴ S/9931, *OR*, 25th yr., *Suppl. for July-Sept. 1970*, p. 142.

⁵ S/9932, *ibid.*

⁶ S/9934, mimeographed.

⁷ S/9935, mimeographed.

⁸ 1552nd meeting, preceding para. 2.

⁹ *Ibid.*, para. 2.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, para. 3.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, paras. 11-12.

¹² S/9933/Rev.1 and Corr.1, adopted without vote as resolution 286 (1970).

¹³ 1552nd meeting, para. 13.