

**Chapter IV**  
**VOTING**

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## INTRODUCTORY NOTE

The present chapter contains material from the *Official Records* relating to the practice of the Security Council under Article 27 of the Charter. The arrangement of the material in this chapter basically follows that of the corresponding chapter in earlier volumes of the *Repertoire* except that, in view of the recent trend in the Council to adopt its decisions by consensus or without vote, this material is also included as part IV.

Part I presents evidence relating to the distinction between procedural and non-procedural matters. During the period under review, there was no material requiring treatment in part II, relating to the practice of the Council in voting upon the question whether a matter was procedural within the meaning of Article 27, paragraph 2, of the Charter. Part III is concerned with the abstention, non-participation or absence of a Council member in relation to the requirements of Article 27, paragraph 3, of the Charter. Part IV deals with decisions adopted by consensus or without vote.

Material relating to voting in connection with the election of judges under Article 10 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) is included in chapter VI, part I, section E. Chapter VII, part I, contains material on the voting procedure employed by the Council in connection with the applications for admission to membership in the United Nations.

As noted in preceding volumes of the *Repertoire*, most votes in the Council do not indicate whether the Council considers the matter voted upon as procedural or non-procedural: this uncertainty exists when a proposal is adopted by a unanimous vote, when all permanent members vote in favour of the

proposal, or when the proposal fails to obtain the necessary nine votes in its favour.

Part I, section A, comprises instances wherein the vote indicated the procedural character of the decision: the proposal obtained nine or more votes and was adopted despite the negative vote of one or more permanent members.

Part I, section B,<sup>1</sup> lists instances where the vote revealed the non-procedural nature of the decision: the proposal obtained nine or more votes in favour, but was rejected owing to the negative vote of one or more permanent members.

In part III, section A, there were no cases in which members abstained in accordance with the proviso of Article 27, paragraph 3. However, on one occasion (case 1) the question of abstention in accordance with the proviso of Article 27, paragraph 3, of the Charter was discussed.

Part III, section B,<sup>2</sup> lists those occasions on which permanent members abstained voluntarily or did not participate in the vote. Had they voted against the proposal, no affirmative decision could have been taken.

Part IV, section A, lists cases in which the Council adopted resolutions by consensus.

Part IV, section B, concerns resolutions adopted without vote. There were no decisions adopted without vote during the period under review.

Part IV, section C, lists cases in which the Council's decisions were announced or issued after being agreed upon by members of the Council during consultations, including those decisions when some members dissociated themselves from matters under consideration.<sup>3</sup>

### Part I

#### PROCEDURAL AND NON-PROCEDURAL MATTERS

##### A. CASES IN WHICH THE VOTE INDICATED THE PROCEDURAL CHARACTER OF THE MATTER

**\*\*1. Inclusion of items in the agenda**

**\*\*2. Order of items on the agenda**

**\*\*3. Deferment of consideration of items on the agenda**

**\*\*4. Removal of an item from the list of matters of which the Security Council is seized**

**\*\*5. Rulings of the President of the Security Council**

**\*\*6. Suspension of a meeting**

**\*\*7. Adjournment of a meeting**

## 8. Invitation to participate in the proceedings

<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Organization invited</i>	<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Vote</i>	<i>Permanent members casting negative vote</i>
Complaint by Iraq	Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)	2280, 12 June 1981	11-1-3	1
Situation in the Middle East	PLO	2292, 17 July 1981	11-1-3	1
	PLO	2331, 23 February 1982	11-1-3	1
	PLO	2374, 5 June 1982	11-1-3	1
	PLO	2379, 18 June 1982	11-1-3	1
	PLO	2400, 18 October 1982	11-1-3	1
	PLO	2540, 21 May 1984	11-1-3	1
Situation in the occupied Arab territories	PLO	2322, 6 January 1982	11-1-3	1
	PLO	2334, 24 March 1982	11-1-3	1
	PLO	2352, 13 April 1982	11-1-3	1
	PLO	2401, 12 November 1982	12-1-2	1

## \*\*9. Conduct of business

## \*\*10. Convocation of an emergency special session of the General Assembly

## B. CASES IN WHICH THE VOTE INDICATED THE NON-PROCEDURAL CHARACTER OF THE MATTER

## 1. In connection with matters considered by the Security Council under its responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security

<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Decisions (draft resolutions, etc.)</i>	<i>Submitted by</i>	<i>Vote</i>	<i>Permanent members casting negative vote</i>
Situation in Namibia	2277, 30 April 1981	S/14459	6-Power	9-3-3	3
	"	S/14460/Rev.1	3-Power	9-3-3	3
	"	S/14461	3-Power	11-3-1	3
	"	S/14462	3-Power	12-3-0	3
Complaint by Angola against South Africa	2300, 31 August 1981	S/14664/Rev.2	6-Power	13-1-1	1
Situation in the occupied Arab territories	2329, 20 January 1982	S/14832/Rev.1	1-Power	9-1-5	1
	2348, 2 April 1982	S/14943	1-Power	13-1-1	1
	2357, 20 April 1982	S/14985	4-Power	14-1-0	1
	2461, 2 August 1983	S/15895	20-Power	13-1-1	1
Letter dated 19 March 1982 from the representative of Nicaragua	2347, 2 April 1982	S/14941	2-Power	12-1-2	1
Question concerning the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)	2373, 4 June 1982	S/15156/Rev.2	2-Power	9-2-4	2
Situation in the Middle East	2377, 8 June 1982	S/15185	1-Power	14-1-0	1
	2381, 26 June 1982	S/15255/Rev.2	1-Power	14-1-0	1
	2391, 6 August 1982	S/15347/Rev.1	1-Power	11-1-3	1
	2519, 9 February 1984	S/16351/Rev.2	1-Power	13-2-0	1
	2556, 6 September 1984	S/16732	1-Power	14-1-0	1
Letter dated 1 September 1983 from the representative of the United States of America	2476, 12 September 1983	S/15966/Rev.1	10-Power*	9-2-4	1
Letter dated 1 September 1983 from the observer for the Republic of Korea					
Letter dated 1 September 1983 from the representative of Canada					
Letter dated 1 September 1983 from the representative of Japan					
Letter dated 2 September 1983 from the representative of Australia					
Situation in Grenada	2491, 28 October 1983	S/16077/Rev.1	3-Power	11-1-3	1

<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Decisions (draft resolutions, etc.)</i>	<i>Submitted by</i>	<i>Vote</i>	<i>Permanent members casting negative vote</i>
Letter dated 29 March 1984 from the representative of Nicaragua	2529, 4 April 1984	S/16463	1-Power	13-1-1	1

\*Subsequently, seven more members joined as sponsors.

**\*\*2. In connection with other matters considered by the Security Council**

**\*\*Part II**

**\*\*PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL REGARDING VOTING UPON THE QUESTION WHETHER THE MATTER WAS PROCEDURAL WITHIN THE MEANING OF ARTICLE 27, PARAGRAPH 2, OF THE CHARTER**

**Part III**

**ABSTENTION, NON-PARTICIPATION OR ABSENCE IN RELATION TO ARTICLE 27, PARAGRAPH 3, OF THE CHARTER**

**A. OBLIGATORY ABSTENTION**

**\*\*1. Cases in which members abstained in accordance with the proviso of Article 27, paragraph 3**

**2. Consideration of abstention in accordance with the proviso of Article 27, paragraph 3**

**CASE I**

At the 2350th meeting, on 3 April 1982, in connection with the letter dated 1 April 1982 from the representative of the United Kingdom, the representative of Panama requested the President of the Council to make a ruling on whether a draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom fell under Chapter VI or Chapter VII of the Charter, adding that in the case of the former, the United

Kingdom, a party to a dispute under consideration, would have to refrain from voting under Article 27, paragraph 3, of the Charter.

The representative of the United Kingdom stated that the resolution related to a breach of the peace and had been proposed not under Chapter VI of the Charter, but under Article 40.

The representative of Spain pointed out that the representative of Panama had simply sought clarification, without advancing any opinion, and that the representative of the United Kingdom had made it clear that the Council was dealing with a matter under Chapter VII of the Charter.

The President of the Council announced that the matter before the Council fell under Chapter VII of the Charter.<sup>4</sup>

**B. VOLUNTARY ABSTENTION, NON-PARTICIPATION OR ABSENCE IN RELATION TO ARTICLE 27, PARAGRAPH 3**

**1. Certain cases in which permanent members abstained or did not participate otherwise than in accordance with the proviso of Article 27, paragraph 3**

Column (a) of the tabulation hereunder lists certain cases in which permanent members abstained otherwise than in accordance with the proviso of Article 27, paragraph 3.

Column (b) of the tabulation hereunder lists certain cases in which permanent members did not participate in the vote.

There were no cases of the absence of permanent members for the period under review.

For the details of voting, see the relevant sections of chapter VIII, part II.

<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Decision, resolution, amendment, etc.</i>	<i>Submitted by</i>	<i>Vote</i>	<i>Voluntary abstention (a)</i>	<i>Nonparticipation (b)</i>
Situation in the Middle East	2278, 22 May 1981	S/14484	—	14-0-0	—	1
	2289, 19 June 1981	S/14557	—	12-0-2	1	1
	2311, 23 November 1981	S/14761	—	14-0-0	—	1
	2320, 18 December 1981	S/14803	—	13-0-2	1	—
	2332, 25 February 1982	S/14890	—	13-0-2	1	—
	2379, 18 June 1982	S/15235	—	13-0-2	1	—
	2385, 29 July 1982	Oral proposal	United States	6-6-3	1	—
	2385, 29 July 1982	S/15325	1-Power	14-0-0	—	1

<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Decision, resolution, amendment, etc</i>	<i>Submitted by</i>	<i>Vote</i>	<i>Voluntary abstention (a)</i>	<i>Nonparticipation (b)</i>
Situation in the Middle East (continued)	2389, 4 August 1982	S/15343/Rev.1 as orally revised	2-Power	14-0-1	1	—
	2393, 17 August 1982	S/15367	—	13-0-2	1	—
	2400, 18 October 1982	S/15458	—	13-0-2	1	—
	2411, 18 January 1983	S/15564	1-Power	13-0-2	1	—
	2456, 18 July 1983	S/15871	—	13-0-2	1	—
	2480, 18 October 1983	S/16046	—	13-0-2	1	—
	2530, 19 April 1984	S/16491	—	13-0-2	1	—
	2559, 12 October 1984	S/16779	—	13-0-2	1	—
	2279, 4 June 1981	S/14500	—	14-0-0	—	1
	2539, 11 May 1984	S/16550	4-Power	13-1-1	1	—
Situation in the occupied Arab territories	2330, 28 January 1982	S/14848	1-Power	13-0-2	2	—
Letter dated 1 April 1982 from the representative of the United Kingdom	2350, 3 April 1982	S/14947/Rev.1	1-Power	10-1-4	2	—
Question concerning the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)	2372, 3 June 1982	Proposal for longer suspension	1-Power	5-0-10	3	—
Situation in Namibia	2492, 28 October 1983	S/16085/Rev.2	8-Power	14-0-1	1	—
Complaint by Angola against South Africa	2508, 20 December 1983	S/16226	14-Power	14-0-1	1	—
	2511, 6 January 1984	S/16247/Rev.1	13-Power	13-0-1	2	—
Question of South Africa	2551, 17 August 1984	S/16700	8-Power	13-0-2	2	—
	2560, 23 October 1984	S/16791	8-Power	14-0-1	1	—

**\*\*2. Consideration of the practice of voluntary abstention, non-participation or absence of permanent members in relation to Article 27, paragraph 3**

**Part IV**

**ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS BY CONSENSUS OR WITHOUT VOTE**

The resolutions and decisions adopted by consensus or without vote are presented below in tabular form in order to document the various types of decisions.

**A. CASES IN WHICH THE SECURITY COUNCIL ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS BY CONSENSUS**

<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Resolution number</i>
Letter dated 31 March 1982 from the President of Kenya transmitting complaint by Chad	2358, 30 April 1982	504 (1982)

**\*\*B. CASES IN WHICH THE SECURITY COUNCIL ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS WITHOUT VOTE**

**C. CASES IN WHICH SECURITY COUNCIL DECISIONS WERE ANNOUNCED IN PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENTS ISSUED AFTER BEING AGREED UPON BY THE MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AT CONSULTATIONS**

**1. Statements agreed upon by all members of the Security Council**

## (a) STATEMENTS PLACED ON RECORD AT MEETINGS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Document and/or meeting number</i>
Question of South Africa	2264, 5 February 1981	S/14361, incorporated in the record of the 2264th mtg., para.2
	2315, 15 December 1981	S/14794, incorporated in the record of the 2315th mtg., para.1
Situation in the Middle East	2266, 19 March 1981	S/14414, incorporated in the record of the 2266th mtg., para.3
	2278, 22 May 1981	S/14485, incorporated in the record of the 2278th mtg., para.11
	2292, 17 July 1981	S/14599, incorporated in the record of the 2292nd mtg., para.131
	2311, 23 November 1981	S/14764, incorporated in the record of the 2311th mtg., para.3
	2369, 26 May 1982	S/15124, incorporated in the record of the 2369th mtg., para.3
	2387, 3 August 1982	S/15342, incorporated in the record of the 2387th mtg., para.7
	2403, 29 November 1982	S/15504, incorporated in the record of the 2403rd mtg., para.2
	2445, 26 May 1983	S/15787, incorporated in the record of the 2445th mtg.
	2496, 11 November 1983	S/16142, incorporated in the record of the 2496th mtg.
	2502, 29 November 1983	S/16188, incorporated in the record of the 2502nd mtg.
Letter dated 1 April 1982 from the representative of the United Kingdom	2544, 30 May 1984	S/16593, incorporated in the record of the 2544th mtg.
	2563, 28 November 1984	S/16847, incorporated in the record of the 2563rd mtg.
Letter dated 1 April 1982 from the representative of the United Kingdom	2345, 1 April 1982	S/14944, incorporated in the record of the 2345th mtg.
Letter dated 16 March 1983 from the representative of Chad	2430, 6 April 1983	S/15688, incorporated in the record of the 2430th mtg.
Situation between Iran and Iraq	2524, 30 March 1984	S/16454, incorporated in the record of the 2524th mtg.

## (b) STATEMENTS ISSUED ONLY AS SECURITY COUNCIL DOCUMENTS

<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Document number</i>
Situation in the Middle East	25 June 1981	S/14572
	22 April 1982	S/14995
	4 June 1982	S/15163
	3 December 1983	S/16194
	3 December 1983	S/16195
	26 January 1984	S/16293
Situation in the occupied Arab territories	4 April 1983	S/15680
Letter dated 1 April 1982 from the representative of the United Kingdom	5 May 1982	S/15047
Situation between Iran and Iraq	15 July 1982	S/15296
	21 February 1983	S/15616
Question of South Africa	4 October 1982	S/15444

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**\*\*2. Statements agreed upon by the Security Council with some members  
dissociating themselves from the matter**

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NOTES

- <sup>1</sup> See the tabulation in part I, sect. B.
- <sup>2</sup> See the tabulation in part III, sect. B.
- <sup>3</sup> See various tabulations in part IV.
- <sup>4</sup> 2350th mtg., paras. 189-202.