

States draft resolution, as amended, was put to the vote and failed of adoption. There were 10 votes in favour and 1 against (the negative vote being that of a permanent member).²⁴⁴

The USSR draft resolution was put to the vote and was rejected by 1 vote in favour, 9 against, with 1 abstention.²⁴⁵

COMPLAINT BY LEBANON

COMPLAINT BY JORDAN

LETTER DATED 22 MAY 1958 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF LEBANON ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL CONCERNING: "COMPLAINT BY LEBANON IN RESPECT OF A SITUATION ARISING FROM THE INTERVENTION OF THE UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF LEBANON, THE CONTINUANCE OF WHICH IS LIKELY TO ENDANGER THE MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY"

LETTER DATED 17 JULY 1958 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF JORDAN ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL CONCERNING: "COMPLAINT OF THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN OF INTERFERENCE IN THE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS BY THE UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC"

INITIAL PROCEEDINGS

By letter²⁴⁶ dated 22 May 1958, the representative of Lebanon requested the President of the Security Council to call an urgent meeting of the Council to consider the following question:

"Complaint by Lebanon in respect of a situation arising from the intervention of the United Arab Republic in the internal affairs of Lebanon, the continuance of which is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security".

It was stated in the letter that the intervention complained of consisted, *inter alia*, of the following acts:

"... the infiltration of armed bands from Syria into Lebanon, the destruction of Lebanese life and property by such bands, the participation of United Arab Republic nationals in acts of terrorism and rebellion against the established authorities in Lebanon, the supply of arms from Syria to individuals and bands in Lebanon rebelling against the established authorities, and the waging of a violent radio and press campaign in the United Arab Republic calling for strikes, demonstrations and the overthrow of the established authorities in Lebanon, and through other provocative acts."

At the 818th meeting on 28 May 1958, the Security Council included the question in the agenda.²⁴⁷ After its adoption, the President (Canada) invited the representative of Lebanon and the United Arab Republic to participate in the discussion.²⁴⁸

²⁴⁴ 817th meeting: para. 3.

²⁴⁵ 817th meeting: para. 11.

²⁴⁶ S/4007, O.R., 13th year, Suppl. for Apr.-June 1958, p. 33.

²⁴⁷ 818th meeting: para. 6.

²⁴⁸ 818th meeting: para. 7.

The Security Council considered the question at the 818th, 822nd to 825th and 827th to 838th meetings, held between 27 May and 7 August 1958.

At the 818th meeting on 27 May 1958, the representative of Iraq proposed to adjourn the meeting until 3 June 1958 by which time it would be seen whether or not the question could be resolved by the League of Arab States.²⁴⁹ After a brief discussion, the Council adjourned until 3 June 1958.

Following a further postponement at the request of Lebanon,²⁵⁰ the Council, at its 822nd meeting on 5 June 1958, decided, on the ground that the League of Arab States was holding its last meeting on the same day, to postpone consideration of the question until 6 June 1958.²⁵¹

At the 823rd meeting on 6 June 1958, the representative of Lebanon* stated that the League of Arab States,²⁵² which had been in session for six days, had taken no decision on the question; consequently, the Government of Lebanon was bound to press it before the Security Council. He contended: (1) that there had been and still was illegal intervention in the affairs of Lebanon by the United Arab Republic; (2) that this intervention threatened the independence of Lebanon; and (3) that the situation created by the intervention was likely, if it continued, to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security.²⁵³

The representative of the United Arab Republic* stated that the Government of Lebanon had endeavoured to give an international aspect to a purely domestic problem and denied that there had been any intervention by the United Arab Republic in the domestic affairs of Lebanon. He contended that this domestic question did not and could not threaten international peace.²⁵⁴

Decision of 11 June 1958 (825th meeting): Dispatch of an observation group

At the 824th meeting on 10 June 1958, the representative of Sweden submitted a draft resolution²⁵⁵ calling for urgent dispatch by the Security Council of an observation group²⁵⁶ to Lebanon so as to ensure that there was no illegal infiltration of personnel or supply of arms or other material across the Lebanese border.

The representative of Sweden observed that the Security Council had reason to give the statements of the representatives of Lebanon and the United Arab

²⁴⁹ 818th meeting: para. 8. For discussion relevant to the consideration of the question by the League of Arab States, see chapter XII, part IV, Case 5.

²⁵⁰ S/4018, O.R., 13th year, Suppl. for Apr.-June 1958, p. 44.

²⁵¹ 822nd meeting: paras. 1, 3, 5.

²⁵² For the proposal to adjourn the 818th and 822nd meetings while the League of Arab States was considering the question, see chapter XII, part IV, Case 5.

²⁵³ 823rd meeting: para. 11.

²⁵⁴ 823rd meeting: paras. 122-123.

²⁵⁵ S/4022.

²⁵⁶ For the procedure of the Security Council in establishing the observation group, see chapter V, part I, Case 1.

Republic serious consideration and to keep a close watch on the situation and its further developments. If foreign intervention had occurred, every effort should be made to bring about its correction. In these circumstances, there might be justification for considering some arrangement of investigation or observation by the Council itself with a view to clarifying the situation.²⁵⁷

At the 825th meeting on 11 June 1958, the draft resolution submitted by the representative of Sweden was adopted by 10 votes in favour, none against and 1 abstention.²⁵⁸

The resolution²⁵⁹ read:

“*The Security Council,*

“*Having heard the charges of the representative of Lebanon concerning interference by the United Arab Republic in the internal affairs of Lebanon and the reply of the representative of the United Arab Republic,*

“*Decides to dispatch urgently an observation group to proceed to Lebanon so as to ensure that there is no illegal infiltration of personnel or supply of arms or other material across the Lebanese borders;*

“*Authorizes the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to that end;*

“*Requests the observation group to keep the Security Council currently informed through the Secretary-General.*”

The Secretary-General submitted to the Security Council reports on the implementation of the resolution of 11 June 1958 on 16 June²⁶⁰ and 28 June.²⁶¹

On 3 July 1958, the United Nations Observation Group in Lebanon submitted its First Report²⁶² to the Security Council through the Secretary-General.

By letter²⁶³ dated 8 July 1958, the representative of Lebanon requested the Secretary-General to circulate his Government's official comments on the first report of the Observation Group.

Decision of 18 July 1958 (834th meeting): Rejection of the USSR draft resolution; rejection of the United States draft resolution; rejection of the Swedish draft resolution

At the 827th meeting on 15 July 1958, which was convened as an emergency meeting at the request of the United States, the representative of the United States declared that the territorial integrity of Lebanon was increasingly threatened by insurrection stimulated and assisted from outside and that in these circumstances the President of Lebanon had called, with the unanimous

authorization of the Lebanese Government, for the help of the Government of the United States so as to preserve Lebanon's integrity and independence. He wished the Security Council to be officially advised of this fact. The United States had responded positively to this request in the light of the need for immediate action. The presence of United States forces was designed for the sole purpose of helping the Government of Lebanon in its efforts to stabilize the situation brought on by the threats from outside, and they would remain in Lebanon only until the United Nations itself was able to assume the necessary responsibilities for ensuring the continued independence of Lebanon.²⁶⁴

The Secretary-General gave the Council an account of his activities under the mandate given to him in the resolution of 11 June 1958.²⁶⁵

The representative of Lebanon* stated that the situation in Lebanon had continuously deteriorated and that the Lebanese Government asked the Security Council to take urgently measures more effective than those it had already taken that would prevent the entrance of any material or armed men into Lebanon from outside.²⁶⁶

The representative of the USSR, contending that the dispatch of United States troops to Lebanon constituted an act of aggression against the peoples of the Arab world and a gross intervention in the domestic affairs of the States of that area,²⁶⁷ submitted a draft resolution²⁶⁸ which was resubmitted in revised form at the 831st meeting on 17 July.

On 16 July, the United Nations Observation Group in Lebanon submitted its first interim report,²⁶⁹ and on 17 July, its second interim report.²⁷⁰

At the 829th meeting on 16 July 1958, the representative of the United States submitted a draft resolution²⁷¹ which was resubmitted in revised form at the 831st meeting on 17 July.

At the 831st meeting on 17 July 1958, the Security Council had before it a provisional agenda which read:

“... ”

“2. Letter dated 22 May 1958 from the representative of Lebanon addressed to the President of the Security Council concerning: ‘Complaint by Lebanon in respect of a situation arising from the intervention of the United Arab Republic in the

²⁶⁴ 827th meeting (PV): pp. 21-22, 26. For the discussion relating to the applicability of Article 51 to the situation arising from the request of the Government of Lebanon and the dispatch of the United States forces, see chapter XI, part IV, Case 4.

²⁶⁵ 827th meeting (PV): pp. 32-35. See chapter I, part IV, footnote 28 and chapter V, part I, Case 1.

²⁶⁶ 827th meeting (PV): pp. 42-45.

²⁶⁷ 827th meeting (PV): p. 56.

²⁶⁸ 827th meeting (PV): p. 61, S/4047 and Corr.1.

²⁶⁹ S/4051.

²⁷⁰ S/4052.

²⁷¹ S/4050 and Corr.1.

²⁵⁷ 824th meeting: para. 100.

²⁵⁸ 825th meeting: para. 82.

²⁵⁹ S/4023, O.R., 13th year, Suppl. for Apr.-June 1958, p. 47.

²⁶⁰ S/4029, O.R., 13th year, Suppl. for Apr.-June 1958, pp. 70-74.

²⁶¹ S/4038 and Corr.1, O.R., 13th year, Suppl. for Apr.-June 1958, pp. 119-121.

²⁶² S/4040 and Corr.1 and Add.1.

²⁶³ S/4043.

internal affairs of Lebanon, the continuance of which is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security' (S/4007)

"3. Letter dated 17 July 1958 from the representative of Jordan addressed to the President of the Security Council concerning: 'Complaint by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan of interference in its domestic affairs by the United Arab Republic' (S/4053)"

The Security Council included both items in the agenda and agreed that after the statement on the Jordanian complaint had been concluded, it should proceed to consider the complaints submitted by Lebanon and Jordan simultaneously.²⁷²

After the adoption of the agenda,²⁷³ the President (Colombia) invited the representatives of Jordan, Lebanon and the United Arab Republic to participate in the discussion.²⁷⁴

The representative of Jordan * contended that, faced with a threat to its integrity and independence through imminent foreign armed aggression and an attempt by the United Arab Republic to create internal disorder and to overthrow the existing regime, the Jordan Government, with the approval of the King, and basing itself upon the unanimous decision of the Jordan National Assembly and in accordance with the provisions of Article 51 of the Charter,²⁷⁵ had requested the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States to come to its immediate help. In response to this request, British troops had begun landing on Jordanian territory.²⁷⁶

The representative of the United Kingdom stated that British forces were in Jordan only for the purpose of helping the King and the Government to preserve the political independence and territorial integrity of the country. If arrangements could be made by the Security Council to protect the lawful Government of Jordan from external threat and so maintain peace and security, the action which the United Kingdom Government had felt obliged to take would be brought to an end.²⁷⁷

The preamble of the USSR revised draft resolution²⁷⁸ would have had the Security Council recognize that the introduction of United States armed force within the confines of Lebanon and the introduction of United Kingdom armed forces into Jordan constituted gross intervention in the domestic affairs of the peoples of the Arab countries and were consequently contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations as set

forth in its Charter and, in particular, in Article 2 (7) which prohibited intervention in matters which were essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State; consider that the actions of the United States and the United Kingdom constituted a serious threat to international peace and security; the operative part would have had the Council call upon the Governments of the United States and the United Kingdom to cease armed intervention in the domestic affairs of the Arab States and to remove their troops from territories of Lebanon and Jordan immediately.

The preamble of the United States revised draft resolution²⁷⁹ would have had the Security Council recall its resolution of 11 June 1958 establishing an Observation Group "to insure that there is no illegal infiltration of personnel and supply of arms or other material across the Lebanon borders"; commend the efforts of the Secretary-General and note with satisfaction the progress made to date and the encouraging achievements reported by the United Nations Observation Group in Lebanon; recall that the "Essentials of Peace" resolution of the General Assembly of 1 December 1949 called upon States to "refrain from any threats or acts, direct or indirect, aimed at impairing the freedom, independence or integrity of any State, or at fomenting civil strife and subverting the will of the people in any State"; recall that the "Peace through Deeds" resolution of the General Assembly of 18 November 1950 condemned "intervention of a State in the internal affairs of another State for the purpose of changing its legally established government by the threat or use of force" and solemnly reaffirm that "whatever weapons used, any aggression, whether committed openly, or by fomenting civil strife in the interest of a foreign Power, or otherwise, is the gravest of all crimes against peace and security throughout the world"; note the statement of the representative of Lebanon that infiltration of arms and personnel was continuing and the territorial integrity and independence of Lebanon were being threatened, that the Government of Lebanon in the exercise of the right of self-defence had temporarily requested direct assistance of friendly countries, and that the Government of Lebanon requested further assistance from the Security Council to uphold its integrity and independence; note the statement of the representative of the United States regarding the provision of assistance by the United States to the Government at its request to help maintain the territorial and political independence of Lebanon; note further the statement of the United States representative that United States forces would remain in Lebanon "only until the United Nations itself is able to assume the necessary responsibility to ensure the continued independence of Lebanon" or the danger was otherwise terminated; the operative part of the draft resolution would have had the Council: (1) invite the United Nations Observation Group in Lebanon to continue to develop its activities pursuant to the Security Council resolution of 11 June 1958; (2) request the Secretary-General immediately to consult the Government of Lebanon and other Member States as appro-

²⁷² 831st meeting (PV): pp. 2-6. For the statements on the order of the agenda, see chapter II, part III.C, Case 17.

²⁷³ 831st meeting (PV): p. 6.

²⁷⁴ 831st meeting (PV): pp. 7-10.

²⁷⁵ For consideration of the applicability of Article 51 to the request of the Government of Jordan and to the dispatch of the United Kingdom troops, see chapter XI, part IV, Case 5.

²⁷⁶ 831st meeting (PV): p. 12.

²⁷⁷ 831st meeting (PV): p. 16.

²⁷⁸ S/4047 Rev.1.

²⁷⁹ S/4050/Rev.1.

appropriate with a view to making arrangements for additional measures, including the contribution and use of contingents, as might be necessary to protect the territorial integrity and independence of Lebanon and to ensure that there was no illegal infiltration of personnel or supply of arms or other material across the Lebanese borders; (3) call upon all Governments concerned to co-operate fully in the implementation of this resolution; (4) call for the immediate cessation of all illegal infiltration of personnel or supply of arms or other material across the Lebanese borders, as well as attacks upon the Government of Lebanon by government-controlled radio and other information media calculated to stimulate disorders; (5) request the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council as appropriate.

At the 832nd meeting on 17 July 1958, the representative of Sweden stated that the Swedish Government considered that from a practical point of view it was superfluous and from a political point of view unsuitable for the United Nations observers in Lebanon to perform their functions in the presence of foreign troops.²⁸⁰ He submitted a draft resolution²⁸¹ in the preamble of which the Security Council would have noted the communication from the United States Government regarding its decision to comply with a request of the Government of Lebanon for military assistance; noted further that United States troops had subsequently arrived in Lebanon; recognized that the United Nations, according to the Charter, was not authorized to intervene in matters which were essentially within the domestic intervention of any State; considered that the action taken by the United States Government had substantially altered the conditions under which the Security Council had decided on 11 June 1958 to send observers to Lebanon; in the operative part, the Council would have requested the Secretary-General to suspend the activities of the observers in Lebanon until further notice; and would have decided to keep the item on its agenda.

At the 834th meeting on 18 July 1958, the USSR revised draft resolution was rejected by 1 vote in favour, 8 against, with 2 abstentions.²⁸²

The United States revised draft resolution was not adopted. There was 9 votes in favour, 1 against, with 1 abstention (the negative vote being that of a permanent member).²⁸³

The Swedish draft resolution was not adopted. There were 2 votes in favour and 9 against.²⁸⁴

At the same meeting, the representative of the United States submitted a draft resolution²⁸⁵ to have the Security Council decide to call an emergency special session of the General Assembly, as provided in General

Assembly resolution 337 (V), in order to make appropriate recommendations concerning the Lebanon complaint.

On the same day, the representative of the USSR submitted a draft resolution to have the Security Council decide to call an emergency special session of the General Assembly in order to consider the question of the intervention of the United States and of the United Kingdom in Lebanon and Jordan.²⁸⁶

Decision of 22 July 1958 (837th meeting): Rejection of the Japanese draft resolution

At the 835th meeting on 21 July 1958, a revised draft resolution²⁸⁷ was introduced by Japan by the terms of which the Security Council would have (1) invited the United Nations Observation Group in Lebanon to continue to develop its activities pursuant to the Security Council resolution of 11 June 1958; (2) requested the Secretary-General to make arrangements forthwith for such measures, in addition to those envisaged by the resolution of 11 June 1958, as he might consider necessary in the light of the present circumstances, with a view to enabling the United Nations to fulfil the general purposes established in that resolution, and which would, in accordance with the Charter, serve to ensure the territorial integrity and political independence of Lebanon, so as to make possible the withdrawal of United States forces from Lebanon; (3) requested the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council on the arrangements made; and (4) called upon the Governments concerned to co-operate fully in the implementation of this resolution.

The representative of Japan pointed out that it was not the intention of operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution to empower the Secretary-General to create a United Nations emergency force in Lebanon, nor to create a type of United Nations force such was stationed in Korea, nor to create a police force of any kind. The draft resolution related only to Lebanon; the complaint of Jordan, in the view of his delegation, should receive careful consideration from the Council.²⁸⁸

The representative of the United Kingdom stated that the United Kingdom Government had concluded from the course of the debate on the Lebanese item that there was no immediate prospect of agreement on the necessary measures in Jordan. He therefore proposed, as a first step, to explore urgently with the Secretary-General the possibility of some form of effective action by the United Nations. This would be done in consultation with the Government of Jordan and with other Governments concerned. The object of these consultations would be to work out a proposal under which assistance could be given by the United Nations to the Government of Jordan to ensure the preservation of its territorial integrity and political independence.²⁸⁹

²⁸⁰ 832nd meeting (PV): p. 11.

²⁸¹ S/4054.

²⁸² 834th meeting (PV): p. 46.

²⁸³ 834th meeting (PV): p. 46.

²⁸⁴ 834th meeting (PV): p. 46.

²⁸⁵ S/4056. For the discussion of this draft resolution as well as the USSR draft resolution, see chapter VI, part I.B., Case 4.

²⁸⁶ S/4057.

²⁸⁷ S/4055.

²⁸⁸ 835th meeting (PV): pp. 6-8.

²⁸⁹ 835th meeting (PV): p. 16.

At the same meeting, Japan revised its draft resolution²⁹⁰ to omit operative paragraph 1.

At the 836th meeting on 22 July 1958, the representative of the USSR submitted the following amendments²⁹¹ to the Japanese revised draft resolution: (1) to restore operative paragraph 1; (2) to redraft paragraph 2 so that the Security Council would request the Secretary-General to carry out, in addition to measures envisaged by the resolution of 11 June 1958, the plan submitted by the United Nations Observation Group in its second report, with a view to enabling the United Nations to fulfil the general purposes established in that resolution, which would, in accordance with the Charter, serve to ensure the territorial integrity and political independence to Lebanon; (3) to add a new paragraph 3 according to which the Security Council, considering that the landing of United States troops in Lebanon constituted intervention in the domestic affairs of that country and was therefore contrary to the purpose and principles of the United Nations, would call upon the United States of America to withdraw its armed forces from Lebanon immediately; (4) to renumber paragraph 2 of the Japanese revised draft resolution paragraph 4 and to add at the end of the paragraph the words "not later than 30 July 1958"; (5) to renumber paragraph 3 of the Japanese revised draft resolution paragraph 5.

At the 837th meeting on 22 July 1958, the USSR amendments to the Japanese revised draft resolution were rejected by 1 vote in favour, 8 against, with 2 abstentions.²⁹²

The Japanese revised draft resolution was not adopted. There were 10 votes in favour, 1 against (the negative vote being that of a permanent member).²⁹³

Decision of 22 July 1958 (837th meeting): Statement by the President

Following these votes, the Secretary-General made the following statement:²⁹⁴

"The Security Council has just failed to take additional action in the grave emergency facing us. However, the responsibility of the United Nations to make all efforts to live up to the purposes and principles of the Charter remains.

"The Council now has before it two proposals for the calling of an emergency special session of the General Assembly. I cannot anticipate its decision on those proposals. However, time is of the essence, and whatever the outcome of the further consideration in this Council there is need for practical steps to be taken without any delay. That is the background against which I would like to make the following declaration.

"In a statement before this Council on 31 October 1956, I said that the discretion and impartiality imposed on the Secretary-General by the character of his immediate task must not degenerate into a policy of expediency.

"On a later occasion—it was 26 September 1957—I said in a statement before the General Assembly that I believed it to be the duty of the Secretary-General 'to use his office and, indeed, the machinery of the Organization to its utmost capacity and to the full extent permitted at each stage by practical circumstances'. (A/PV.690, pp. 31-35) I added that I believed that it is in keeping with the philosophy of the Charter that the Secretary-General also should be expected to act without any guidance from the Assembly or the Security Council should this appear to him necessary towards helping to fill any vacuum that may appear in the systems which the Charter and traditional diplomacy provide for the safeguarding of peace and security.

"It is my feeling that, under the circumstances, what I stated in those two contexts, on 31 October 1956 and 26 September 1957, now has full application.

"I am sure that I will be acting in accordance with the wishes of the members of the Council if I, therefore, use all opportunities offered to the Secretary-General, within the limits set by the Charter and towards developing the United Nations effort, so as to help to prevent a further deterioration of the situation in the Middle East and to assist in finding a road away from the dangerous point at which we now find ourselves.

"First of all—the continued operation of the United Nations Observation Group in Lebanon being acceptable to all members of the Council—this will mean the further development of the United Nations Observation Group in Lebanon so as to give it all the significance it can have, consistent with its basic character as determined by the Security Council in its resolution (S/4023) of 11 June 1958 and the purposes and principles of the Charter.

"The Council will excuse me for not being able to spell out at this moment what it may mean beyond that. However, I am certain that what I may find it possible to do, acting under the provisions of the Charter and solely for the purposes of the Charter, and guided by the views expressed around this table to the extent that they have a direct bearing on the activities of the Secretary-General, will be recognized by you as being in the best interests of our Organization and, therefore, of the cause of peace.

"The Security Council would, of course, be kept fully informed on the steps taken. Were you to disapprove of the way these intentions were to be translated by me into practical steps, I would, of course, accept the consequences of your judgement."

The President (Colombia), before proposing the

²⁹⁰ S/4055/Rev.1.

²⁹¹ S/4063.

²⁹² 837th meeting (PV): p. 6.

²⁹³ 837th meeting (PV): pp. 6-10.

²⁹⁴ 837th meeting (PV): pp. 11-12.

adjournment of the Council, made the following statement:²⁹⁵

“At this point of our debate, the President of the Security Council considers it his duty to make a short statement in connexion with a motion which will be presented at the conclusion of the statement.

“The Security Council must consider four fundamental points which are all of the greatest importance. First of all, we must bear in mind the statement we have just heard from the Secretary-General of the United Nations in which he establishes that the United Nations cannot remain passive in the face of such an emergency. It cannot remain a mere spectator. The United Nations must pursue and continue to pursue all the possibilities which the Charter of the United Nations offers and which are set forth in the resolution of the Security Council adopted on 11 June 1958 to preserve and strengthen peace in the Middle East.

“It has already been shown that the steps previously taken by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in full conformity with the Charter and with the authorization contained in the aforementioned resolution brought certain positive results which all the members of the Security Council as well as the interested parties to this conflict have accepted with gratitude as important and opportune.

“There is another factor which the Security Council must bear in mind. It is well known by public opinion that the Parliament of Lebanon is to elect a new President at the end of this week. The election of a new President, who might be the result of a patriotic agreement between the Government party of Lebanon and the Opposition, would certainly clarify to a great extent this very difficult and complex situation. We cannot prejudge the result of that election. We know that the constituent Assembly will initiate its work on 24 July.

“All of these circumstances would seem to indicate that the Security Council must, under no circumstances, close the door to a compromise solution which would remove the causes of this situation which have brought so much agitation to the Middle East.

“There is a third and most important point which we must bear in mind at this time. It is very important, and perhaps even more important than the points that I have already referred to. The President of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union has already invited the Heads of State of the United States of America, the United Kingdom, France, and India to meet with him and with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as soon as possible, in a conference of the highest importance which would seek a solution that could be recommended to the Security Council of the United Nations so that we might once and for all put an end to these dramatic differences which are today interrupting the normal life of the Middle East.

“We are aware of only some of the replies from some of the Governments who have been invited to this most important meeting to which I have just referred. The Foreign Minister of the United Kingdom is disposed to take part in such a conference, but within the framework of the United Nations. The Government of the United States of America has made a similar statement, and it is a statement which we consider of the greatest importance. The Foreign Minister of Canada, in the important statement that he made during our meeting of yesterday, has declared that his Government, in view of the recent occurrences in the Middle East, considers that it is opportune to study these problems at such a conference on the highest possible level.

“We are all aware of the fact that other foreign offices are today studying very closely the proposal which has been made by the President of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union. While, for obvious reasons, they have not all been invited to such a meeting, they certainly have a duty to their peoples and to the United Nations to express their opinion in connexion with the aforementioned invitation of the Soviet Union.

“There is another factor of the very greatest importance. The delegation of the United States of America and the delegation of the Soviet Union have, for different reasons, presented similar proposals to the Security Council. These proposals call for the convening of a special emergency session of the General Assembly of the United Nations so that the General Assembly might consider the problems of the Middle East.

“This statement, which I have tried to make as brief as possible, will surely demonstrate to one and all that, first of all, the United Nations must continue to act effectively in that particular part of the world which is today threatening the peace of the whole world. Secondly, it points out that all the foreign offices of the world are certainly considering all these problems and all the possible solutions which might help us. You must excuse me if I become a little hard, but we cannot pass over in silence or fail to consider any one of the possible solutions which might be suggested.

“It is for these reasons that I, as President of the Security Council of the United Nations, have spoken to you gentlemen. In speaking to you I am trying to reach all of the peoples of the world, and especially the interested parties in this conflict in the Middle East, in the hope that they will do absolutely nothing and take absolutely no steps to worsen the already complex situation which exists in that most important part of the world.”

The President's proposal to adjourn was adopted by 10 votes in favour and 1 against.²⁹⁶

On 30 July 1958, the United Nations Observation

²⁹⁵ 837th meeting (PV): pp. 13-20.

²⁹⁶ 837th meeting (PV): p. 36.

Group in Lebanon submitted a further report²⁹⁷ to the Security Council through the Secretary-General.

Decision of 7 August 1958 (838th meeting): To call an emergency special session of the General Assembly

By letter²⁹⁸ dated 5 August 1958, the representative of the USSR requested the President of the Security Council to call an immediate emergency meeting of the Council to consider the USSR proposal for the convening of an emergency special session of the General Assembly.

At the 838th meeting on 7 August 1958, the Security Council had before it a revised draft resolution²⁹⁹ submitted by the United States and a revised draft resolution³⁰⁰ submitted by the USSR.

The United States revised draft resolution would have provided that the Security Council, having considered the complaints of Lebanon and of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and taking into account that the lack of unanimity of its permanent members at the 834th and 837th meetings of the Security Council had prevented it from exercising its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, would decide to call an emergency special session of the General Assembly, as provided in General Assembly resolution 377 (V).

The USSR revised draft resolution would have provided that the Security Council, having considered the situation in the Near and Middle East resulting from the introduction of United States armed forces into Lebanon and of United Kingdom armed forces into Jordan; taking into account that these actions of the United States and the United Kingdom constituted a threat to international peace and security; noting that the Security Council had proved unable to exercise its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security; would decide to call an emergency special session of the General Assembly in order to consider the question of the immediate withdrawal of United States troops from Lebanon and of United Kingdom troops from Jordan.

Amendments to the United States revised draft resolution were submitted by the USSR,³⁰¹ the United Kingdom,³⁰² and Panama.³⁰³ The representative of the United States accepted³⁰⁴ the amendment of Panama to revise the first preambular paragraph of the revised draft resolution to read: "Having considered items 2 and 3 of the agenda (S/Agenda 838)" and the United Kingdom amendment to replace the last paragraph by the text: "Decides to call an emergency special session of the General Assembly".

²⁹⁷ S/4069.

²⁹⁸ S/4078.

²⁹⁹ S/4056/Rev.1.

³⁰⁰ S/4057/Rev.1.

³⁰¹ 838th meeting (PV): pp. 111-115, 131.

³⁰² 838th meeting (PV): pp. 117-120, 132-135.

³⁰³ 838th meeting (PV): pp. 128-130. For the discussion on these amendments, see chapter VI, part I.B, Case 4.

³⁰⁴ 838th meeting (PV): pp. 131, 136-138.

The United States revised draft resolution, as amended, was adopted unanimously.³⁰⁵

The resolution³⁰⁶ read:

"The Security Council,

"Having considered items 2 and 3 on its agenda as contained in document S/Agenda/838,

"Taking into account that the lack of unanimity of its permanent members at the 834th and 837th meetings of the Security Council has prevented it from exercising its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security,

"Decides to call an emergency special session of the General Assembly."

The representative of the USSR stated that in view of the result of the vote he would not press the USSR revised draft resolution.³⁰⁷

The representative of Japan pointed out that the discussion of the complaint of Jordan had not been exhausted. From a procedural viewpoint, therefore, the status of the question of Jordan was not the same as that of the question of Lebanon. Nevertheless, he accepted the amended United States revised draft resolution with the understanding that this should not constitute a precedent for the future.³⁰⁸

On 14 August 1958, the United Nations Observation Group in Lebanon submitted to the Security Council, through the Secretary-General, its third report.³⁰⁹

On 29 September 1958, the United Nations Observation Group in Lebanon submitted to the Security Council, through the Secretary-General, its fourth report.³¹⁰

Decision of 25 November 1958 (840th meeting): Deletion of complaint of Lebanon from the agenda

In a letter³¹¹ dated 16 November 1958, addressed to the President of the Security Council, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lebanon stated that the Security Council would be pleased to learn that "cordial and close relations between Lebanon and the United Arab Republic have resumed their usual course" and that the Lebanese Government intended in the future to strengthen its co-operation with the United Arab Republic and other Arab States still further. For this reason the Lebanese Government requested the Security Council to delete from the list of matters before it the Lebanese complaint submitted to the Council on 22 May 1958.

On 17 September 1958 the United Nations Observation Group in Lebanon submitted to the Security

³⁰⁵ 838th meeting (PV): pp. 139-140.

³⁰⁶ S/4083.

³⁰⁷ 838th meeting (PV): pp. 139-140.

³⁰⁸ 838th meeting (PV): pp. 139-140.

³⁰⁹ S/4085.

³¹⁰ S/4100.

³¹¹ S/4113.

Council, through the Secretary-General, its fifth report.³¹² In this report it was stated that the Group had come to the conclusion that its task under the resolution of 11 June 1958 might be regarded as completed and that it was of the opinion, and accordingly submitted its recommendation, that the withdrawal of the United Nations Observation Group in Lebanon should be undertaken.

In a letter³¹³ dated 17 November 1958 addressed to the President of the Security Council, the Secretary-General stated that in view of the statement of the Government of Lebanon and the recommendation of the Observation Group in Lebanon, he had immediately instructed the Group to present, in consultation with the Government of Lebanon, a detailed plan for the withdrawal. He had taken this step, the Secretary-General stated further, under the authorization given to the Secretary-General in the Security Council resolution of 11 June 1958 to take the necessary steps for the implementation of the Security Council's decision. The instruction given to the Observation Group implied that he considered the task of the Group as completed and that his remaining duty under the resolution thus covered only the necessary measures for the liquidation of the operation.

On 21 November 1958 the Secretary-General submitted to the Security Council a report³¹⁴ on the plan for the withdrawal of the United Nations Observation Group in Lebanon.

At the 840th meeting of the Security Council on 25 November 1958, after the Council had concluded its consideration of the item on its agenda for this meeting,³¹⁵ the President (Panama) referred to the letter

addressed to him on 16 November 1958 by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lebanon; to the fifth report of the United Nations Observation Group in Lebanon; and to the letter addressed to him by the Secretary-General on 17 November 1958. He stated that in view of the statement of the Government of Lebanon and the recommendation of the United Nations Observation Group in Lebanon, he had engaged in consultation with the members of the Council who appeared to agree to the deletion from the list of matters of which the Council was seized of the complaint submitted on 22 May 1958 and to the liquidation of the operation of the United Nations Observation Group in Lebanon. Accordingly, in the absence of any objection, the President continued, he would place on the record that the Council had agreed to delete from the list of matters of which it was seized the complaint submitted to it by the Government of Lebanon on 22 May 1958, with the understanding that the Secretary-General would inform the General Assembly under his mandate³¹⁶ contained in the resolution of 21 August 1958.³¹⁷

In the absence of any objection, it was so decided.³¹⁸

³¹² In Section II of resolution 1237 (ES-III) the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General "to make forthwith, in consultation with the Governments concerned and in accordance with the Charter, and bearing in mind part I of this resolution, such practical arrangements as would adequately help in upholding the Purposes and Principles of the Charter in relation to Lebanon and Jordan in the present circumstances, and thereby facilitate the early withdrawal of the foreign troops from the two countries".

³¹³ 840th meeting (PV) : pp. 12-13.

³¹⁴ 840th meeting (PV) : p. 13. By letter dated 25 November 1958 (A/4008), the Secretary-General informed the President of the General Assembly that the Security Council, at its 840th meeting on 25 November 1958, had decided to delete from the list of matters of which the Council was seized the complaint submitted on 22 May 1958 by the Government of Lebanon.

³¹² S/4114.

³¹³ S/4115.

³¹⁴ S/4116.

³¹⁵ The date of election to fill a vacancy in the International Court of Justice.