

Viet-Nam was technically placed on the Security Council's agenda early in 1966 at the request of the United States, but nothing ever came of this. Both the Soviet Union and France argued at the time that the Geneva conference, instead of the United Nations, was the appropriate forum, as most of the parties involved in the conflict were not United Nations Members.

Mr. Waldheim's consultations on South-East Asia this week included meetings on Monday, 8 May, with Sir Colin Crowe of the United Kingdom, François de la Gorce of France, and Mr. Bush, who briefed the Secretary-General on what President Nixon was to announce later that evening. On Tuesday, 9 May, Mr. Waldheim conferred with Soviet Ambassador Yakov Malik. On Wednesday, 10 May, he met with Ambassador Huang, and later that day with the 10 non-permanent Council members in two groups of fives.

SANCTIONS COMMITTEE COMPLETES REPORT ON SOUTHERN RHODESIA

Suggestions for achieving stricter observance of the sanctions ordered by the Security Council against Southern Rhodesia were contained in a report issued this week by the Council's Sanctions Committee, which is made up of all its 15 members.

The report called for a wider and swifter flow of information from various sources in order to halt violations of the 1968 resolution providing for the severance of virtually all links with the illegal minority regime in Salisbury. It also recommended that Governments examine cargoes from South Africa and Portuguese-controlled Territories to ensure that they were not of Rhodesian origin. The report sought expert advice on ways of overcoming the falsification of commercial documents, and clarification of the role of insurance companies regarding the transport of cargoes to and from Southern Rhodesia.

In addition to these generally agreed recommendations, the report conveyed African proposals, supported by a majority of the membership of the Committee, and which called for such additional measures as the severance of all transport and communications links with Rhodesia. Sponsored by Guinea, Somalia and Sudan, the proposals were supported by Argentina, China, India, Panama, the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia. China and the Soviet Union further favoured the imposition of sanctions against South Africa and Portugal and a condemnation of the United States. South Africa and Portugal have refused to co-operate in the sanctions programme. The United States has received shipments of Rhodesian chrome this year under a Congressional action authorizing their importation as a strategic material. Japan also generally favoured the African proposal but reserved its position in the Committee for procedural reasons.

Belgium, France, Italy and the United States recalled objections relating to substance, procedure or Committee competence that had been raised in relation to similar proposals submitted earlier.

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The United Kingdom entered a blanket reservation on all the recommendations and proposals contained in the report. A United Kingdom spokesman said that some went far beyond the scope of the Committee's task, and that others, while reasonable, reflected what the Committee already was or should be doing and did not need to be put into a report.

COMMITTEE OF 24 ON DECOLONIZATION HOLDS PRESS BRIEFING ON AFRICAN TRIP

Members of a three-nation group that visited Guinea (Bissau) areas freed of Portuguese rule told news correspondents this week that the needs of the African nationalists were great and that they hoped the United Nations and its agencies would help meet them. The mission, sent by the Special Committee of 24 on decolonization, comprised Horacio Sevilla-Borja (Ecuador), Chairman; Folke Lofgren (Sweden); and Kamel Belkhiria (Tunisia). They said that they had covered 160 miles mainly on foot and that their main conclusion was that the existence of an extensive liberated zone in the West African territory was a plain fact.

Portugal has said that the mission never got into Guinea (Bissau), and that rebels had gulled them by escorting them along the other side of the border. Mr. Sevilla-Borja said they had ample proof that they had in fact visited the territory.

WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY OPENS IN GENEVA

The twenty-fifth World Health Assembly got under way in Geneva this week and elected Dr. Basil B. Layton (Canada) as its Presiding Officer.

The Assembly also formally recognized the People's Republic of China as the only Government having the right to represent China in the World Health Organization (WHO). A resolution to this effect was adopted by a vote of 76 in favour to 15 against, with 27 abstentions.

Coming up before the Assembly are applications for full membership in the specialized agency from Bangladesh and the German Democratic Republic. A simple majority vote is required for admission. Meanwhile, under the agency's rules, the Director-General, Dr. M.G. Candau, invited the German Democratic Republic to send observers to the proceedings relating to its application.

At United Nations Headquarters, the United Kingdom, France and the United States sent a letter to the Security Council protesting against instances in which certain Council Presidents had directed the Secretariat to circulate communications from the authorities of East Germany as Council documents. (H/2232.)

Meanwhile, Ambassador Sen of India said in a letter to the Security Council that effective Indian-Pakistani machinery existed to settle cease-fire disputes on the spot -- and that he did not want to engage in polemics with Pakistan on the problem.

DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE EXAMINES ROLE OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

The Special Committee of 24 on decolonization this week examined the role of the specialized agencies in giving effect to the United Nations Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples.

On Tuesday, 16 May, the Committee Chairman, Salim A. Salim (United Republic of Tanzania), formally welcomed the new United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs and Decolonization, Tang Ming-chao, who attended the Committee meeting for the first time. (GA/COL/1292-1293.)

APARTHEID COMMITTEE CONSIDERS MILITARY BUILD-UP IN SOUTH AFRICA

The Special Committee on Apartheid discussed a report on a military build-up in South Africa.

Attention was drawn in the discussion to a section of the report indicating that South Africa was buying from Portugal a number of fast ships to be fitted with guided missiles and other electronic equipment. (GA/AP/279.)

COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA

The United Nations Council for Namibia announced that it had accepted an invitation from the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to represent Namibian interests at a regional air navigation meeting to be held by ICAO in Kampala, Uganda, next October. (NAM/17.)

ITEMS IN BRIEF

A group of experts met this week to begin their task of helping the Secretary-General to prepare a report on all aspects of the possible use of napalm and other incendiary weapons. The study was requested by the General Assembly last December in a resolution dealing with respect for human rights in armed conflicts. (DC/724-HR/835.)

The need for an international plan of action for crime prevention was stressed at another meeting which ended at Headquarters this week. Attention was drawn to increases in such crimes as hijacking, drug abuse and counterfeiting, which often have an international character. (SOC/3846.)

Ambassador Ismail of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen charged in a letter to the Secretary-General that British forces in Oman had engaged in increasing military provocations against his country and were involved in preparations for a large-scale invasion. A British spokesman said the charges were "entirely without foundation", and that British forces were not involved in the dispute between the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and the Government of Oman. (S/10647.)

Ambassador Sharaf of Jordan accompanied a six-member delegation of Muslim and Christian leaders of Jordan to a meeting with the Secretary-General on Tuesday, 16 May. The delegation expressed concern about measures taken by Israel to change the status of Jerusalem. A United Nations spokesman said the Secretary-General pointed out that the United Nations had adopted various resolutions on Jerusalem and said he would keep the matter under careful study.

A letter from Ambassador Al-Shaikhly of Iraq to the Secretary-General said that Iran had carried out another military incursion into his country's territory on 20 April. (S/10645.)

The Turkish delegation sent the Secretary-General a letter from F. Kucuk, Vice-President of Cyprus and leader of the Turkish Cypriot Community, stating that the Community favoured continuation of an independent Cyprus within the framework of existing treaties and opposed union with Greece, or Enosis, fears of which, he said, were amply justified. (S/10650.)

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