

The United Kingdom item was approved without a roll call, but on the second item—that proposed by the Arab States—the following countries, in addition to the five Arab delegations—voted for the acceptance of the item on the agenda: Afghanistan, Argentine, Byelo-Russia, the U.S.S.R., the Ukraine, Yugoslavia, Cuba, India, Iran, and Turkey. Czechoslovakia, Poland, and eight Latin-American countries abstained. Fifteen voted in favour of placing the item on the agenda, 24 voted against, and 10 abstained.

The General Committee was thereupon reconvened in order to deal with the applications of several organizations for permission to attend meetings of the General Assembly and to participate in the discussions. The applications which had by that time been received were from the Jewish Agency for Palestine, the Zionist Organization of America, the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, and the Political Action Committee for Palestine; subsequently additional applications were received and disposed of as indicated later in this report.

No application from any non-governmental Arab group was then before the Committee. The debate resolved itself into a discussion of the propriety of allowing a non-governmental representative to participate in the plenary session of the General Assembly, a proposal with this end in view having been introduced by Poland and strongly supported by the other Slav delegations.

After the defeat of a resolution, proposed by the Polish delegation and supported only by Czechoslovakia and the U.S.S.R., that the Assembly decide to invite the Jewish Agency for Palestine to appear before the plenary meeting of the General Assembly, a United States proposal, somewhat amended at the suggestion of the United Kingdom representative, was passed, recommending the Assembly to refer this and all other communications later received to the First Committee for its decision.

The report of the General Committee was referred to the Assembly on Saturday, 3 May, immediately after the welcome to the President of Mexico. At this time the delegate of New Zealand addressed the Assembly. While not directly challenging the ruling of the President that in the discussion of the United Kingdom agenda item the Assembly would be able to discuss the entire substance of the problem of Palestine, he nevertheless urged the Assembly and its Committees to do no such thing. He adduced three reasons why such a course would be improper and unwise. Firstly, the delegates to that meeting of the General Assembly were neither adequately instructed nor adequately informed to undertake such a discussion, having been instructed solely on the question of the establishment of a Committee of Inquiry. With regard to the arguments brought forward by some delegations that such a wide discussion was necessary in order properly to instruct the Committee, he said that the New Zealand delegation considered that the Committee should be given the simplest terms of reference in order