

suggested that these should not be pressed as part of the resolution. After discussion, the Australian delegate withdrew the second part of the draft. The resolution, as revised, was then put to the vote and carried by 29 votes (including New Zealand) to 9.

The candidature of Siam for membership of the United Nations came before the Assembly at its final meeting, and Siam was formally admitted.

2. Application of Article 27 of the Charter: Amendment of Charter

The Committee decided to discuss together the following three items :—

(i) The application of Article 27 of the Charter, dealing with the method of voting in the Security Council (item proposed by the Government of Australia).

(ii) The calling of a General Conference of members of the United Nations under Article 109 of the Charter in order to eliminate the “ veto ” (item proposed by the Government of Cuba).

(iii) The calling of a General Conference of members of the United Nations under Article 109 of the Charter for the purpose of reviewing the present Charter (item proposed by the Government of Cuba).

The Australian proposal was not concerned with the revision of Article 27, but only with the manner in which that Article had been applied in practice. The Australian draft resolution ran :—

“ The General Assembly, mindful of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and having taken notice of the manner in which the power of veto conferred by Article 27 (3) of the Charter has been employed in the proceedings of the Security Council in relation to matters outside Chapter VII of the Charter, considers that in some instances the use and the threatened use of power of veto have not been in keeping either with the general purposes and principles of the Charter or with the understanding of the United Nations Conference on International Organization held at San Francisco, and therefore earnestly requests that the permanent members of the Security Council shall refrain from exercising this power of veto except in cases under Chapter VII of the Charter.”

The two Cuban proposals were, early in the discussion, merged in a single revised proposal calling for the convocation of a General Conference for revision of the Charter and for the setting-up of a Committee of the General Assembly to receive and consider proposals for amendment.

Though the proposal for revision of the “ veto ” clause thus became, in appearance, but one of the various possible amendments which might be examined by a General Conference for the revision of the Charter, the subsequent discussion touched hardly at all upon a general revision, but remained confined to the revision of the “ veto.” The revised proposal ran :—

“ THE ASSEMBLY SHOULD RESOLVE :

“ 1. To convene in conformity with Article 109 of the Charter a General Conference of the Members of the United Nations for the purpose of reviewing the present Charter of the Organization.