

July 15, 1954

Report, UN Department of Political and Security Council Affairs, 'The Question before the United Nations of Complaint by the Union of CF Burma regarding Aggression Against It by the Government of the Republic of China'

Citation:

"Report, UN Department of Political and Security Council Affairs, 'The Question before the United Nations of Complaint by the Union of CF Burma regarding Aggression Against It by the Government of the Republic of China'", July 15, 1954, Wilson Center Digital Archive, "Political and Security Council Affairs reports (Protitch reports) - China - Burma regarding aggression against it by Republic of China," S-0188-0005-22, United Nations Archives and Records Management Section (UN ARMS), New York, NY. Obtained for CWIHP by Charles Kraus.

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Summary:

The Department of Political and Security Council Affairs compiles a timeline and list of documents related to the complaint by Burma against the Republic of China.

Credits:

This document was made possible with support from Leon Levy Foundation

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AND SECURITY COUNCIL AFFAIRS

THE QUESTION BEFORE THE UNITED NATIONS OF COMPLAINT
BY THE UNION OF BURMA REGARDING AGGRESSION AGAINST
IT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

10 September 1953 - 15 July 1954.

15 July 1954.

THE QUESTION BEFORE THE UNITED NATIONS OF COMPLAINT
BY THE UNION OF BURMA REGARDING AGGRESSION AGAINST
IT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

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THE QUESTION BEFORE THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. On 10 September 1953, the permanent representative of Burma, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 707(VII), submitted to the eighth session of the General Assembly his Government's report on the presence of foreign forces in its territories (A/2468; O.R., Annex to Agenda Item 25, pp. 43-50)

2. By a letter dated 29 June 1953 (A/2423; O.R., Annex to Agenda Item 25, pp. 2-42), the Burmese delegation had also transmitted, for the information of the General Assembly, various documents relating to the item.

3. At its 435th plenary meeting on 17 September 1953, the General Assembly decided to include in the agenda of its eighth regular session the item entitled "Complaint by the Union of Burma regarding aggression against it by the Government of the Republic of China: report of the Government of the Union of Burma", and referred it to the First Committee for consideration and report (O.R., Plenary Meetings, pp. 28 and 33).

A. The Question before the First Committee

4. The First Committee considered the item at its 653rd through 657th meetings, inclusive, from 31 October to 5 November, and at its 677th to 679th meetings, inclusive, held between 27 November and 4 December 1953.

5. By letter dated 26 October 1953 (A/C.1/L.69; O.R., Annex to Agenda Item 25, p. 51), the Chairman of the Chinese delegation transmitted a copy of a statement by the Chinese Minister for Foreign Affairs issued

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on 8 October 1953 on "the question of the evacuation of the Chinese irregulars under General Li Mi's command in Burma".

6. The Chairman of the Burmese delegation on 28 October 1953 transmitted for the information of the General Assembly further documents regarding Burma's complaint of aggression against it by the Government of the Republic of China (A/C.1/L.70; O.R., Annex to Agenda Item 25, pp. 52-56).

7. On 29 October 1953, the Chairman of the United States delegation addressed a letter to the President of the General Assembly (A/C.1/L.71; O.R., Annex to Agenda Item 25, p. 56) transmitting a statement made on the same day by the Joint Military Committee at Bangkok, on which representatives of China, Thailand and the United States of America had been serving. The statement related to an agreement reached by these Governments regarding the evacuation from Burma of about two thousand Chinese irregular forces, together with their dependents. The representative of the United States of America requested that his letter and its enclosure be circulated to the members of the First Committee.

8. At its 657th meeting on 5 November 1953, the First Committee had before it a joint draft resolution sponsored by Australia, Brazil, Canada, India, Mexico, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom (A/C.1/L.73; O.R., Annex to Agenda Item 25, p. 56).

"The First Committee

Having considered the report of the Government of the Union of Burma contained in document A/2468, the letter dated 26 October 1953 on the same subject contained in document A/C.1/L.69 and the letter dated 29 October 1953 from the Chairman of the United States delegation (A/C.1/L.71);

Decides under rule 115 of the rules of procedure to adjourn further consideration of this question by this Committee at the present session to a date not earlier than 23 November 1953."

9. At the same (657th) meeting, the seven-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.73) was voted upon and adopted by 50 votes in favour, 3 against and 6 abstentions (O.R., First Committee, p. 169).

10. By letters dated 25 and 27 November and 2 December 1953 (A/C.1/L.89; A/C.1/L.91; A/C.1/L.93; O.R., Annex to Agenda Item 25, pp. 57-58, 59, 60), addressed to the Secretary-General, the Chairman of the United States delegation transmitted messages received by his Government from the Joint Military Committee in Bangkok, reporting the progress achieved on the evacuation of Chinese irregular forces from the territory of the Union of Burma. He requested that the letters and their enclosures be circulated to the members of the First Committee.

11. At the 677th meeting of the First Committee on 27 November 1953, the representatives of Australia, Canada, India, Indonesia, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom submitted the following draft resolution (A/C.1/L.90; O.R., Annex to Agenda Item 25, p. 58):

"The General Assembly,

"Having considered the report dated 31 August 1953 (A/2468) of the Government of the Union of Burma on the situation relating to the presence of foreign forces in its territory,

1. Notes that limited evacuation of personnel of these foreign forces has begun as from 7 November 1953;
2. Expresses concern that few arms have been surrendered by them;
3. Appreciates the efforts of the United States of America and Thailand in striving for the evacuation of these forces;
4. Urges that efforts be continued for the evacuation or internment of these foreign forces and the surrender of all arms;
5. Reaffirms General Assembly resolution 707 (VII) of 23 April 1953 and in particular:
6. Urges upon all States to refrain from furnishing any assistance to these forces which may enable them to remain in the territory of the Union of Burma or to continue their hostile acts against that country;
7. Invites the Government of the Union of Burma to report on the situation to the General Assembly as appropriate."

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12. At the 678th meeting on 4 December, the representatives of Thailand and the United States submitted the following amendments (A/C.1/L.92; O.R., Annex to Agenda Item 25, p. 59) to the eight-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.90):

"1. In the preamble, insert 'and the reports of the Joint Military Committee in Bangkok' between the words 'Union of Burma' and the words 'on the situation'.

2. In operative paragraph 4, insert 'on the part of those concerned' between the word 'efforts' and the words 'be continued'.

3. In operative paragraph 7, insert 'and the Joint Military Committee in Bangkok' between the words 'Union of Burma' and the words 'to report'."

13. At the same (678th) meeting, the eight original sponsors, together with Uruguay, submitted a revision (A/C.1/L.90/Rev.1; O.R., Annex to Agenda Item 25, pp. 58-59) of their draft resolution reading as follows:

"The General Assembly,

Having considered the report dated 31 August 1953 (A/2468) of the Government of the Union of Burma on the situation relating to the presence of foreign forces in its territory, and all other information on the subject laid before the Assembly,

1. Notes that limited evacuation of personnel of these foreign forces has begun as from 7 November 1953;

2. Expresses concern that few arms have been surrendered by them;

3. Appreciates the efforts of the United States of America and Thailand in striving for the evacuation of these forces;

4. Urges that efforts be continued on the part of those concerned for the evacuation or internment of these foreign forces and the surrender of all arms;

5. Reaffirms General Assembly resolution 707 (VII) of 23 April 1953 and in particular;

6. Urges upon all States to refrain from furnishing any assistance to these forces which may enable them to remain in the territory of the Union of Burma or to continue their hostile acts against that country;

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7. Invites the governments concerned to inform the General Assembly of any action that they have taken to implement the present resolution;

8. Requests the Government of the Union of Burma to report on the situation to the General Assembly as appropriate."

14. At the same meeting, the United States representative stated that the changes appearing in the revised draft resolution (A/C.1/L.90/Rev.1) fulfilled the aims sought by the United States and Thailand in their amendments (A/C.1/L.92), and that the United States would not press for a vote on the amendments.

15. At the 679th meeting of the First Committee on 4 December, the representative of the USSR made an oral proposal to delete paragraph 3 of the revised nine-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.90/Rev.1). The USSR amendment was rejected by 49 votes to 5, with 2 abstentions (O.R., First Committee, pp. 287, 290).

16. The Chairman then put to the vote the revised nine-Power draft resolution, and it was adopted by 51 votes to none, with 6 abstentions (O.R., First Committee, p. 290).

17. The resolution as adopted by the First Committee was contained in a report dated 5 December 1953 to the General Assembly (A/2607; O.R., Annex to Agenda Item 25, pp. 60-61) and read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

Having considered the report dated 31 August 1953 (A/2468) of the Government of the Union of Burma on the situation relating to the presence of foreign forces in its territory, and all other information on the subject laid before the Assembly,

1. Notes that limited evacuation of personnel of these foreign forces has begun as from 7 November 1953;

2. Expresses concern that few arms have been surrendered by them;

3. Appreciates the efforts of the United States of America and Thailand in striving for the evacuation of these forces;

4. Urges that efforts be continued on the part of those concerned for the evacuation or internment of these foreign forces and the surrender of all arms;

5. Reaffirms General Assembly resolution 707 (VII) of 23 April 1953, and in particular;

6. Urges upon all States to refrain from furnishing any assistance to these forces which may enable them to remain in the territory of the Union of Burma or to continue their hostile acts against that country;

7. Invites the governments concerned to inform the General Assembly of any action that they have taken to implement the present resolution;

8. Requests the Government of the Union of Burma to report on the situation to the General Assembly as appropriate."

18. The following representatives participated in the debate on the question before the First Committee (O.R., First Committee):

(a) At the 653rd meeting on 31 October 1953: the representatives of Burma (pp. 145-147), China (pp. 147-148), United States (p. 148).

(b) At the 654th meeting on 2 November 1953: the representatives of Indonesia (pp. 151-152), Netherlands (pp. 150-151), New Zealand (p. 150), Sweden (p. 152), Thailand (p. 150), United Kingdom (pp. 149-150).

(c) At the 655th meeting on 4 November 1953: the representatives of Byelorussian SSR (pp. 153-154), Canada (pp. 156-157), Egypt (p. 157), France (p. 154), Israel (p. 156), Liberia (pp. 155-156), Poland (pp. 157-158), United States (pp. 158-159), Yemen (p. 157), Yugoslavia (pp. 154-155).

(d) At the 656th meeting on 4 November 1953: the representatives of Australia (pp. 163-164), Belgium (p. 161), Burma (p. 164), China (p. 164), Czechoslovakia (p. 161), India (p. 164), Mexico (pp. 161-162), Pakistan (pp. 162-163), USSR (p. 162).

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(e) At the 657th meeting on 5 November 1953: the representatives of Australia (p. 169), Burma (pp. 166-167, 168), Canada (pp. 168-169), China (pp. 167-168, 169), France (p. 169), Greece (p. 168), India (pp. 165-166, 169), Thailand (p. 169), United States (p. 169).

(f) At the 677th meeting on 27 November 1953: the representatives of Burma (pp. 278-279), China (p. 279), India (p. 280), United States (pp. 279-280).

(g) At the 678th meeting on 4 December 1953: the representatives of India (pp. 284-285), Indonesia (pp. 283-284), Mexico (p. 286), Pakistan (p. 283), Poland (pp. 282-283), Thailand (pp. 281-282); United Kingdom (p. 285), United States (p. 284).

(h) At the 679th meeting on 4 December 1953: the representatives of Burma (pp. 289-290), China (p. 289), Czechoslovakia (p. 288), France (p. 290), Guatemala (pp. 287-288), Peru (p. 288), Poland (pp. 288-289, 290), USSR (pp. 287, 290), United States (p. 290), Uruguay (p. 287), Yugoslavia (p. 289).

B. The Question before the General Assembly in Plenary Meeting

19. The General Assembly considered the report of the First Committee (A/2607) at its 470th plenary meeting on 8 December 1953.

20. The following representatives participated in the debate on the question at that meeting (O.R., Plenary Meetings): the representatives of Burma (p. 449), China (p. 447), Poland (pp. 447-448), USSR (p. 449), United States (pp. 448-449).

21. The draft resolution recommended by the First Committee was adopted by 56 votes to none, with 1 abstention (O.R., Plenary Meetings, p. 449). The text of the Resolution adopted, 717 (VIII), is identical to that of the draft resolution contained in the report of the First Committee. ^{1/}

^{1/} See paragraph 17.

C. Documents relating to the Question circulated since
the adoption of Resolution 717 (VIII)

22. By a letter dated 7 December 1953 addressed to the Secretary-General (A/2627), the United States representative to the United Nations transmitted messages received by his Government from the Joint Military Committee at Bangkok reporting the progress achieved in the evacuation of foreign forces from the territory of the Union of Burma. He requested that the letter and its enclosures be circulated to the members of the General Assembly.

23. On 17 March 1954, the permanent representative of China to the United Nations addressed a letter to the Secretary-General (A/2643) in which he detailed information regarding the evacuation of Chinese forces from the territory of Burma in accordance with Assembly resolution 717 (VIII). In the same letter the Chinese representative made two charges against the Burmese Government.

24. By letter dated 1 April 1954 addressed to the Secretary-General (A/2644), the permanent representative of Burma answered the complaints against his Government made by the representative of China in his letter dated 17 March 1954 (A/2643).

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ANNEX I

THE QUESTION BEFORE THE UNITED NATIONS OF COMPLAINT
BY THE UNION OF BURMA REGARDING AGGRESSION AGAINST
IT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

10 September 1953 - 15 July 1954

CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE QUESTION

General Assembly - Eighth Session

A/2423	22 July 1953	Letter dated 29 June 1953 from the Secretary of the permanent delegation of Burma to the United Nations, addressed to the Secretary-General.
A/2468	11 Sept. 1953	<u>O.R., Annex to agenda Item 25, pp. 2-42.</u> Letter dated 10 September 1953 from the permanent representative of Burma to the United Nations, addressed to the Secretary-General.
A/PV.435	17 Sept. 1953	<u>O.R., Annex to agenda Item 25, pp. 43-50.</u>
A/C.1/L.69	28 Oct. 1953	<u>O.R., Plenary Meetings, p. 28.</u> Letter dated 26 October 1953 from the Chairman of the delegation of China addressed to the Secretary-General.
A/C.1/L.70	29 Oct. 1953	<u>O.R., annex to Agenda Item 25, p. 51</u> Letter dated 28 October 1953 from the Chairman of the delegation of Burma addressed to the Secretary-General.
A/C.1/L.71	30 Oct. 1953	<u>O.R., Annex to agenda Item 25, pp. 52-56</u> Letter dated 29 October 1953 from the Chairman of the United States delegation addressed to the President of the General Assembly.
A/C.1/SR. 653	31 Oct. 1953	<u>O.R., Annex to Agenda Item 25, p. 56</u>
A/C.1/SR. 654	2 Nov. 1953	<u>O.R., First Committee, pp. 145-148</u>
A/C.1/SR. 655	4 Nov. 1953	<u>O.R., First Committee, pp. 149-152</u>
A/C.1/SR. 656	4 Nov. 1953	<u>O.R., First Committee, pp. 153-159</u>
A/C.1/L.73	5 Nov. 1953	<u>O.R., First Committee, pp. 161-164</u> Australia, Brazil, Canada, India, Mexico, New Zealand and United Kingdom: draft resolution
A/C.1/SR. 657	5 Nov. 1953	<u>O.R., Annex to Agenda Item 25, p. 56</u>
A/C.1/L.89	26 Nov. 1953	<u>O.R., First Committee, pp. 165-169</u> Letter dated 25 November 1953 from the Chairman of the United States delegation addressed to the Secretary-General.
A/C.1/L.90	27 Nov. 1953	<u>O.R., Annex to Agenda Item 25, pp. 57-58</u> Australia, Canada, India, Indonesia, New Zealand Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom: draft resolution
A/C.1/L.91	27 Nov. 1953	<u>O.R., Annex to Agenda Item 25, p. 58</u> Letter dated 27 November 1953 from the Chairman of the United States delegation addressed to the Secretary-General.
		<u>O.R., Annex to Agenda Item 25, p. 59</u>

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A/C.1/SR.677	27 Nov. 1953	<u>O.R., First Committee</u> , pp. 278-280
A/C.1/L.92	1 Dec. 1953	Thailand and United States: amendments to the joint draft resolution submitted by Australia, Canada, India, Indonesia, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom (A/C.1/L.90).
A/C.1/L.93	2 Dec. 1953	<u>O.R., Annex to Agenda Item 25</u> , p. 59 Letter dated 2 December 1953 from the Chairman of the United States delegation addressed to the Secretary-General.
A/C.1/L.90/Rev.1	4 Dec. 1953	<u>O.R., Annex to Agenda Item 25</u> , p. 60 Australia, Canada, India, Indonesia, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom and Uruguay: revised draft resolution.
A/C.1/SR. 678	4 Dec. 1953	<u>O.R., Annex to Agenda Item 25</u> , pp. 58-59
A/C.1/SR. 679	4 Dec. 1953	<u>O.R., First Committee</u> , pp. 281-286
A/2607	5 Dec. 1953	<u>O.R., First Committee</u> , pp. 287-290 Report of the First Committee
A/PV. 470	8 Dec. 1953	<u>O.R., Annex to Agenda Item 25</u> , pp. 60-61
A/RESOLUTION/174	10 Dec. 1953	<u>O.R., Plenary Meetings</u> , pp. 447-449 Resolution adopted by the General Assembly at its 470th plenary meeting on 8 December 1953 /adopted on the report of the First Committee (A/2607)/
A/2627	11 Dec. 1953	<u>O.R., General Assembly, Eighth Session, Supplement No. 17, resolution 717 (VIII)</u> Letter dated 7 December 1953 from the United States representative to the United Nations, addressed to the Secretary-General.
A/2643	19 Mar. 1954	Letter dated 17 March 1954 from the permanent representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General.
A/2644	5 Apr. 1954	Letter dated 1 April 1954 from the permanent representative of Burma to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General.

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ANNEX II

THE QUESTION BEFORE THE UNITED NATIONS OF COMPLAINT
BY THE UNION OF BURMA REGARDING AGGRESSION AGAINST
IT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

10 September 1953 - 15 July 1954

CHECK LIST OF STATEMENTS BY REPRESENTATIVES

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	Rassart	<u>O.R., First Committee</u> , p. 161
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BYELORUSSIAN SSR		
	Kiselyov	<u>O.R., First Committee</u> , pp. 153-154
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	Cote	<u>O.R., First Committee</u> , pp. 156-157, 168-169
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	Chen	<u>O.R., First Committee</u> , p. 289
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SI EDEN	Thorsing	<u>O.R., First Committee</u> , p. 150
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	Punyaratabhan	<u>O.R., First Committee</u> , p. 169
USSR	Malik	<u>O.R., First Committee</u> , pp. 150, 281-282
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URUGUAY	Dominguez Campora	<u>O.R., First Committee</u> , pp. 148, 158-159, 169, 279-280, 284, 290
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	Popovic	<u>O.R., First Committee</u> , p. 157
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		<u>O.R., First Committee</u> , pp. 154-155

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ANNEX III

THE QUESTION BEFORE THE UNITED NATIONS OF COMPLAINT
BY THE UNION OF BURMA REGARDING AGGRESSION AGAINST
IT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

10 September 1953 - 15 July 1954

CHECK LIST OF DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE QUESTION

General Assembly - Eighth Session

DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

General Assembly:

Decision to adopt the recommendation of the General Committee to include the proposed item in the General Assembly's agenda as item 25 and to refer it to the First Committee, adopted on 17 September 1953 (O.R., Plenary Meetings, pp. 28, 33)
Resolution adopted on 8 December 1953 (A/C.1/L.90/Rev.1):
Resolution 717(VIII)

DISCUSSION

General Assembly:

435th Plenary Meeting, 17 September 1953 (O.R., Plenary Meetings, pp. 28, 33)
470th Plenary Meeting, 8 December 1953 (O.R., Plenary Meetings, pp. 447-449)

First Committee:

653rd to 657th meetings, 31 October to 5 November 1953
(O.R., First Committee, pp. 145-169)
677th to 679th meetings, 27 November to 4 December 1953
(O.R., First Committee, pp. 278-290)

DOCUMENTS FROM DELEGATIONS

Australia, Brazil, Canada, India, Mexico, New Zealand, United Kingdom: draft resolution (A/C.1/L.73; O.R., Annex to Agenda Item 25, p. 56)
Australia, Canada, India, Indonesia, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom: draft resolution (A/C.1/L.90; O.R., Annex to Agenda Item 25, p. 58)
Australia, Canada, India, Indonesia, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom, Uruguay: revised draft resolution (A/C.1/L.90/Rev.1; O.R., annex to Agenda Item 25, pp. 58-59)
Burma: Letter dated 29 June 1953 from the Secretary of the Burmese delegation addressed to the Secretary-General (A/2423; O.R., Annex to Agenda Item 25, pp. 2-42; letter dated 10 September 1953 from the Permanent Representative of Burma addressed to the Secretary-General (A/2468; O.R., annex to Agenda Item 25, pp. 43-50); letter dated 28 October 1953 from the Chairman of the Burmese delegation addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.1/L.70; O.R., annex to Agenda Item 25, pp. 52-56); letter dated 1 April 1954 from the Permanent Representative of Burma to the United Nations, addressed to the Secretary-General (A/2644).

China: Letter dated 26 October 1953 from the Chairman of the Chinese Delegation, addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.1/L.69; O.R., Annex to Agenda Item 25, p. 51); letter dated 17 March 1954 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations, addressed to the Secretary-General (A/2643).

Thailand, United States: Amendments to the joint draft resolution submitted by Australia, Canada, India, Indonesia, New Zealand, Norway Sweden and the United Kingdom (A/C.1/L.92; O.R., Annex to Agenda Item 25, p. 59)

United States: Letter dated 29 October 1953 from the Chairman of the U.S. Delegation addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/C.1/L.71; O.R., Annex to Agenda Item 25, p. 56); letter dated 25 November 1953 from the Chairman of the U.S. Delegation addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.1/L.89; O.R., Annex to Agenda Item 25, pp. 57-58); letter dated 27 November 1953 from the Chairman of the U.S. Delegation addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.1/L.91; O.R., Annex to Agenda Item 25, p. 59); letter dated 2 December 1953 from the Chairman of the U.S. Delegation addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.1/L.93; O.R., Annex to Agenda Item 25, p. 60); letter dated 7 December 1953 from the United States Representative to the United Nations, addressed to the Secretary-General (A/2627).

REPORTS FROM MAIN COMMITTEES:

First Committee:

A/2607; O.R., Annex to Agenda Item 25, pp. 60-61

RESOLUTIONS

See "Decisions and Resolutions".

STATEMENTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

See Annex II.

VOTE

General Assembly:

435th plenary meeting, 17 September 1953 (O.R., Plenary Meetings, pp. 28 and 33)

470th plenary meeting, 8 December 1953 (O.R., Plenary Meetings, p. 449)

First Committee:

657th meeting, 5 November 1953 (O.R., First Committee, p. 169)

679th meeting, 4 December 1953 (O.R., First Committee, p. 290)