Resolution 112 (1956)[1]

Policy of the Council of Europe in the light of recent developments in the international situation and, in particular, a common European policy towards the East

Parliamentary Assembly

I

The Assembly :

Notes that the attitude adopted by the Egyptian Government in the nationalisation of the Universal Suez Canal Company is incompatible with the spirit of international co-operation and undermines the confidence essential to good relations between nations; it condemns this unilateral and arbitrary act which was bound to lead to a serious international crisis. Any changes in the conditions governing the operation of the Suez Canal are of particular concern to the Western countries, which are strictly within their rights in demanding that Egypt should provide guarantees with regard to freedom of navigation through the Canal equivalent to those provided under the 1888 Convention and the Concession Contracts of the Universal Company;

Considers that the proposals adopted by the 18 Powers at the London Conference constitute a just and practical basis for achieving a peaceful settlement of the dispute;

Approves both parts of the Franco-British Resolution of 14th October 1956 -the first part of which was adopted unanimously and the second by all Members of the Security Council except for the two Communist Powers.

The system established in accordance with the principles adopted by the Security Council should include an international body compatible with the territorial sovereignty of the Egyptian State and having the necessary powers to ensure the proper administration of the Canal and the respect of freedom of navigation without discrimination.

II

The Assembly:

Notes that relations between Israel and the Arab States continue to deteriorate, and that the situation constitutes a grave threat to peace in the Middle East:

Considers that it is dangerous and unrealistic to view any threat to peace in the Middle East in isolation and without taking account of the situation as a whole in that region

Urges that the Governments of member countries should consult together in order to formulate as a matter of urgency a common policy with regard to relations between the State of Israel and its Arab neighbours in order to bring the present state of war to an end.

III

The Assembly:

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1. This Resolution was adopted by the Assembly at its 29th Sitting, on 28th October 1956 (see Doc. 577, draft Resolution presented by the Committee on General Affairs).

Notes that the dispute concerning the island of Cyprus constitutes a serious danger to the unity of action of the member countries of the Council, particularly in the Mediterranean area ;

Urges the member countries concerned to make every effort to consult together and to arrive as quickly as possible at an agreement;

Places itself at the disposal of the Governments to assist in reaching an agreement, if this is considered possible;

Requests the Bureau to bring the present offer to the notice of Member Governments.

IV

The Assembly considers it indispensable and a matter of urgency to strengthen Atlantic solidarity within the framework of the NATO Treaty, the basic aim of which is the defence of the Western countries. The Council of N.A.T.O. should be in a position to ensure permanent co-ordination between the foreign policies of the member countries on all problems of common concern arising within and outside the area of application of the Treaty. N.A.T.O. must also ensure that Article 2 of the Treaty is effectively applied. In the psychological field, every effort must be made, in line with the above, so that the people of the member countries of N.A.T.O. understand one another's views.