

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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DOCUMENT 1-532/80

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Political Affairs Committee

on the ~~Western~~ Sahara

Rapporteur: Mr P. LALOR

The European Parliament referred the following motions for resolutions to the Political Affairs Committee.

- on 27 September 1979, the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Gremetz, Mr Pajetta, Mr Denis and Mr Ferrero on behalf of the Communist and Allies Group on the right of self-determination of the Sahrawi people (Doc. 1-360/79);
- on 14 November 1979, the motion for a resolution tabled by Mrs Lizin, Mr Oehler, Mrs Roudy, Mrs Buchan, Mrs Cresson and Mr Ripa di Meana on the situation in the Western Sahara (Doc. 1-505/79/rev.);
- on 16 January 1980, the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Glinne on behalf of the Socialist Group on the right of self-determination of the people of Western Sahara (Doc. 1-655/79);
- on 15 February 1980, the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Habsburg, Mr von Hassel, Mr Pürsten, Mr Patterson, Mr Moreland, Mr Aigner, Mr Jakobsen, Mr Hahn, Mr I. Friedrich, Mr Wawrzik, Mrs Rabbethge, Mr von Wogau, Mr Goppel, Mr Blumenfeld, Mr Fischbach, Mr von Bismarck, Mr Spautz, Mr Fergusson, Lady Elles, Mr Jackson, Mr Cottrell, Mr Normanton and Lord O'Hagan on the situation in the Western Sahara (Doc. 1-791/79).

The Committee on Development and Cooperation was asked to deliver an opinion on the last of the above motions for resolutions.

The Political Affairs Committee decided to deal with these motions for resolutions in a single report and at its meeting of 31 January 1980 appointed Mr LALOR rapporteur.

At its meetings of 22 and 24 September 1980 and 20 and 22 October 1980 the committee considered the present motion for a resolution and adopted it at the latter meeting by 15 votes to 9 with 1 abstention.

Present: Mr Estier, first vice-chairman and acting chairman, Mr Haagerup, third vice-chairman, Mr Lalor, rapporteur, Mr Antoniozzi, Mr Beyer de Ryke (deputizing for Mr Damseaux), Mrs Cassanmagnago-Cerretti, Mr Denis (deputizing for Mr Marchais), Mr Diligent, Lord Douro (deputizing for Lady Elles), Mr Fergusson, Mr Forth (deputizing for Mr C. Jackson), Mr B. Friedrich, Mrs Gredal, Mr Habsburg, Mr Hänsch, Mrs van den Heuvel, Mr Klepsch, Mrs Lizin (deputizing for Mr Van Miert), Mr van Minnen (deputizing for Mr M. Faure), Mr Penders, Mr Prag (deputizing for Lord Bethell), Mr Romualdi, Mr Schall (deputizing for Mr Rumor), Mr Scott-Hopkins, Mr Segre, Sir John Stewart-Clark, Mr Zagari.

In a letter of 21.10.1980 the chairman of the Committee on Development and Cooperation stated that his committee 'preferred not to deliver an opinion on this matter'.

This letter appears as an annex.

The explanatory statement will be made orally in plenary session.

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The Political Affairs Committee hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on the Western Sahara

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the call in the Preamble to the Treaty of Rome for the preservation of peace and liberty, and the development of cooperation between States,
 - having regard to the Declaration of the Foreign Ministers of the Nine of 23 February 1976 in Luxembourg, calling for cooperation, peace and stability in Africa, and specifically the rejection of any action aimed at setting up a sphere of influence in Africa,
 - having regard to the desirability of peace and stability in North-West Africa, combined with respect for the independence and sovereignty of their States and for their unity and territorial integrity,
 - aware of the danger of tension in the Maghreb region increasing and assuming international dimensions, thus threatening peace and security in the Mediterranean and in adjacent regions in Africa and Europe,
 - having regard to the motions for resolutions on the right of self-determination of the Sahrawi people (Doc. 1-360/79), on the situation in the Western Sahara (1-505/79/rev.), on right of self-determination of the people of Western Sahara (Doc. 1-655/79) and on the situation in the Western Sahara (Doc. 1-791/79),
 - having regard to the report of the Political Affairs Committee (Doc. 1-532/79),
1. Voices its concern at the fate of the innocent peoples caught up in the hostilities in the Maghreb region and condemns any intervention particularly of a military nature, by third countries which are helping, by escalating the conflict in the Western Sahara and by their attempts to secure spheres of influence in this region, to prolong the state of armed conflict;
 2. Is aware of the fact that the nationality of the Saharan peoples living in Algeria in the area bordering Tindouf has not been authenticated, nor have they been counted by the High Commission for Refugees in

accordance with the mandate it received from the United Nations, and that arrangements have not yet been made for the return under the supervision and permanent protection of the HCR of people genuinely originating in the Western Sahara and wishing to be repatriated;

3. Requests the governments of the Kingdom of Morocco and of the Algerian Republic, therefore, to provide the United Nations Organization and the High Commission for Refugees with every assistance to this end;
4. Calls upon the warring parties to refrain from any action likely to increase tension in the area, to make mutual concessions which might lead to a peaceful solution, and to enter into bilateral negotiations aimed at terminating their dispute;
5. Reiterates its concern at the disproportionate increase in the war effort to the detriment of the economic and social development of the countries of the Maghreb region, which Europe should be helping to flourish for practical, historical and geographical reasons, and by virtue of the preferential agreements linking them to the European Economic Community;
6. Urges the Algerian Government not to authorize the use of its territory bordering on Morocco for the launching of armed attacks on that country, in accordance with the recommendations on the location of refugees formulated by the Summit Conference of the African Heads of State meeting in Libreville in 1977;
7. Urges the Moroccan Government not to invoke the right of pursuit, lest border incursions develop into armed and officially declared warfare between the two countries;
8. Requests the Governments of the Nine bilaterally and multilaterally to endeavour to mediate between Morocco and Algeria with a view to maintaining peace and stability in the area;
9. Requests them also to take careful account of the interests of the Maghreb countries in the process of enlargement of the European Community;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Community meeting in the Political Cooperation, to the Council and the Commission of the European Community.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION (DOCUMENT 1-360/79)

tabled by Mr GREMETZ, Mr PAJETTA, Mr DENIS and Mr FERRERO

On behalf of the Communist and Allies Group
pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure

on the right of self-determination of the Sahrawi people

The European Parliament,

- considering that the legitimacy of the just struggle of the Sahrawi people for self-determination is gaining increasing recognition throughout the world, as demonstrated by the recent OAU conference in Monrovia and the conference of the non-aligned countries in Havana;
 - noting with satisfaction the agreement reached between Mauritania and the Polisario Front;
 - **anxious to see an end to the unjustifiable occupation by Moroccan troops of the territories of the Sahrawi people;**
 - aware of the importance of this problem for peace and security in north-west Africa and in the Mediterranean, and for the interests of all peoples of the region, including the Moroccan people;
1. Supports the right of the Sahrawi people to self-determination and independence within the frontiers resulting from colonization and calls for recognition of the Polisario Front as the sole representative of the Sahrawi people;
 2. Calls for the withdrawal of all Moroccan troops from the whole of the Sahrawi territory;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council of Foreign Ministers.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION (DOCUMENT 1-505/79/rev.)

tabled by Mrs LIZIN, Mr OEHLER, Mrs ROUDY, Mrs BUCHAN, Mrs CRESSON
and Mr RIPA di MEANA

pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure

on the situation in the Western Sahara

The European Parliament,

- having regard to UN resolution 1514 on the independence of countries and peoples under colonial rule,
 - recalling the fundamental principle of the right of peoples to self-determination and independence,
 - recalling the principles laid down by the UN and the OAU on decolonization,
 - having regard to the positive development in the shape of the withdrawal of Mauritanian troops from the territory of the Western Sahara,
1. Disapproves of the increase in American and French military aid offered to Morocco which is bound to weaken the readiness to negotiate;
 2. Calls upon the Council and the Member States
 - to make urgent representations to the government of Morocco to end the military occupation of the Western Sahara and to agree to negotiate,
 - to make urgent representations to the Spanish government to repudiate the Madrid accords,
 - to recognize the Sahrawi Arab Republic.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION (DOCUMENT 1-655/79)

tabled by Mr GLINNE

on behalf of the Socialist Group

pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure

on right of self-determination of the people of Western Sahara

The European Parliament,

- believing that the people of the Western Sahara have the right to self-determination,
- noting that Morocco, having occupied one part of the Western Sahara, has now annexed Thiris el Gharbial (the part of Western Sahara which was administered by Mauritania and which, as a consequence of the Algiers Peace Treaty of 5 August 1979, has been transferred to the Polisario Front),
- believing that this action transgresses the OAU Resolution of 20 July 1979,
 1. Calls upon the governments of the nine Member States to vote in favour of the United Nations resolutions, which claim the right of self-determination for the Sahrawi people, express disapproval of the Moroccan occupation of the Western Sahara and call for a peaceful and lasting solution to the problem;
 2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the governments of the nine Member States.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION (DOCUMENT 1-791/79)

tabled by Mr HABSBERG, Mr von HASSEL, Mr PURSTEN, Mr PATTERSON, Mr MORELAND, Mr AIGNER, Mr JAKOBSEN, Mr HAHN, Mr I. FRIEDRICH, Mr WAWRZIK, Mrs RABBETHGE, Mr von WOGAU, Mr GOPPEL, Mr BLUMENFELD, Mr FISCHBACH, Mr von BISMARCK, Mr SPAUTZ, Mr FERGUSON, Lady ELLES, Mr JACKSON, Mr COTTRELL, Mr NORMANTON and Lord O'HAGAN

pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure
on the situation in the Western Sahara

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the importance of the Western Sahara for the peaceful development of Africa and the security of Europe,
 - having regard to the continual attempts by outside forces to disrupt the peace of the region,
 - having regard to the fact that the Polisario movement is not a liberation movement, that it does not represent the population of the Western Sahara and that the majority of its leaders and members do not originate from that region,
 - having regard to the fact that under international law Morocco is the state having lawful authority over the Western Sahara and is recognized as such by the population,
1. Requests the governments of the European Communities
 - to call upon Algeria to end its support for Polisario and not to allow outside forces to use its territory to foment unrest in its neighbour country;
 - to act vigorously to preserve peace in the Western Sahara.
 2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the governments of the nine Member States.

ANNEX V

Letter from Mr BERSANI, acting chairman of the Committee on Development and Cooperation to Mr RUMOR, chairman of the Political Affairs Committee dated 21.10.1980

Dear Mr RUMOR,

At its meeting of 20/21 October 1980 in Brussels, the members of the Committee on Development and Cooperation discussed the motion for a resolution (Doc. 1-791/79) tabled by Mr HABSBERG and others on the situation in the Western Sahara.

At this meeting it was noted that this resolution dealt with purely political matters and had no bearing on the field of development and cooperation.

The members of the Committee on Development and Cooperation therefore preferred not to deliver an opinion on this matter.

(complimentary close)

(sgd) Giovanni BERSANI

