

# Small files: Tunisia: Small files: Tunisia - 30

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Tunisia - 1961

31 July

Notes on Asian - African Group  
meetings.

Kenneth K.S. Dadzie (Ghana), Acting Chairman of the Asian-African Group, met correspondents at 5:40 p.m. today, after this afternoon's meeting of the Group, and gave out the following information:

TUNISIA:

The Group had met at the request of the representative of Liberia, who had stated in the Security Council his intention to seek a special session of the General Assembly on the Tunisian complaint. The Group had discussed the matter and, taking account of the gravity of the situation, "decided that an emergency special session of the Assembly was indicated." The Group had therefore initiated the necessary arrangements, and hoped to submit a request sometime on Wednesday, 2 August.

In reply to questions, Mr. Dadzie said that the steps were being taken under Rule 8 (b) of the Rules of Procedure, under the Uniting for Peace resolution. A draft of the request was in existence. Asked who had drafted it, he replied, "The Group takes collective responsibility." Asked if he envisaged that there would be 50 signatures by Wednesday, he said that he hoped so. If not, the Group's chairman for next month would no doubt bring the matter back to the Group to reconsider and ~~reconsider~~ decide.

There were many questions about the ~~supplementary~~ procedure envisaged, as many of the correspondents seemed unconvinced of the validity of calling an emergency special session without a Security Council veto. Finally, Mr. Dadzie said, "This is a very complicated legal matter. The General Assembly is master of its own procedure. It is for the Assembly to decide."

He expressed the view that under Rule 8 (b) the Secretary-General "has no alternative" but to call an emergency special session within 24 hours of the receipt of such a request, with 50 signatures. In reply to questions, he said that about three-fourths of the members of the Group had been present. No dissent had been expressed by those who had spoken. There were already 21 signatures and more would be sought from now on, from outside the Group as well as inside it. (Later, it was learned that the Brazzaville Group will state its position at another meeting on Wednesday of the Asian-African Group. About six of the Brazzaville Group were present today, but did not state any views on the matter.)

Mr. Dadzie said that at today's meeting, ~~Mungu~~ Mongi Slim had given an account of the latest developments in the Tunisian situation. The French troops continued to maintain their positions in spite of the Security Council resolution, and overflights by French planes were continuing. Mr. Slim had emphasized that Tunisia was prepared to discuss modalities and timing ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~negotiations~~ of negotiations if the French would concede the principle of eventual evacuation. He had also stated that Tunisia's concern with Saharan territory solely ~~related~~ related to ~~some~~ rectification of a sector of the Tunisian-Libyan border. This area "certainly has no oil in it," he had said.

(more)

## ALGERIA:

The Group had also discussed the Algerian situation today, at request of U Thant (Burma), Chairman of the Standing Committee on Africa. Mr. Chanderli had ~~made~~ made a statement on the latest developments in the negotiations recently suspended. U Thant had then introduced a draft explanatory memorandum which the Group hoped to submit, with a request for inclusion of the item in the Assembly agenda, by 10 August at the latest.

7 August 1961 (four p.m.)

Flash on Afro Asian meeting this afternoon. (from Ray Chestnutt)

They adjourned at four p.m. They are going to ~~submit~~<sup>submit</sup> a letter to the SG but they have deleted from it all reference to Rules of Procedure. They don't have a majority -- they still only have 47. The letter will ask the SG to call the Assembly as soon as possible. They are going to have a press conference but that is supposed to take place after the Tunisian Representative has given the letter to the SG <sup>(within the hour)</sup>. Slim indicated that of the delegations he had approached there were more than three who, though they would not sign the letter, they would support him when polled by the SG.

dg

14 August

Message from the press officer on duty

One or two of the correspondents seem to have very good information that the Afro Asian informal committee of twelve has been trying to get contacts with France which would give them some reason for calling off the special session, and if that is not possible, they will try to work out a mild resolution so that they don't get tied up in the Assembly on the whole question of foreign bases. To a certain extent this has been brought about by Tunisian initiative.

Eight of the twelve member committee are -- Indonesia, Iran, Malaya, Ceylon, Iraq, Sudan, Guinea, UAR, Morocco.

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