

ARTICLE 52

TEXT OF ARTICLE 52

1. Nothing in the present Charter precludes the existence of regional arrangements or agencies for dealing with such matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security as are appropriate for regional action, provided that such arrangements or agencies and their activities are consistent with the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations.

2. The Members of the United Nations entering into such arrangements or constituting such agencies shall make every effort to achieve pacific settlement of local disputes through such regional arrangements or by such regional agencies before referring them to the Security Council.

3. The Security Council shall encourage the development of pacific settlement of local disputes through such regional arrangements or by such regional agencies either on the initiative of the states concerned or by reference from the Security Council.

4. This Article in no way impairs the application of Articles 34 and 35.

NOTE

1. There was little significant practice in connexion with the application and interpretation of Article 52 during the period under review.

2. In the initial stage of the Security Council's consideration of the complaint by Lebanon in respect of a situation arising from the intervention of the United Arab Republic in the internal affairs of Lebanon, it was pointed out that the complaint was to be discussed almost simultaneously by the League of Arab States. At the 818th meeting of the Council, on 27 May 1958, the representative of Iraq proposed that the Council should adjourn until 3 June 1958, by which time it would be known whether the matter could be resolved by the League of Arab States. In the course of the brief discussion preceding adoption of the motion to adjourn, it was observed that a proposal directed towards the achievement of a peaceful solution on a regional basis seemed to fit into the general pattern of United Nations procedures. It was also asserted that the Security Council was in duty bound under Article 36 to take into account the peaceful means of settlement chosen by the parties when signing the pact of the League of Arab States. 1/ The Council twice more postponed consideration of the complaint to permit the League of Arab States to continue its efforts. 2/

1/ For texts of relevant statements, see S C, 13th yr., 818th mtg.: President (Canada), para. 17; Colombia, paras. 23-26; Iraq, paras. 8 and 28-30; Lebanon, paras. 11-15; Panama, paras. 32-35; USSR, para. 7.

2/ S C, 13th yr., Suppl. for Apr.-June, page 44, S/4018; ibid., 822nd mtg., paras. 1, 3 and 5.

