

United Nations

Nations Unies

UNRESTRICTED

GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY

ASSEMBLEE  
GENERALE

A/342

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

A FLAG FOR THE UNITED NATIONS

(Item 41 (c) of the Provisional Agenda of the Second Regular Session)

Memorandum by the Secretary-General

The need for a United Nations flag has already been felt, and will undoubtedly be increasingly felt in future, in connection with the work of the committees or commissions sent by organs of the United Nations to different parts of the world, for use at headquarters, at United Nations offices and information centres.

Recently, for example, in order that the Commission of Investigation concerning Greek Frontier Incidents might enjoy the protection of and be identified by a neutral symbol while travelling through troubled areas or sitting at meetings under the jurisdiction of several countries, an unofficial flag was designed by the Secretariat.

This flag was composed of the official emblem of the United Nations, as approved by the General Assembly resolution 92 (I) of 7 December 1946, embroidered or printed in white on a background of light blue and encircled by the words "United Nations: Nations Unies". Its dimensions were: small flag - 12 inches x 18 inches; and large size - 4 feet x 6 feet, with the above-mentioned emblem of 5-1/4 inches in height and 5-3/4 inches in width and 22-1/2 inches x 24 inches, respectively, at the centre.

More than a hundred other suggestions and designs for a United Nations flag have been received from several sources in various countries, and are available for inspection by the delegations. After examining these suggested designs, the Secretary-General feels that the design already used bearing the United Nations emblem, but without encircling words, possesses the essential requirements of simplicity and dignity to a greater extent than any other design which has been submitted.

He suggests, therefore, that the time has come for the General Assembly to authorize the use of a United Nations flag, and, to this end, proposes, for the consideration of the Assembly, the following draft resolution:

"The GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

"RECOGNIZES that it is desirable to adopt a distinctive flag of the

RECEIVED United Nations and to authorize its use and, therefore,

/"RESOLVES

UNITED NATIONS  
RECEIVED

"RESOLVES that the flag of the United Nations shall be the official emblem of the United Nations, as adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 92 (I) of 7 December 1946, embroidered or printed at the centre of a background of light blue;

"DIRECTS the Secretary-General to draw up regulations concerning the dimensions and proportions of the flag;

"AUTHORIZES the Secretary-General to adopt a flag code, having in mind the desirability of a restrictive use of the flag and the protection of its dignity."

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