

U.S. Avoids Showdown On U.N. Voting Rights

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Feb. 18 (UPI)—The United States avoided a showdown with the Soviet Union on voting rights today when Albania forced the first vote in this U.N. Assembly session.

Shouting, interrupting speakers and seizing the speaker's stand, Albanian Ambassador Halim Budo beat back parliamentary maneuvers and made the Assembly take

the vote it has avoided since Dec. 1, when the session opened.

The United States had vowed that the first voting would call into question the right of the Soviet Union, France and 11 other nations to vote, because they owe more than two years' U.N. payments.

But Ambassador Adlai E. Stevenson told the Assembly

the United States considered today's vote only a procedural one "and feels that such a vote should not prejudice" any nation's voting rights.

To Permit Negotiations

He said he acted to preserve the delicate agreement to recess the Assembly for several weeks and solve the financial deadlock through negotiations.

"So that the overwhelming majority may not be frustrated by one member, and so it can complete its work on a consensus basis, the United States will raise no objection to the procedural vote," he said.

The Soviet Union joined the United States and the vast majority of the Assembly in voting down Albania's motion, 93 to 2 with 13 abstentions and 3 nations absent. Only Mauritania voted with Albania, Communist China's satellite.

The Albanian motion was for the resumption of normal business, including voting. But behind it was the clear desire to bring about the East-West confrontation.

Most delegates were convinced that Albania was acting in the interests of Peking, which has been excluded from the United Nations and only on Monday issued a bitter attack against it.

Uses Some Plain Brass

Budo, a gray-haired man in a baggy blue-green suit, mixed parliamentary tactics and plain brass to tie up the proceedings and get his way.

At the start of the Assembly session, he marched to the

speaker's stand in the front of the Assembly Hall, and as stunned delegates watched, interrupted President Alex Quaison-Sackey's opening statements with a speech of his own.

Quaison-Sackey quickly switched off Budo's microphone and pounded his gavel to get him to step down. But the Albanian continued speaking for a time into the dead microphone.

speaker's stand—this time with permission—and called again and again for the vote.