

United Nations

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION

Official Records*



GENERAL COMMITTEE

8th meeting

held on

Tuesday, 11 December 1979

at 9.30 a.m.

New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 8th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. SALIM (President of the General Assembly)

CONTENTS

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AND ALLOCATION OF ITEMS: REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM SUBMITTED
BY NIGERIA

ORGANIZATION OF WORK: RATIONALIZATION OF THE PROCEDURES AND ORGANIZATION OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY: NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

* This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room A-3550, 866 United Nations Plaza (Alcoa Building), and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate fascicle for each Committee.

Distr. GENERAL

A/BUR/34/SR.8

20 December 1979

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: FRENCH

/...

The meeting was called to order at 9.45 a.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ALLOCATION OF ITEMS: REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM SUBMITTED BY NIGERIA (A/34/247 and Corr.1)

1. The CHAIRMAN said that the inclusion of an additional item entitled "Drafting of an international convention against activities of mercenaries" had been requested by Nigeria (A/34/247 and Corr.1). The representative of Nigeria had asked to participate in the discussion of the item in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

2. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Clark (Nigeria) took a place at the Committee table.

3. Mr. CLARK (Nigeria) recalled that, during the past year, OAU had adopted two resolutions on the question of mercenaries. As the Seychelles had learnt to its cost in November, mercenaries posed a real threat to the security and independence of African countries and, in particular, of developing countries. Various resolutions which had been considered or adopted by the General Assembly during its current session contained references to that threat. The importance of the issue, which had been highlighted by recent events in Africa, justified the consideration of the question by the General Assembly even at the present late stage.

4. He hoped that the General Assembly would be able to devote an afternoon to the consideration of the draft resolution annexed to the letter from the Permanent Representative of Nigeria (A/34/247), which was mainly of a procedural nature. The Member States would thus have one year to prepare the observations which they would submit to the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly on an item entitled "Drafting of an international convention against the recruitment, use, financing and training of mercenaries" with a view to the adoption of an appropriate decision on that subject. For a more detailed account of that particular issue, he referred to the explanatory memorandum annexed to document A/34/247.

5. Mr. ILLUECA (Panama) welcomed the initiative taken by the delegation of Nigeria. The activities of mercenaries constituted a scourge which derogated from the right of peoples to self-determination, security and development. The importance of the issue had been highlighted by the various decisions to which it had given rise and, in particular, by Security Council resolution 405 (1977). He expressed unreserved support for the proposal made by the representative of Nigeria.

6. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the General Committee should recommend that the General Assembly should include the additional item submitted by Nigeria in the agenda for direct consideration in plenary meeting.

7. It was so decided.

/...

ORGANIZATION OF WORK: RATIONALIZATION OF THE PROCEDURES AND ORGANIZATION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY: NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/BUR/34/3)

8. The CHAIRMAN recalled that consideration of paragraphs 12 and 13 of section VI of document A/BUR/34/3 concerning subsidiary organs had been deferred in order to allow time for informal consultations. On conclusion of those consultations, it had been suggested that the General Committee should recommend that the General Assembly: (a) appoint the following States as members of an ad hoc committee, under the chairmanship of the President of the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly, to review the question of the continuation of subsidiary organs with a view to making recommendations thereon to the Assembly at its thirty-fifth session, on the understanding that the ad hoc committee would take its decisions by consensus: Bahamas, Belgium, Benin, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Guyana, Iceland, Lesotho, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Romania, Singapore, Somalia, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, United States of America, Yemen, India (as Chairman of the Group of 77), Cuba (as Chairman of the Group of Non-Aligned Countries) and the States holding the chairmanship of the regional groups; (b) request the Secretary-General to extend the full co-operation of the Secretariat to the ad hoc committee in the performance of its task; (c) consider, at its thirty-fifth session, the declaration of a moratorium on the establishment of additional subsidiary organs for a fixed period.

9. Mr. ERALP (Turkey) inquired whether the reference made to subsidiary organs in paragraph (a) of the recommendations submitted by the Chairman related solely to organs already in existence or whether it also related to the establishment of new subsidiary organs. He felt that no new subsidiary organ should be established while the ad hoc committee, whose establishment had been proposed, would be considering the question.

10. Mr. STEPHANIDES (Cyprus) stated that the General Assembly had decided, in resolution 34/30, to establish an ad hoc committee in the event that no progress were made in the intercommunal negotiations on Cyprus. He hoped that those talks would proceed in such a manner that the establishment of the ad hoc committee would no longer be necessary but thought it unwarranted to resort to procedural arguments in order to circumvent a decision of the General Assembly.

11. Mr. ERALP (Turkey) stated that the General Assembly had only afforded the President of the thirty-fourth session the possibility of establishing such a committee.

12. The CHAIRMAN explained that the wording of paragraph (a) clearly referred to existing subsidiary organs. Moreover, the reason for recommending that the General Assembly should consider declaring a moratorium on the establishment of new subsidiary organs only at its thirty-fifth session was that the current session was drawing to a close and a future moratorium for a fixed period would be justified only if adopted at the beginning of a session.

/...

13. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the General Committee should recommend that the General Assembly adopt the proposals which he had previously read out.

14. It was so decided.

15. Mr. BOYA (Benin), speaking as Chairman of the Fourth Committee, said that the main reason why that Committee had not concluded its consideration of the item entitled "Question of Southern Rhodesia" which had been included in its agenda was that it wished to take into account the eventual outcome of the negotiations taking place at London. Under those circumstances, the Fourth Committee intended to recommend that a decision on that item should be taken directly in plenary meeting.

16. Mr. PIRSON (Belgium), speaking as Chairman of the Fifth Committee, said that that Committee had included in the agenda of the two meetings scheduled for that day all of the documents which were ready to be submitted to it and that, in the following days, its work would depend on that of the other organs.

The meeting rose at 10.10 a.m.