

**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION

*Official Records**



GENERAL COMMITTEE
3rd meeting
held on
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at 9.45 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 3rd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. von WECHMAR (President of the General Assembly)

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The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF THE THIRTY-FIFTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AND ALLOCATION OF ITEMS:

(a) REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM SUBMITTED BY THE UNION OF
SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS (A/35/241)

1. Mr. PETROVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation was proposing the inclusion in the agenda of the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly of an important and urgent item entitled "Urgent measures for reducing the danger of war". A letter dated 23 September 1980 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Soviet Union addressed to the Secretary-General (A/35/241) stated the reasons for requesting the inclusion of that item. The annex attached to that letter contained a draft resolution listing specific measures whose immediate implementation would serve to reduce the danger of war. The importance and urgency of that question was due to the fact that certain States were seeking to expand the existing military blocs and to form new ones, and were accelerating the build-up of their armies, stockpiling on an ever-larger scale both nuclear and conventional weapons and in general broadening the scope of military preparations. The continuation of that process might lead to still greater complications in relations between States and to situations which might develop into armed conflicts and eventually bring the world to the brink of a military disaster. It was particularly alarming that military preparations were accompanied by the attempts of certain influential forces to practise hegemonism in international relations and to interfere in the internal affairs of other States. The General Assembly, as the most prominent international political forum, must take positive action designed to halt the growing threat of war.

2. His delegation would prefer the item to be considered at a plenary meeting of the General Assembly but would not object if a majority of the members of the General Committee felt that the item should be allocated to the First Committee. It was of the utmost importance that the discussion of the Soviet proposal should be conducted in a constructive manner and should lead to the adoption of a resolution designed to reduce the danger of war and strengthen international security.

3. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include the additional item in the agenda.

4. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item should be allocated to the First Committee.

(b) REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM SUBMITTED BY THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (A/35/242)

5. The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of the Committee to the request by the Federal Republic of Germany for the inclusion of an additional item entitled "International co-operation to avert new flows of refugees". According to past practice, when the

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delegation of which the President of the General Assembly was a member requested the inclusion of an item, no oral statement was made by that delegation in the General Committee. An explanatory memorandum, however, was annexed to document A/35/242 and would be elaborated on by the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany when the item was considered in the Committee concerned.

6. Mr. PETROVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation was firmly opposed to attempts to use the question of refugees, which was basically humanitarian in nature, for political and propaganda purposes. Furthermore, since the conditions causing refugee movements varied, the search for a solution to the problem of refugees had to be conducted on a case-by-case basis. General and indiscriminate treatment of the question of refugees could only serve to further aims which had nothing at all to do with the refugees themselves in any particular region.

7. The United Nations had been providing humanitarian and economic assistance to refugees for many years. The post of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had been created for that purpose and, as in the past, the activities of the High Commissioner would be discussed in the Third Committee. For those reasons, the Soviet delegation was unable to support the request for the inclusion of that item and, if the matter was put to a vote, would abstain.

8. Mr. SLIM (Tunisia) said that his delegation firmly supported the request by the Federal Republic of Germany for the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda. The refugee question was of concern to everyone in the world, and especially to Africans.

9. Mr. KAMANDA wa KAMANDA (Zaire) said that his delegation supported the request of the Federal Republic of Germany, which it regarded as important as the request submitted by the representative of the Soviet Union. It looked forward to considering both questions in the respective Committees.

10. Mr. KASEMSRI (Thailand) said that his delegation supported the request for the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda. Thailand was very seriously affected by the problem of refugees from neighbouring countries. In accordance with its humane policy it was giving temporary refuge to hundreds of thousands of persons and was helping them to resettle in other countries.

11. Mr. KATAPODIS (Greece) said that his delegation supported the request since the question of refugees was an urgent matter.

12. Mr. CARIAS (Honduras) said that his delegation supported the request for the inclusion of an additional item and the views expressed in the explanatory memorandum. International efforts to relieve the tragic situation of refugees had to be undertaken on a far greater scale.

13. Mr. KOROMA (Sierra Leone) said that his delegation supported the request for the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda in view of the enormity of the refugee problem. In Africa alone there were 5 million refugees.

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14. Mr. MANSFIELD (United Kingdom) said that his delegation could not agree with the remarks made by the representative of the Soviet Union to the effect that the inclusion of an additional item on international co-operation to avert new flows of refugees was an attempt to use refugees for political and propaganda purposes. His delegation firmly supported the request by the Federal Republic of Germany.

15. Mr. OUMAROU (Niger) supported the request for the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda in view of the great importance of the question of refugees in current international affairs.

16. Mr. REIS (United States of America) said that his delegation supported the request before the Committee in view of the enormous numbers of refugees seeking assistance in various places throughout the world and the probability of future movements of refugees and future suffering.

17. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include the additional item in the agenda.

18. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item should be allocated to the Special Political Committee.

The meeting rose at 10.15 a.m.