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COMMITTEE ON THE ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 68th MEETING (CLOSED)

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 23 September, 10.45 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. YANGO (Philippines)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

APPLICATION OF BELIZE FOR ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNITED NATIONS
(A/36/533-S/14701)

The CHAIRMAN said that at its 2301st meeting, held earlier in the day, the Security Council had decided to refer the application of Belize for admission to membership in the United Nations (A/36/533-S/14701) to the Committee. Since the General Assembly was in session, the Committee might wish to recommend that the Council should, in accordance with rule 60 of its provisional rules of procedure, waive the time-limits for the submission of recommendations to the General Assembly concerning the admission of new members. He drew the attention of members to the draft report that had been prepared by the Secretariat along the usual lines, which contained a draft resolution for submission to the Security Council.

Mr. ANDERSON (United Kingdom) said that Belize which had been a dependent Territory of the United Kingdom since the eighteenth century, had in recent years had an elected Government fully in charge of the Territory's internal affairs. At its thirty-fifth session the General Assembly had adopted a resolution 35/20 calling for the independence of Belize before the conclusion of the thirty-sixth session; on 21 September Belize had been recognized by the United Kingdom as a fully independent and sovereign State, and had become the forty-fifth member of the Commonwealth. The Prime Minister of Belize had lost no time in submitting his country's application for membership in the United Nations. In the view of his delegation, Belize was a peace-loving country within the meaning of Article 4 of the Charter, able and willing to carry out the obligations of membership in the United Nations. Accordingly, his delegation unreservedly supported its application for admission and endorsed the draft report to the Security Council.

As members were aware from document S/14699, a territorial dispute existed between Belize and Guatemala, and the latter had stated its opposition to Belize's application for admission. However, his delegation considered that the territorial question was entirely separate from the question of admission, and that it did not constitute a valid ground for deferring a decision on Belize's application.

Mr. GONZALES (Mexico) said that his delegation fully supported the application of Belize since that country fully met all the political and legal requirements for membership in the Organization. It was particularly gratifying to Mexico that the process of decolonization had been completed in Belize and it was to be hoped that that development would pave the way for the country's independent, constructive and peaceful existence in the region. He was pleased that there was now one more country among the free nations of the Americas, where the process of decolonization had been virtually completed.

Mr. SEZAKI (Japan) said that, having supported General Assembly resolution 35/20, his delegation welcomed the independence of Belize. The commitment of the newly independent State to fulfilling the obligations of membership had been clearly given by its Prime Minister in his telegram to the Secretary-General. Accordingly, his delegation supported Belize's application for admission and the draft resolution for recommendation to the Security Council.

Mr. SCHLEGEL (German Democratic Republic) endorsed the application of Belize for membership. His delegation was confident that Belize would fulfil its obligations under the Charter. The attainment of independence in Belize was an outstanding victory in the people's struggle for national and social self-determination and the elimination of all remnants of colonial oppression. His delegation wished the new country success in consolidating its freedom and national development, and fully supported the Committee's draft report to the Security Council.

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation supported the application of Belize for membership in the United Nations and fully agreed with the recommendation contained in the draft resolution. The admission of Belize to membership would be a further contribution to the elimination of colonial régimes, to the promotion of relations of co-operation and equality between all States, whether large or small, and to the enhancement of the principle of universality of the United Nations. In its relations with other States, the Soviet Union always guided by respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other States and non-interference in their affairs, was prepared to establish mutually advantageous bilateral relations with the new country. He wished Belize success in consolidating its freedom.

Mr. VILLARREAL (Panama) said that his delegation supported the application of Belize for membership in the United Nations and the adoption of the draft report to the Security Council. His country was pleased that there was now one more member of the group of Latin American countries and looked forward to mutual co-operation with the new fraternal nation.

Mr. GARBA (Niger) said that since his delegation had consistently supported the rights of the people of Belize to independence, it was pleased to have the opportunity to support the application of Belize, which would, he was confident, make a valuable contribution to the work of the Organization. He noted with satisfaction that the countries that had promoted the independence of Belize included members of the Western Group of Five on Namibia. He therefore looked forward to the day when that country, too, would become independent and be admitted to membership in the United Nations.

Mr. SAID (Tunisia) said that Belize fully met all the requirements for membership in the Organization. His delegation therefore supported its application without reservation and endorsed the draft resolution for submission to the Security Council.

Mr. CRAIG (Ireland) said that he was glad that, after exercising its right to self-determination, Belize had decided to proceed towards independence under the terms of General Assembly resolution 35/20, which his delegation had supported. Belize was fully qualified to be a Member of the United Nations and had expressly accepted the obligations of membership. His delegation therefore supported its admission and the adoption of the draft report to the Security Council.

Mr. GRAY (United States of America) said that his delegation was satisfied that Belize met the requirements laid down in Article 4 of the Charter and was able and willing to carry out the obligations of membership in the Organization. He therefore supported the application of Belize and looked forward to its participation in the work of the United Nations.

Mr. ARTACHO (Spain) endorsed the application of Belize for membership and supported the adoption of the draft report to the Security Council. He expressed his Government's wishes for the prosperity and well-being of the people of Belize, with which the Spanish people had age-old historical ties.

Mr. IRUMBA (Uganda) said that, having supported the independence of Belize in various international forums, his delegation was pleased to support its application for admission to the United Nations. The country met all the requirements laid down in Article 4 of the Charter for admission to membership. The independence of Belize was yet another step in the decolonization process and served as an inspiration to the countries of Africa, where vestiges of colonialism remained, as in Namibia. It was to be hoped that international efforts to bring about the independence of Namibia would also be successful in the near future.

Mr. LING Yufan (China) said that the Chinese people warmly welcomed the independence of Belize. The Prime Minister of China had sent a message of congratulations to the Government of Belize on its independence and a Chinese delegation had attended the independence ceremonies. His delegation, which considered that Belize was fully qualified for membership in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, supported its application and endorsed the draft resolution contained in the draft report to the Security Council.

Mr. LEVITTE (France) said that Belize met all the requirements laid down by the Charter for membership in the organization. His delegation therefore fully supported its application and the draft report prepared by the Secretariat.

The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the committee wished to adopt the draft report, paragraph 4 of which contained the following draft resolution:

"The Security Council,

"Having examined the application of Belize for admission to the United Nations (S/14701),

"Recommends to the General Assembly that Belize be admitted to membership in the United Nations."

The draft report was adopted.

The meeting rose at 11.20 a.m.