



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 48th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. CALERO RODRIGUES (Brazil)

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The meeting was called to order at 4.25 p.m.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. The CHAIRMAN noted that the Committee's work had reached a difficult stage. He had emphasized on several occasions that the programme of work must be followed as closely as possible. Although the achievement of a consensus on resolutions was very commendable, it was not always possible, and insisting on doing so could result in the Committee falling behind in its work.

2. The Chairman of the Group of 77 had suggested to him that the voting on draft resolutions relating to agenda item 78 should be postponed for an hour so that negotiations could be concluded. Other delegations had suggested that no meeting should be held on the following afternoon. In view of those suggestions he had reviewed the programme of work for the following week, which would be devoted mainly to the general debate on agenda items 84 to 88. He recalled that the list of speakers on those items would be closed at 6 p.m. on 19 November. In addition, draft resolutions on agenda items 94, 91 and 92 would have to be put to the vote the next week.

3. Given all those factors, he wished to make a drastic proposal to the effect that the current meeting should rise immediately and that there should be no meeting on the following afternoon in the hope that delegations would be able to conclude their negotiations by that time. There would likewise be no morning meeting on Monday, 22 November, and at the afternoon meeting, draft resolutions on item 78 would be put to the vote, and draft resolutions would be submitted on items 91 and 92. Draft resolutions on items 91, 92 and 94 would be put to the vote at the afternoon meeting on Wednesday, 24 November. The general debate on items 84 to 88 would take place at the morning meetings on 23, 24 and 25 November and at the morning and afternoon meetings on 26 November. It was possible that an extension would have to be requested for the afternoon meeting on Monday, 22 November in order to dispose of pending matters. In conclusion, he reminded Committee members that the time-limit for submitting draft resolutions on agenda item 90 was 6 p.m. on the following afternoon.

AGENDA ITEM 90: OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES:  
REPORT OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER (continued) (A/37/12)

4. Mrs. FLOREZ (Cuba), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, observed that the representatives of the United States were not replying to the arguments put forward by her delegation and were trying to internationalize matters which come within the scope of bilateral relations between the two countries. It was common knowledge that the term "refugee" was applied to people who fled a country for reasons of political, religious, racial or other kinds of persecution. All the people who had arrived in the United States via the port of Mariel had left Cuba legally with appropriate documentation and had been taken to the United States in boats belonging to United States owners, some of whom had later been prosecuted.

5. The people who had arrived in the United States did not represent the Cuban people as a whole, since many elements of the population who had lived by gambling,

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(Mrs. Florez, Cuba)

prostitution, drug trafficking, exploiting the work of others and following a parasitic way of life had gone to the United States when those activities had been abolished in Cuba. In contrast to that minority, however, the majority of the Cuban people had at that time given striking proof of their support for the revolution. A small country such as Cuba had been able to confront the most powerful imperialist Power in the world successfully only by virtue of the unity of its people rallying around their revolutionary leadership. That was how it had been able to crush the invasion of Playa Girón and to survive all kinds of aggression and the economic blockade imposed more than 20 years earlier by the United States.

6. It was improper for the representative of the United States to lay claim to a figure such as José Martí and call on his name in defence of an empire which Martí had resolved to confront and combat by raising again the banner of Simón Bolívar the Liberator. In that connection, she quoted the essay "Our America" and pointed out that Martí's thought, which was the distillation of her country's patriotic tradition of fighting against imperialism on behalf of independence and national liberation, had served to educate the new generations of Cubans. In 1953, a group of young people had launched the attack against the tyranny of Batista and had begun to write the contemporary American epic into the history of the continent. That generation, which had been christened by her people as the generation of the centenary of José Martí's birth, was fighting for that new America for which Cubans were striving in the certainty of victory.

7. The CHAIRMAN recalled that draft resolutions having financial implications had to be submitted not later than 26 November.

The meeting rose at 4.40 p.m.