

United Nations

**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION

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SIXTH COMMITTEE

2nd meeting

held on

Tuesday, 25 September 1979

at 10.30 a.m.

New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 2nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. GUNA-KASEM (Thailand)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.55 a.m.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

1. The CHAIRMAN thanked the Committee for the honour it had bestowed upon him and his country for having elected him. It was to be hoped that the Committee, a close fraternity dedicated to the creation of a better international community through the rule of law for all mankind, would have the co-operation of all Member States so that its deliberations could proceed smoothly and for the benefit of all.
2. He intended to adhere strictly to the request by the President of the General Assembly that meetings should begin promptly at the times scheduled, which would help to make the work of the General Assembly more efficient. He also noted that the Assembly had adopted certain recommendations which would act as time-saving devices, especially in regard to the exercise of the right of reply, and he had the full intention of having them strictly complied with. He hoped that the Committee's work would proceed smoothly and expeditiously in a spirit of co-operation and friendship.
3. He extended, on the Committee's behalf, a welcome to Judge Sir Humphrey Waldo, President of the International Court of Justice, and to his colleagues, Judge Manfred Lachs, Judge Shigeru Oda and Judge José Sette Câmara, as well as to the Registrar of the Court, Mr. Stanislas Aquarone.

ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIRMEN

4. Mr. MIRCEA (Romania) nominated Mr. Zehentner (Federal Republic of Germany) for the office of Vice-Chairman.
5. Mr. DABIRI (Iran) nominated Mr. Esquea Guerrero (Dominican Republic) for the office of Vice-Chairman.
6. Mr. Zehentner (Federal Republic of Germany) and Mr. Esquea Guerrero (Dominican Republic) were elected Vice-Chairmen by acclamation.

ELECTION OF THE RAPPORTEUR

7. Mr. OMAR (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) nominated Mr. Enkhsaikhan (Mongolia) for the office of Rapporteur.
8. Mr. Enkhsaikhan (Mongolia) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK (A/C.6/34/1 and L.1)

9. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to documents A/C.6/34/1 and L.1 concerning the items allocated to the Committee and the organization of work respectively. He noted that the first item suggested in document A/C.6/34/L.1, paragraph 10, for consideration by the Committee was item 113, which concerned the drafting of an international convention against the taking of hostages. As indicated in document

A/C.6/34/L.1, paragraph 4 (d), the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Drafting of an International Convention against the Taking of Hostages contained a draft Convention which the Ad Hoc Committee recommended to the General Assembly for further consideration and adoption.

10. In the course of informal consultations held in June 1979 under the auspices of the Legal Counsel concerning the priority of items to be allocated to the Committee, it had been suggested that item 113 could be taken up by the Committee as its first substantive item. Since that suggestion seemed to have given rise to no objection, the Committee might wish to devote its first meetings to a general consideration of the draft Convention, to be followed by the establishment of a working group which would finalize the articles approved by the Ad Hoc Committee. The basic membership of the working group would consist of Member States which were members of the Ad Hoc Committee, on the understanding, however, that the group would be open-ended. It would be requested to report back to the Sixth Committee by 30 November 1979 to allow the latter to complete consideration of the draft Convention.

11. Mr. SZELEI KISS (Hungary), speaking on behalf of the group of Eastern European States, said he wished to place on record the position indicated by the group in the course of the consultations to which the Chairman had referred. The group of Eastern European States had expressed its appreciation of the efforts made by the Secretariat to rationalize the organization of work of the Sixth Committee. The group had also indicated that it had not been prepared at that time to take part in the decision-making process on the question of the priority of items, since that matter fell within the competence of the Sixth Committee.

12. Mr. KATEKA (United Republic of Tanzania) said that the two documents before the Committee had only just been distributed, and that more time was needed before decisions were taken on the programme of work. In any case, before deciding to take up item 113 as the first item on the agenda, the Committee would have to decide whether it wished to consider the adoption of a draft convention at the current session or whether the matter should be the subject of a diplomatic conference. Furthermore, the number of meetings allocated to item 113 seemed to be out of proportion to those allocated to certain other items, apparently on the assumption that the Committee's decision to consider the adoption of a draft convention was a foregone conclusion. With regard to the working group envisaged under item 113, he observed that some of the smaller delegations would face difficulties if it met simultaneously with the Committee.

13. He suggested that the meeting should be adjourned to give time for regional consultations before the Committee continued its consideration of the organization of work.

14. Mr. OMAR (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) supported that suggestion.

15. Mr. ROSENSTOCK (United States of America) acknowledged that the documents before the Committee had only just been circulated, but pointed out that they contained no surprises, and that the suggestions in document A/C.6/34/L.1 had

(Mr. Rosenstock, United States)

been made in the light of the consultations held in June 1979. Specifically, the suggestion concerning item 113 was fully in keeping with past practice. It would be regrettable, however, if the Committee were to revert to the practice of cancelling meetings. He therefore hoped that the regional consultations would be brief.

16. Mr. ORDZHONIKIDZE (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) agreed that the holding of regional consultations would be desirable before decisions were taken on any of the items allocated to the Committee. His delegation congratulated the Secretariat on its rationalization of the Committee's work, but had doubts about the desirability of attaching priority to item 113: certain other items deserved greater priority, since they were aimed at implementing the provisions of the Charter. He supported the Tanzanian suggestion for the holding of regional consultations, after which decisions could be taken on the over-all programme of work.

17. The CHAIRMAN, referring to item 113, pointed out that the Ad Hoc Committee's report (A/34/39) contained the draft Convention which that body expressly recommended to the General Assembly for further consideration and adoption. However, in the light of the Tanzanian suggestion he felt that the meeting should be adjourned and that the afternoon meeting should be cancelled in order to allow time for regional consultations.

18. It was so decided.

19. Mr. ROMANOV (Secretary of the Committee), replying to questions, said that it was not possible for the Department of Conference Services to state whether the proposed working group could meet simultaneously with the Committee itself. It must therefore be assumed that meetings of the working group could be accommodated only when the Committee itself did not meet.

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.