

United Nations

# GENERAL ASSEMBLY

THIRTY-THIRD SESSION

Official Records \*



SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE  
2nd meeting  
held on  
Monday, 2 October 1978  
at 3 p.m.  
New York

## SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 2nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. PIZA-ESCALANTE (Costa Rica)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

1. The CHAIRMAN expressed his gratitude to the members of the Committee for having elected him to the post of Chairman and paid a tribute to the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic, Mr. Neugebauer, who had served with distinction as Chairman of the Committee at the preceding session. Lastly, he welcomed the representatives of Solomon Islands, who were participating in the work of the Committee for the first time.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

2. Mr. CARTER (Barbados) nominated Mr. Ortner (Austria) for the office of Vice-Chairman.

3. Mr. KATHAYAT (Nepal) nominated Mr. Hassan (Sudan) for the office of Vice-Chairman.

4. Mr. Ortner (Austria) and Mr. Hassan (Sudan) were elected Vice-Chairmen by acclamation.

5. Mr. JACKSON (Australia) nominated Mr. Mubarez (Yemen) for the office of Rapporteur.

6. Mr. Mubarez (Yemen) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

7. The CHAIRMAN made a brief statement relating to the efficient functioning of the Committee, in which he emphasized, among other things, the importance of punctuality and of submitting advance copies of prepared statements. He also recalled that the Assembly had approved the General Committee's recommendation that the Special Political Committee should be authorized to receive, on specific request, transcriptions of the debates of some of its meetings or portions thereof. He trusted that, as in the past, members would avail themselves of that privilege sparingly. He drew attention to the recommendation in annex V of the rules of procedure regarding the closure of the list of speakers on individual agenda items and urged that draft resolutions should be submitted at an early stage so that they could be taken into account in statements during the debate.

8. The General Assembly had allocated to the Committee the nine agenda items listed in document A/SPC/33/1. The Assembly had decided that, when considering item 28, it would invite the Committee to meet for the purpose of affording the representatives of the Cypriot communities an opportunity to express their views, after which the Assembly would resume its consideration of the item, taking into account the Committee's report. The Assembly had also decided, in connexion with item 32 (Policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa), which was to be

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considered directly in plenary meeting, that organizations having a special interest in the question should be permitted to be heard by the Committee.

9. The General Assembly had allocated a new item entitled "Questions relating to information" to the Committee. That item combined two items formerly allocated to the Third Committee and one previously considered by the Fifth Committee. As the entire subject was a new one for the Special Political Committee, he urged those delegations with a particular interest in it to communicate to the Bureau their views regarding the timing of the Committee's consideration of the item and the manner in which it should deal with it.

10. He would draw up, in consultation with the other officers of the Committee, a tentative programme of work which could be circulated to members and discussed at the next meeting. The Committee might begin its work by considering item 53 on 11 and 12 October and then take up items 51 and 52 on 16 October, followed by item 56 on 23 October, item 54 on 30 October, item 55 on 8 November, item 77 on 20 November, item 126 on 27 November, and item 57 on 4 December.

11. Mr. KUTSCHAN (German Democratic Republic) said that the General Committee had assigned a number of important additional tasks to the Special Political Committee, including, in particular, two items relating to the peaceful uses of outer space. Significant scientific experiments carried out in outer space since the thirty-second session would doubtless be reflected in the Committee's work. In that connexion, he drew attention to the joint space flights of the INTERCOSMOS programme, in which a new record had been set by Soviet cosmonauts. A national of the German Democratic Republic had participated in the most recent INTERCOSMOS space flight.

12. Considerable attention would have to be devoted to the wide range of issues raised by item 77 (Questions relating to information).

The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.