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Agenda item 25

- (a) QUESTION OF THE RESERVATION EXCLUSIVELY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES OF THE SEA-BED AND THE OCEAN FLOOR, AND THE SUBSOIL THEREOF, UNDERLYING THE HIGH SEAS BEYOND THE LIMITS OF PRESENT NATIONAL JURISDICTION, AND THE USE OF THEIR RESOURCES IN THE INTERESTS OF MANKIND
- (b) MARINE POLLUTION AND OTHER HAZARDOUS AND HARMFUL EFFECTS WHICH MIGHT ARISE FROM THE EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION OF THE SEA-BED AND THE OCEAN FLOOR, AND THE SUBSOIL THEREOF, BEYOND THE LIMITS OF NATIONAL JURISDICTION
- (c) VIEWS OF MEMBER STATES ON THE DESIRABILITY OF CONVENING AT AN EARLY DATE A CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA
- (d) QUESTION OF THE BREADTH OF THE TERRITORIAL SEA AND RELATED MATTERS

Letter dated 8 January 1971 from the Chairman of the First Committee to the Secretary-General.

I have the honour to refer to operative paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 2750 C (XXV), which was adopted on 17 December 1970.

It will be recalled that, under operative paragraph 5 of that resolution, as adopted by the First Committee at its 1800th meeting, held on 16 December 1970, the General Assembly would decide to enlarge the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction by the addition of thirty-nine members to be appointed by the Chairman of the First Committee, in consultation with regional groups and taking into account equitable geographical distribution in the Committee.

At the First Committee's 1801st meeting, held on 16 December 1970, in accordance with the task entrusted to me in operative paragraph 5 and after consulting the Chairman of the regional groups, I announced that the thirty-nine new seats on the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor Beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction would be allocated as follows:

thirteen to African States, eight to Latin American States, nine to Eastern European States, and six to Western European and other States. At the same time, I announced that the first four groups would comprise the following States:

- (a) Africa: Algeria, Congo (Democratic Republic of), Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Senegal, Somalia and Tunisia;
- (b) Latin America: Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Jamaica, Panama, Uruguay and Venezuela;
- (c) Asia: Afghanistan, Cyprus, Indonesia, Iraq, Iran, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore and Yemen;
- (d) Eastern Europe: Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Hungary and Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

I also informed the First Committee that I could not indicate which new members would represent the Western European and other States, but stated that there appeared to be no legal objection to their being appointed after the Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda item 25 or even after the closure of the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

When the General Assembly considered the draft resolution, at its 1933rd plenary meeting, held on 17 December 1970, it decided that the Committee should be enlarged by forty-four members instead of thirty-nine; the rest of operative paragraph 5 would remain unchanged.

After holding appropriate consultations with the Chairman of the regional groups, and bearing in mind the General Assembly's discussion of the question, I have the honour to inform you that each of the five regional groups has been allotted one of the five additional seats established on the Committee.

The new additional members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction are:

- (a) Africa: People's Republic of the Congo;
- (b) Latin America: Guatemala;
- (c) Asia: Lebanon;
- (d) Western European and other States: Denmark, Greece, Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain, Sweden and Turkey.

I regret that I am not yet in a position to announce the name of the additional member that will represent the group of Eastern European States.

The forty-three additional members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction appointed so far, in pursuance of operative paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 2750 C (XXV) are thus as follows:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Bolivia, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Colombia, Congo (Democratic Republic of), Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Indonesia, Iraq, Iran, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Lebanon, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Panama, People's Republic of the Congo, Philippines, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Uruguay, Venezuela and Yemen.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter to be circulated as a General Assembly document.

(Signed) Andrés AGUILAR M.
Chairman of the First Committee
