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at 3.25 p.m.

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CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Agenda item 60:	
Amendment to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly: proposal for a new rule concerning corrections of vote (<i>concluded</i>)	195
Completion of the Committee's work	196

Chairman: Mr. Francisco V. GARCIA AMADOR
(Cuba).

AGENDA ITEM 60

Amendment to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly: proposal for a new rule concerning corrections of vote (A/2700, A/2700/Rev.1, A/C.6/L.334/Rev.2) (*concluded*)

GENERAL DEBATE (*concluded*)

1. Mr. ROBINSON (Israel) commended the French delegation on its initiative in seeking to improve the General Assembly's rules of procedure, but thought that the draft resolution before the Committee (A/C.6/L.344/Rev.2) should be amended in several respects.
2. While it was true that there was no rule of procedure governing the Chairman's announcement of the results of votes, it appeared unnecessary to complete the text in that respect because current practice, the unwritten law, had established sufficiently well-known rules. The rules of procedure did not contain all the rules to be observed in the conduct of the debates. It would be useful, incidentally, to have an annotated text of the rules of procedure showing the practice followed both in interpreting the rules and in settling questions on which the rules contained no relevant provision.
3. It was equally true that there was no written provision governing corrections of vote, and a text on the question might be desirable. However, it should be borne in mind that, owing to the nature of the institutions, there were great differences between the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and those of national legislative assemblies. Because of the differences, the practical result of the wide consultation the authors of the draft resolution wanted to organize would not be proportionate to the great amount of work the inquiry involved. It would be more appropriate and much simpler to consult the Interparliamentary Union.
4. As a preliminary step, the solutions the United Nations had thus far adopted in the matter of correction of vote, as well as the practice of the specialized agencies, should be re-examined.
5. Lastly, the proposed consultation should take into account the effect of different voting procedures on the circumstances in which votes cast might be corrected.

6. He asked the co-authors of the draft resolution whether they would consider altering the text of their draft in the light of his remarks.

7. Mr. MÉNDEZ (Philippines) suggested that the word "announcement" in the English text should be replaced by the word "determination".

8. Mr. COLLIARD (France) thought that the amendments to the original text of the draft resolution, as embodied in the revised draft (A/C.6/L.344/Rev.2), should partly satisfy the Israel representative. In any event, they took account of the comments made at the previous meeting.

9. The representatives of Denmark and the United Kingdom had joined the authors of the previous draft in presenting the second revision, and it was they who had suggested sub-paragraph (b) of the operative part.

10. While he had no major objection to mentioning that the survey would also cover the practice of the specialized agencies, he did not think it desirable to speak of United Nations practice, inasmuch as the object of the resolution was precisely to introduce uniformity and clarity into that practice.

11. Unlike the Israel representative, he felt that the phrases referring to the announcement of the results of the votes should be retained in both the preamble and the operative part.

12. Regarding a study of the various voting procedures, a broadening of the survey to that end might be acceptable provided it was limited to the specialized agencies and excluded the United Nations itself.

13. He emphasized that the Secretary-General would have full latitude to collect his information as he deemed fit and to organize the consultation he was being asked to undertake as best he could.

14. Mr. TARAZI (Syria) agreed with Mr. Colliard that the Secretary-General's task was defined in broad enough terms to obviate the need for an explicit reference either to the Interparliamentary Union or to the specialized agencies. In the case of the latter, he did not think that an inquiry could yield fruitful results.

15. The drafting change the Philippine representative had suggested did not seem appropriate because the announcement of the vote logically followed a previous determination of the results of the voting.

16. The present revised text, which took account of the views expressed thus far in the debate, was merely intended to organize a study that would in no way prejudice the position Governments might ultimately take on the substance of the question. On the other hand, the text should be supported by as large a number of delegations as possible because it was based on the concept of the universality of the United Nations, a principle that Member States should affirm whenever they could.

17. Mr. PRATT DE MARIA (Uruguay) felt that the authors of the draft resolution had not replied satisfactorily to some of the Israel representative's remarks, which were unquestionably relevant. He agreed with Mr. Robinson that it would be useful to secure information on the practice of organs other than national parliaments. Thus, it would be desirable for the draft resolution to mention not only the rules in force in national legislative assemblies, but the rules applied in international bodies. In that way, the Secretary-General could collect information from regional organizations, for instance.

18. The difficulty the Committee was trying to resolve would not exist if the United Nations had automatic vote-tallying machines; that method would, in his view, eliminate the challenging of the results of votes.

19. Mr. CASTAÑEDA (Mexico) agreed with the Uruguayan representative that the Secretary-General should inquire about the practice of regional organizations.

20. He feared that a study of the methods of certain parliaments might prove pointless; for the information gathered to be useful, the voting procedures of the parliaments considered would have to be similar to the system laid down in the General Assembly's rules of procedure. If they were not, it seemed impossible *a priori* to apply a national practice to the United Nations.

21. Mr. MÉNDEZ (Philippines) thought that the Secretary-General should be able to collect information not only on parliamentary practice, but also on the practice of the specialized agencies.

22. Mr. ESKELUND (Denmark) said that the General Assembly would learn from the proposed report the various solutions to the problem adopted by national parliaments and that there were enough variants among them to make it unnecessary to consider the practice of the specialized agencies. Unlike previous speakers, therefore, he did not think it necessary to obtain information about the agencies' methods.

23. Again, unlike the Mexican representative, he did not consider that the voting procedures were fundamentally very different in the various parliaments. The information national legislative bodies could give on methods of announcing the results and correction of votes would, he felt, be of definite value.

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY DENMARK, FRANCE, SYRIA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM (A/C.6/L.344/REV.2) AND AMENDMENTS THERETO

24. Mr. COLLIARD (France) proposed that the draft resolution should be amended to take account of the observations made during the debate. The amended wording would refer to "international organizations" as well as to national legislative assemblies and parliaments, on the understanding that the international organizations referred to were inter-governmental international organizations.

25. Mr. GARCIA OLANO (Argentina) pointed out that the expression "international organizations", which the French representative was proposing to add, did not include the United Nations, as it was the procedure of the United Nations that was to be modified. It would therefore be better to say "other inter-governmental

organizations". Furthermore, it would be more logical to mention the inter-governmental organizations before the national parliaments.

26. He proposed the following wording for the third paragraph of the preamble:

"Believing that for this purpose it would be useful to obtain information concerning the existing rules and the generally accepted practices of other inter-governmental organizations and of national legislative assemblies."

27. Paragraph (a) of the operative part might be drafted as follows:

"(a) On the terms and application of the rules that in other intergovernmental organizations and in parliaments govern the announcement of the results of votes, on the conditions subject to which corrections are admitted and on the consequences of such corrections."

28. Mr. EVANS (United Kingdom) said that he would like operative paragraph (b) to be made clearer by using the wording:

"(b) On possible provisions designed to prevent and correct any mistakes that might occur during the voting procedure in the General Assembly and its committees."

29. Mr. ROBINSON (Israel) having proposed that the wording should be "its Main Committees" instead of "its committees", Mr. TARAZI (Syria) replied that, although the rules of procedure of the General Assembly applied in principle to the General Assembly and its Main Committees, they were in fact used by many other Committees, including, for example, the *Ad Hoc* Political Committee. Thus it did not seem advisable to burden the text with that detail.

30. The CHAIRMAN said that the authors of the draft resolution accepted the formula proposed by the representative of Argentina concerning the third paragraph of the preamble and operative paragraph (a) and the United Kingdom amendment to operative paragraph (b).

31. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the joint draft resolution of Denmark, France, Syria and the United Kingdom (A/C.6/L.334/Rev.2), as amended.

The draft resolution as amended was adopted by 49 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

Completion of the Committee's work

32. The CHAIRMAN announced that the Sixth Committee had completed its agenda.

33. Mr. AKANT (Turkey), Mr. TARAZI (Syria), Mr. CASTAÑEDA (Mexico), Mr. GARCIA OLANO (Argentina), Mr. MÉNDEZ (Philippines), Mr. SANSON TERAN (Nicaragua), Mr. SERRANO GARCIA (El Salvador), Mr. ESKELUND (Denmark) (speaking also on behalf of the Norwegian and Swedish delegations), Mr. GALVAN (Dominican Republic), Mr. AYCINENA SALAZAR (Guatemala), Mr. COLLIARD (France), Mr. ANDERSEN (Iceland), Mr. STIRLING (Australia) (speaking also on behalf of the Canadian and New Zealand delegations), Mr. ZHUKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Mr. PÉREZ PERÓZO (Venezuela), Mr. KATZ-SUCHY (Poland), Mr. PRATT DE MARIA (Uruguay), Mr. MAURTUA (Peru), Mr. GEBARA (Lebanon), Mr.

TEKLE (Ethiopia), Mr. CONTRERAS (Chile), HTUN TIN (Burma), Mr. GALLEGOS (Ecuador), Mr. VALLADARES (Honduras), Mr. EVANS (United Kingdom), Mr. VAN DIJL (Netherlands) (speaking also on behalf of the Belgian and Luxembourg delegations), Mr. SPIROPOULOS (Greece), Mr. ANAYA (Colombia), Mr. ALEFI (Afghanistan), Mr. ROBINSON (Israel), Mr. DE CARVALHO SILOS (Brazil), Mr. TREJOS (Costa Rica), Mr. PECHOTA (Czechoslovakia) (speaking also on behalf of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic), Mr. MAHONEY (United States of America), Mr. BRUNER (Yugoslavia), Mr. HSU (China) and Mr. VIEUX (Haiti) paid tributes to the Chairman's ability and impartiality. He had shown energy, firmness, patience and courtesy, and his wise guidance of the Committee's discussions had enabled it to complete its difficult task quickly. The Chairman had not evaded his duties but had shown remarkable activity and had continually urged the Committee to seek the most constructive paths. He had been able to give fresh impetus and fresh life to the international spirit and to the spirit of co-operation, and his arrangement of meetings and official groups had made it possible to overcome many obstacles and frequently to reconcile very different points of view.

34. They also congratulated the Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteur, who had shown notable ability in carrying out their respective duties, and thanked all the members of the Secretariat who had energetically assisted the Committee in its work.

35. Mr. SAPOZHNIKOV (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic), Vice-Chairman, associated himself with the tributes to the Chairman and the praise of the Rapporteur and the Secretariat.

36. He thanked the Committee for the help it had given him in carrying out his duties and for the compliments paid him.

37. Mr. ADAMIYAT (Iran), Rapporteur, also associated himself with the tributes to the Chairman, and the compliments to the Vice-Chairman and the Secretariat.

38. He also thanked the Committee for the kind words it had addressed to him.

39. Mr. SECADES (Cuba) thanked those representatives who, in paying a tribute to the Chairman, had referred to his country in laudatory terms.

40. The CHAIRMAN thanked the Committee for the flattering words it had expressed in his regard.

41. He had carried out his duties with no great pretensions and was glad that the Committee's work had proved so fruitful. The Committee had completed its task in a fine spirit of co-operation, willingness to compromise and good will, and had recommended, always by large majorities, the most constructive solutions possible in present circumstances for each item on the agenda. It had made a valuable contribution to the progress of international law by organizing the Assembly's work on some urgent and burning questions.

42. As a member of the International Law Commission, he was pleased that the Sixth Committee had entrusted such important work to that body.

43. He thanked the members of the Committee, particularly the Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteur, and the Secretariat for their perfect co-operation.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.

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