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THIRD REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Notes on the Provisional Agenda

The Third Regular Session of the General Assembly will convene on 21 September 1948, at 11:00 a.m. in the General Assembly Hall, Palais de Chaillot, Paris. The Provisional Agenda was dispatched to member nations on 23 July in accordance with Rule 10 of the Provisional Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly. Later items may be submitted by any member at least 25 days before the opening date of the regular session, and those items, placed on a supplementary list, have to be communicated to member nations at least 15 days before the opening date. The order in which the items are listed in the Provisional Agenda is not necessarily the order in which they will be taken up by the Assembly.

(Note: The notes on the agenda items given below are unofficial, but are added as background guidance for correspondents.)

1. Opening of the Session by the Chairman of the Delegation of Argentina.

(Note: At the opening of each session of the General Assembly, the Chairman of the Delegation from which the President of the previous session was elected, shall preside until the General Assembly has elected a president for the session - Rule 25 of the General Assembly's Rules of Procedure. Dr. Jose Arce of Argentina presided over the special General Assembly held 16 April - 14 May 1948.)

2. Appointment of the Credentials Committee

(Note: The Credentials Committee is elected at the beginning of each session. It is made up of nine members.)

3. Election of the President

(Note: The President is elected by secret ballot and simple majority by those present. There are no nominations. The President holds office until the close of the session at which he was elected.)

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4. Constitution of the Main Committees and Election of Officers.

(Note: The Main Committees are: (1) Political and Security Committee, including the Regulation of Armaments; (2) Economic and Financial Committee; (3) Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee; (4) Trusteeship Committee; (5) Administrative and Budgetary Committee, (6) Legal Committee.

The General Committee, which acts as steering committee for the Assembly although it is precluded from deciding any political question -- consists of 14 members comprising the President, the seven Vice-Presidents, and the Chairman of the six Main Committees.)

5. Election of Vice-Presidents.

(Note: Rule 26 states that the seven Vice-Presidents shall be elected on the basis of ensuring the representative character of the General Committee. The Vice-Presidents are elected by secret ballot without nomination. A simple majority is required.)

6. Notification by the Secretary-General under Article XII, Paragraph 2 of the Charter.

(Note: This Paragraph states: "The Secretary-General, with consent of the Security Council, shall notify the General Assembly at each session of all matters relative to the maintenance of international peace and security, which are being dealt with by the Security Council and shall similarly notify the General Assembly, or the members of the United Nations if the General Assembly is not in session, immediately the Security Council ceases to deal with such matters.")

7. Adoption of the Agenda.

(Note: Adoption is by simple majority vote. According to Rule 15 "At any regular session of the General Assembly, items may be revised or added to or deleted from the agenda by a majority of the members present and voting. Consideration of additional items shall, unless the General Assembly, by two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, decide otherwise, be postponed until four days after they have been placed on the agenda, until a committee has reported upon them.")

8. Opening of the General Debate.

9. Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization.

(Note: A printed report of the Secretary-General will be issued on or about 6 August 1948)

10. Report of the Security Council.

(Note: The following are the main headings of the report: The Greek Question, Appointment of a Governor for the Free Territory of Trieste, the Egyptian Question, Indonesian Question, India-Pakistan Question, Palestine Question, the Czechoslovakian Question, Control of Atomic Energy, Admission of New Members, Rules Governing Admission of New Members, Voting Procedure in the Security Council, and Military Staff Committee.)

11. Report of the Economic and Social Council.

(Note: The following are the main headings of the report: Draft Convention on Genocide, Draft Declaration on Human Rights, Continuance of an Advisory Welfare Program, a Report on Resettlement of Refugees and Displaced Persons.)

12. Report of the Trusteeship Council.

(Note: The report will cover the second and third sessions of the Council. It will deal with (a) the organization of the Council, (b) the Provisional Questionnaire, (c) the Annual Reports on the Administration of Trust Territories (d) Petitions, (e) Visits to Trust Territories, (f) Matters related to the City of Jerusalem.)

13. Headquarters of the United Nations - Report of the Secretary-General (Resolution 182 (II) of 20 November 1947).

(Note: The General Assembly Resolution referred to authorizes the Secretary-General to negotiate and conclude on behalf of the United Nations a loan agreement with the Government of the United States of America, for an interest-free loan, which would require approval by the Congress of the United States, in an amount not to exceed \$65,000,000, to provide for the payment of the cost of construction of the UN Permanent Headquarters.

The loan agreement was signed on 23 March 1948. Authorizing legislation was presented to the US Congress, but has not yet (23 July 1948) been passed. The excavation of the site in New York City has been completed, the planning is continuing, but no construction will be started before the loan is granted.)

14. Admission of New Members.

(a) Report of the Security Council (Resolution 113 (II) of 17 November 1947).

(Note: In the Resolution referred to the General Assembly recommends to the permanent members of the Security Council to consult with a view to reaching an agreement on the admission to membership of the applicant which have not been recommended hitherto, and submit their conclusions to the Security Council. In accordance with the decision of the Security Council, and following the admission of Burma during the session of the special General Assembly 16 April - 14 May 1948, - the Committee on the Admission of New Members met on 29 June to examine the application of Ceylon for membership in the United Nations. The majority of the members of the Committee expressed their support for the application of Ceylon. The representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic declined to comment on the application at the meeting of the Committee and reserved the position of their delegations with respect to the application of Ceylon during the discussion in the Security Council.)

(b) Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice. (Resolution 113 (II) of 17 November 1947).

(Note: The General Assembly resolution referred to requested the International Court of Justice to give an advisory opinion on the following question: Is a Member of the United Nations which is called upon, in virtue of Article 4 of the Charter, to pronounce itself by its vote, either in the Security Council or in the General Assembly, on the admission of a State to membership in the United Nations, juridically entitled to make its consent to the admission dependant on conditions not expressly provided by paragraph 1 of the said Article? In particular, can such a Member, while it recognizes the conditions set forth in that provision to be fulfilled by the State concerned, subject its affirmative vote to the additional condition that other States be admitted to membership in the United Nations together with that state?

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On the 28th of May, the Secretary-General received from Mr. E. Hambro, Registrar of the International Court of Justice at the Hague, the Court's opinion. This states inter alia that the Court, by 9 votes to 6, is of the opinion that a member of the United Nations which is called upon to pronounce itself by its vote on the admission of a State to membership to the United Nations is not juridically entitled to make its consent to the admission dependent on conditions not expressly provided by Paragraph 1 of Article 4 of the Charter, and that a Member of the organisation cannot, while it requires the conditions set forth in that provision to be fulfilled by the state concerned, subject its affirmative vote to the additional condition that other states be admitted to membership in the United Nations together with that State.)

(c) Admission to the Organization of Italy and all those States whose applications for membership have obtained seven votes in the Security Council; item proposed by Argentina.

The following States have obtained the seven votes: Austria, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Portugal and Transjordan.

15. Threats to the Political Independence and Territorial Integrity of Greece. Report of the UN Special Committee on the Balkans (Resolution 109 (II) of 21 October 1947.)

(Note: By this resolution the General Assembly established a Special Committee consisting of the representatives of Australia, Brazil, China, France, Mexico, Netherlands, Pakistan, United Kingdom and the United States (seats being held open for Poland and the USSR) which, with its principal headquarters in Salonika, and with the cooperation of the four governments concerned (Albania, Bulgaria, Greece and Yugoslavia) would perform its functions in such places and in the territories of the four states concerned as it may deem appropriate, and render a report to the next regular session of the General Assembly. The main task of the Special Committee (UNSCOC) was to observe the compliance by the four governments with the Assembly's recommendation that they cooperate in the peaceful settlement of their disputes and the Assembly's call to Albania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia to do nothing which could furnish aid to the guerrillas fighting against the Greek Government. UNSCOC was also to be available to assist the four governments in implementation of the Assembly's recommendations.)

16. The Problem of the Independence of Korea:

(a) Report of the United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea (Resolution 112 (II) of 14 November 1947).

(Note: In this resolution the General Assembly, recognizing that the problem of the independence of Korea is primarily a matter for the Korean people itself, resolves that elected representatives of the Korean people be invited to take part in the consideration of the question, and further resolves that in order to facilitate such consideration, there be forthwith established a United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea, consisting of representatives of Australia, Canada, China, El Salvador, France, India, Philippines, Syria, Ukraine, USSR, to be present in Korea, with the right to travel, observe, and consult throughout Korea. The Commission shall report to the General Assembly and may consult with the Interim Committee.)

(b) Report of the Interim Committee of the General Assembly (Resolution 112 (II) of 14 November 1947).

(Note: On 14 November 1947, by its resolution 112 (II), the General Assembly established the United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea, and resolved, in paragraph 5 of the second part of that resolution, that the Commission thus established "may consult with the Interim Committee with respect to

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the application of this resolution in the light of developments." The Interim Committee gave the following advice to the Temporary Commission on Korea: "That in its view it is incumbent upon the United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea, under the terms of the General Assembly resolution of 14 November 1947, and in the light of developments in the situation with respect to Korea since that date, to implement the program as outlined in resolution II, in such parts of Korea as are accessible to the Commission." Therefore, the Commission limited its activity to that portion of Korea south of the 38th parallel (American Zone of Occupation)).

The Problem of Voting in the Security Council:

(a) Report of the Interim Committee of the General Assembly (Resolution 117 (II) of 21 November 1947).

(b) Convocation of a General Conference under Article 109 of the Charter in order to study the question of the veto in the Security Council: item proposed by Argentina.

(Note: The General Assembly in this resolution requests the permanent members of the Security Council to consult with one another on the problem of voting in the Security Council in order to secure agreement among them on measures to ensure the prompt and effective exercise by the Security Council of its functions. The Interim Committee which was asked to consider the problem, recommends to the General Assembly, in its statement at the end of its 19th meeting, to consider at its third regular session whether the time has come or not to call a General Conference, as provided for in Article 109 of the Charter. This Conference would essentially deal with the suppression or limitation of the right of veto enjoyed by the five permanent members.)

Adviseability of establishing a Permanent Committee of the General Assembly - Report of the Interim Committee (Resolution 111 (II) of 13 November 1947).

Study of methods for the promotion of international cooperation in the political field: report of the Interim Committee of the General Assembly Resolution 111 (II) of 13 November 1947).

Reports of the Atomic Energy Commission - Resolution of the Security Council

(Note: By a letter dated 26 May 1948, the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission transmitted the third report of the Commission to the Security Council.

The Security Council on 22 June 1948, by a 9-0 vote with two abstentions (Ukraine, USSR) adopted a Canadian draft resolution which said that the Security Council "having received and examined" the three reports submitted by the Atomic Energy Commission, directs the Secretary-General to transmit these reports to the General Assembly together with the record of the Council's deliberations on this subject, "as a matter of special concern."

The Third Report of the Atomic Energy Commission to the Security Council states that the Commission cannot now prepare a draft treaty "incorporating its ultimate proposals" as urged by the Resolution of the Security Council, and adds further that after 22 months of work the Commission finds itself confronted by virtually the same deadlock that stultified its initial discussions. "It is now apparent that this deadlock cannot be broken at the Commission level," concludes the Report, which makes it clear that "the failure to achieve agreement on the international control of atomic energy arises from a situation that is beyond the competence of this Commission. In this situation, the Commission concludes that no useful purpose can be served by carrying on negotiations at the Commission level.")

21. Election of the Three Non-Permanent Members of the Security Council.

(Note: The present non-permanent members of the Council are Argentina, Canada, Ukraine, Syria, Colombia, and Belgium. The terms of Syria, Col and Belgium expire at the end of 1948, and three members are to be elected to fill their places by secret ballot. A two-thirds majority vote is required.)

22. Report of the Government of the Union of South Africa on the Administration of South West Africa. Report of the Trusteeship Council (Resolution 11 of 1 November 1947).

(Note: This report deals with the administration of South West Africa, a territory held under mandate by the Union of South Africa. The General Assembly has recommended that South West Africa be placed under international trusteeship system. The Union of South Africa has not conformed with the recommendation but has submitted a report on its administration of the territory. The Trusteeship Council has been authorized by the General Assembly to examine that report. The result of examination will be included in the Report of the Council to the General Assembly.)

23. Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories:

(a) Summary and analysis of information transmitted under Article 73(e) of the Charter: report of the Secretary-General (Resolution 66 (I) of 14 December 1946.)

(b) Information transmitted under Article 73 (e) of the Charter: Report of the Special Committee (Resolution 146 (II) of 3 November 1947).

(Note: Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted during 1947 has been summarized and analyzed by the Secretary-General. The Special Committee on Information Transmitted under Article 73 (e) of the Charter, which will meet on 2 September 1948 at Geneva, will examine the information, together with the summary and analysis, and submit reports thereon for the consideration of the General Assembly.)

(Items 24 through 26 inclusive are on the Agenda of the Seventh Session of the Economic and Social Council, presently meeting at Geneva. The report on these items is therefore not yet available.)

24. Agreements with Specialized Agencies:

(a) Application of Finland for membership in the International Civil Aviation Organization: item proposed by the Secretary-General

(b) Approval of supplementary agreements with specialized agencies concerning the use of United Nations laissez-passer: report of the Secretary-General.

25. Relations with and Coordination of Specialized Agencies and Work Program of the United Nations and Specialized Agencies: Report of the Secretary-General (Resolution 125 (II) of 20 November 1947).

26. Freedom of Information: Report of the Economic and Social Council (Resolution 59 (I) of 14 December 1946).

27. Election of Six Members of the Economic and Social Council.

(Note: The Economic and Social Council consists of 18 member nations serving for three years. Six retire each year, but are eligible for immediate election.)

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The six whose terms expire at the end of this year are: Canada, Chile, China, France, Peru and the Netherlands.

Election of members of the Economic and Security Council is by secret ballot of the General Assembly, a two-thirds majority of those present and voting being required.)

28. Election of Five Member of the International Court of Justice (Article 13, Paragraph 1 of the Statute of the Court.)

(Note: The Members of the Court are elected for nine years, and may be re-elected, provided, however, that of the judges elected at the first election, the terms of five judges shall expire at the end of three years and the terms of five more judges shall expire at the end of six years.)

29. Progressive Development of International Law: election of the members of the International Law Commission (Resolution 174(II) of 21 November 1947).

(Note: The members of the International Law Commission shall be elected at the third regular session of the General Assembly as provided by the resolution referred to.)

30. Registration and Publication of Treaties and International Agreements: report of the Secretary-General.

31. Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations: reports of the Secretary-General.

(a) Headquarters Agreement

(b) General Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations

32. Genocide: Draft Convention and Report of the Economic and Social Council (Resolution 130(II) of 21 November 1947).

(Note: The Economic and Social Council, meeting presently in Geneva, will report on this particular item to the General Assembly).

33. Draft Rules for the Convening of International Conferences: report of the Secretary-General (Resolution 173(II) of 17 November 1947).

34. Installation of the Assistant Secretary-General in Charge of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General and General Coordination.

(Note: The appointment of Robert G.A. Jackson of Australia to this post was announced in January of this year.)

35. Financial Administration of the United Nations:

(a) Financial report and accounts for the financial period ended 31 December 1947, and report of the Board of Auditors.

(b) Supplementary estimates for the financial year 1948: report of the Secretary-General.

(c) Budget estimates for the financial year 1949.

(d) Unforeseen and extraordinary expenses: report of the Secretary-General (Resolution 166(II), B of 20 November 1947).

(e) Reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

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- (f) Report of the Committee on Contributions.
- (g) International Children's Emergency Fund: Annual audit of the accounts of the Fund: report of the Secretary-General.
- 36. Appointments to Fill Vacancies in the Membership of Subsidiary Bodies of the General Assembly:
 - (a) Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, (b) Committee on Contributions, (c) Board of Auditors, (d) Investments Committee.
- 37. United Nations Joint Staff Pension Scheme.
- 38. Tax Equalization: proposed staff assessment plan: report of the Secretary-General (Resolution 160 (II) of 20 November 1947).
- 39. United Nations Telecommunications System: report of the Secretary-General (Resolution 153(II) of 20 November 1947).
- 40. Organization of a United Nations Postal Service: report of the Secretary-General (Resolution 159(II) of 20 November 1947).
- 41. Transfer of the assets of the League of Nations: report of the Secretary-General (Resolution 24(I) of 12 February 1946.).
- 42. Composition of the Secretariat and the principle of geographical distribution: report of the Secretary-General (Resolution 153(II) of 15 November 1947).
- 43. Proposal for the adoption of Spanish as one of the working languages of the General Assembly: report of the Secretary-General (Resolution 154(II) of 15 November 1947).
- 44. Violation by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics of Fundamental Human Rights, Traditional Diplomatic Practices and Other Principles of the Charter: items proposed by Chile.

(Note: The Secretary General received from the Government of Chile on 23 June 1948 and communicated to the members of the Interim Committee the following statement to be included as an item in the provisional agenda:

1. Violation by the Soviet Union of fundamental human rights in preventing the Russian wives of foreign nationals from leaving the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics either in company with their husbands or in order to rejoin them, action which could impair friendly relations among nations and violate the principles of the Charter. This is in accordance with Article 14 of the United Nations Charter.

2. Violation by the Soviet Union of fundamental human rights, traditional diplomatic practices and other principles of the Charter in refusing to allow a member of the family of the Ex-Ambassador of Chile to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to leave that country in company with the Ambassador. This is in accordance with Article 14 of the United Nations Charter.)

- 45. Treatment of Indians in the Union of South Africa: item proposed by India

(Note: This question was brought to the attention of the Secretary-General by India on June, 1946. On 8 December 1946 the General Assembly carried a resolution stating that because of the treatment of Indians in the Union of South Africa friendly relations between the two Member States

had been impaired and were likely to be further impaired unless a satisfactory settlement was reached, expressing the opinion that treatment of Indians in the Union should conform to international obligations under agreements concluded between the two Governments and relevant provisions of the Charter, and requesting the two Governments. to report at the next session of the Assembly the measures adopted to this effect. Both Governments reported to the Second Session of the General Assembly, in the fall of 1947, but a resolution on the subject carried by the Political and Security Committee during that session failed to obtain the required two-thirds majority in plenary meeting of the Assembly.

46. Equitable Geographical Distribution of the Seats for the Six Non-Permanent Members in the Security Council: item proposed by India.
47. Amendment of Rule 149 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly to Provide for the Recognition of the Principle of a Percentage Ceiling in the Scale of Assessments to meet Expenses of the United Nations: item proposed by the United States of America.
48. Increase to Twenty-Four of the Number of Member States represented in the Economic and Social Council: item proposed by Argentina.
