

GENERAL
ASSEMBLY

SIXTH SESSION

Official Records



Tuesday, 29 January 1952, at 10.30 a.m.

Palais de Chaillot, Paris

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Chairman: Mr. Manfred LACHS (Poland).

Application of the Headquarters Agreement to representatives of non-governmental organizations (A/1926) (*concluded*)

[Item 59]*

1. Mr. MOUSSA (Egypt) endorsed the views expressed by the Iraqi and Syrian representatives at the previous meeting. The joint draft resolution of Iran and France (A/C.6/L.227) should be recognized as being purely procedural, in no way prejudicing the right of representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to attend the discussions of the General Assembly and its Committees. He noted with satisfaction the statement by the United States representative at the previous meeting that the right would be safeguarded by the United States Government. If the operative part of the joint draft resolution, as modified by the addition of paragraph 2 of the Polish amendment (A/C.6/L.229), which the sponsors of the joint draft resolution had accepted, gave rise to difficulties, as certain representatives feared, the General Assembly would be able to reopen the question.

2. Mr. DUPUY (France) observed that although in the phrase "to make arrangements to enable the representative designated by any non-governmental organization" the term "representative" was in the singular, there was no need to interpret it in an absolutely restrictive sense. If the Secretary-General had to take into account practical considerations, as, for example, the number of seats that could be reserved, other factors could in certain cases provide grounds for permitting the same organization to send several representatives if it justified its need to do so. It would be for the Economic and Social Council to decide.

3. Mr. MOUSSA (Egypt) asked that the Polish amendment should be voted upon by paragraphs.

4. The CHAIRMAN put the Polish amendment (A/C.6/L.229) to the draft resolution of France and Iran (A/C.6/L.227) to the vote, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraph 1 of the amendment was rejected by 24 votes to 6, with 9 abstentions.

Paragraph 2 of the amendment was rejected by 15 votes to 12, with 13 abstentions.

5. Mr. BORATYNSKI (Poland) having asked for a separate vote on the phrase "upon the request of the Economic and Social Council or its Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations" in the operative part of the joint draft resolution of France and Iran (A/C.6/L.227), the CHAIRMAN put the phrase to the vote.

The phrase was adopted by 33 votes to 6, with one abstention.

6. The CHAIRMAN reminded the Committee that the sponsors of the draft resolution of France and Iran had modified the operative part of that text so as to read:

"1. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General, upon the request of the Economic and Social Council or its Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, to make arrangements to enable the representative designated by any non-governmental organization having consultative status to attend public meetings of the General Assembly whenever economic and social matters are discussed which are within the competence of the Council and of the organization concerned;

"2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to give assistance to representatives of such non-governmental organizations in facilitating transit to or from sessions of the General Assembly and its Committees."

The draft resolution, as modified, was adopted by 33 votes to 5, with 2 abstentions.

* Indicates the item number on the General Assembly agenda.

7. Mr. BARTOS (Yugoslavia) explained that he had abstained from voting on the draft resolution because it failed to safeguard sufficiently the rights of non-governmental organizations having consultative status to attend the discussions.

8. Mr. MAJID ABBAS (Iraq) said he had voted against paragraph 2 of the Polish amendment because he had wished the paragraph to be adopted as an addition to the operative part of the joint draft resolution, and not to replace it. But he had voted for the draft resolution itself, which contained that paragraph in a modified form.

Request of the Government of China for revision of the Chinese text of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (A/1880) (concluded)

[Item 56]*

9. Mr. P. D. MOROZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking on a point of order, said that any request for a revision of the Chinese text of the Genocide Convention should come from the legitimate Government of China, which was not represented in the United Nations. Discussion of the request before the Committee, which had been submitted by the Kuomintang group, would therefore have no legal meaning, and he would take no part in the debate or the voting upon it.

10. Mr. PETRZELKA (Czechoslovakia), Mr. KOVALENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic), Mr. KUSTOV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) and Mr. BORATYNSKI (Poland) said that they, too, would not take part in the debate or the voting upon the item, for the reasons given by the USSR representative.

11. Mr. HSU (China) said that his delegation had asked for a revision of the Chinese text of the Convention in order to make it more uniform with the other official texts; and with its request had submitted a revised version. Early in the current session (268th meeting) the Chairman of the Committee had asked the Secretariat to examine the revised text, and the Legal Department and his delegation had gone over it thoroughly together and agreed upon the final version. But as the work had taken longer than expected, insufficient time remained before the end of the session for the final text to be submitted to his Government for its approval. He therefore asked for the discussion on the request to be deferred until the seventh session. He would vote for the draft resolution (A/C.6/L.230) which the Iranian representative was submitting on the subject.

12. Mr. ABDOH (Iran) felt that the Chinese representative's request for postponement ought to be granted, and accordingly submitted draft resolution A/C.6/L.230, reading as follows:

The General Assembly,

Having included on the agenda of its sixth session the question entitled "Request of the Government of China for revision of the Chinese text of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide",

1. *Takes note of the desire of the Government of China to defer the consideration of this question;*

2. *Decides to include this question in the agenda of its seventh session.*

13. Mr. WYNES (Australia) said he had unofficially examined the revised Chinese text of the Genocide Convention, partly on his own initiative and partly at the request of the Secretariat. He thought the Committee would be interested to know that the main difficulty had been to find a suitable Chinese expression for the term "genocide", which was indeed a new word in all languages. Various expressions had been suggested, including one which, literally translated into English, meant "putting a race in peril" and another which meant "massacre of a group". Neither of those versions was entirely satisfactory, the concept of a race in the former and of complete extermination conveyed by the latter being rather too broad for the purposes of the Convention. Many of the other changes made in the text were purely stylistic. He had not had time to study the revised translation of articles 2 and 3, the most important articles of the Convention, because the work on them had not been completed soon enough. He suggested that when the revised Chinese text was completed, the Secretariat should circulate it immediately to governments. In that way, time would be saved and the Sixth Committee would be in a position to take any necessary action at the seventh session.

14. U ZAW WIN (Burma) said that he could not support the Iranian draft resolution as it stood and proposed that the first paragraph of the operative part should be replaced by the following text: "*Desiring to defer the consideration of this question until the Government of China is able to decide on the matter*".

15. Mr. HSU (China) regretted that he could not accept the Burmese amendment since it seemed to imply some quite unwarranted criticism of his Government.

16. Mr. MOUSSA (Egypt) suggested, as a compromise solution, that the paragraph in question should be amended to read: "*Considering that the elements necessary for the discussion of this question are not yet at the disposal of the General Assembly*".

17. U ZAW WIN (Burma) and Mr. HSU (China) accepted that suggestion.

18. Mr. ABDOH (Iran) also accepted the Egyptian amendment and added that the word "provisional" should be inserted before the word "agenda" in the last paragraph of the draft resolution.

The Iranian draft resolution (A/C.6/L.230), as amended, was adopted by 29 votes to none with 5 abstentions.

Conclusion of the Committee's proceedings

19. Mr. BERNSTEIN (Chile), speaking for the Latin-American delegations, paid tribute to the Chairman's conduct of the proceedings. If the Committee had failed to achieve results that might have been expected of it, that was no fault of the Chairman, but was rather due to the complexity of the questions and to the international atmosphere.

20. He also paid a tribute to the Vice-Chairman, the Rapporteur, the Assistant Secretary-General and the Secretariat associated with the Committee.

21. Mr. AMMOUN (Lebanon) said his and the other Arab delegations were grateful for the assistance the Committee had received from the Chairman, its officers and the Secretariat. Despite the international atmos-

phere, the Committee had succeeded in conducting its proceedings in relative calm.

22. Mr. FITZMAURICE (United Kingdom) associated himself with the tributes paid by previous speakers to the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, the Rapporteur and the Secretariat. He had always found the statements of the Secretariat, and particularly those of the Assistant Secretary-General, objective and informative and would continue to welcome them.

23. Mr. P. D. MOROZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) also expressed his delegation's appreciation of the work done by the Chairman and the Secretariat. Despite all the Chairman's efforts to arrive at the best possible results, the Committee had been unable, because of the attitude of some delegations, to do all it could have done to strengthen international peace and security.

24. Mr. WENDELEN (Belgium), Mr. PETRZELKA (Czechoslovakia), Mr. MOUSSA (Egypt), Mr. DUPUY (France), Mr. FARZAND ALI (Pakistan) and Mr. MAK-TOS (United States of America) associated their delegations with the tributes paid by previous speakers.

25. Mr. PEREZ PEROZO (Venezuela), in supporting the tributes paid by other representatives, noted particularly that the Chairman's able conduct of the Committee's proceedings was due in no small measure to the dignity, wisdom and impartiality he had displayed; none of his decisions had been overruled and few points of order had been raised.

26. He thanked speakers for their complimentary references to his contribution, as Vice-Chairman, to the Committee's work.

27. Mr. ABDOLAH (Iran), Rapporteur, thanked members for their appreciation of his efforts, adding that he had received invaluable and clear guidance from the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman.

28. The CHAIRMAN thanked the members of the Committee for the confidence they had shown him and for their assistance and co-operation throughout the session. He paid a tribute to the Vice-Chairman for his wisdom, tact and courtesy and to the Rapporteur for the remarkable way in which he had carried out a difficult task. He also thanked the Assistant Secretary-General and all the members of the Secretariat for the help they had given the Committee. His task as Chairman had not always been an easy one, but he had tried to discharge his duties faithfully.

29. In future, the Committee should be constantly on the watch to see that the provisions of the Charter were upheld, for the Charter was the supreme law of the United Nations and its purpose was to serve the cause of international co-operation and peace. He felt that the Committee had not made sufficient efforts to that end during the current session and he earnestly hoped that it would make greater efforts in future to see that the laws it served and interpreted were always the laws of peace.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.