

GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY

TWELFTH SESSION

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Chairman: Mr. Santiago PEREZ PEREZ (Venezuela).

Request by the Fourth Committee for an opinion by the Sixth Committee on the majority required for the adoption by the General Assembly of resolutions relating to matters referred to in Chapter XI of the Charter (A/C.6/355; A/C.6/L.408) (continued)

1. The CHAIRMAN announced that the General Assembly at its 722nd plenary meeting had taken a decision on agenda item 35, which comprised the question before the Committee. Accordingly, he thought that no action on the Committee's part was called for, and an answer to that effect should be communicated to the Fourth Committee. Nevertheless, if some delegations wished to continue to debate the question in general, the Sixth Committee might propose its inclusion in the provisional agenda for the thirteenth session.

2. Mr. MALOLES (Philippines) said that, in the circumstances, it was unnecessary for the Committee to continue what would be a purely academic debate. He thought that the General Assembly should have consulted the Committee before reaching a decision. He moved the closure of the debate.

3. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) opposed the motion; in his opinion, the Committee was still seized of the question and was competent to give the Fourth Committee the opinion requested.

4. Mr. PERERA (Ceylon) said that the fact that the General Assembly had taken a decision had no bearing on the request for the Committee's opinion. The General Assembly had the right to take whatever decisions

it pleased, but the Sixth Committee would be failing in its task if it did not deal with the question referred to it. If the majority considered that the Committee had no time to discuss the matter thoroughly during the current session, it could be referred to the thirteenth session. He therefore opposed the motion for the closure of the debate.

The motion for the closure of the debate was adopted by 24 votes to 20, with 12 abstentions.

5. Mr. VALLAT (United Kingdom) said he had voted for the motion because, in consequence of the General Assembly's vote, whatever opinion the Sixth Committee might express would be pointless. His delegation had been fully prepared to discuss the substance of the question, but doubted whether the Committee was now entitled to consider the substance at the current session. At the same time, he thought that the Committee was at liberty to answer the Fourth Committee along the lines suggested by the Chairman.

6. Mr. TABIBI (Afghanistan) said he had voted against the motion because he considered that the Sixth Committee should have replied to the Fourth Committee before closing the debate. The Committee had been prevented from expressing its opinion fittingly by the Fourth Committee's action in reporting to the General Assembly without awaiting that opinion. Nevertheless, he thought it was still open to the Sixth Committee to hold over the item to the next session; that point should be voted on forthwith.

7. Mr. CASTAÑEDA (Mexico) considered that the Committee should not have decided to close the debate and that, in any case, the decision related solely to the substance of the question and did not exclude the adoption of a draft resolution. In order to give the Committee time to reflect, he moved the adjournment of the meeting under rule 119 of the rules of procedure.

The motion was adopted by 44 votes to none, with 11 abstentions.

The meeting rose at 3.50 p.m.