

UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



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A/C.4/34/L.1
26 September 1979

ORIGINAL: FRENCH

Thirty-fourth session
FOURTH COMMITTEE

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Note by the Chairman

1. With a view to assisting the Fourth Committee in the effective discharge of the tasks entrusted to it by the General Assembly, the Chairman of the Fourth Committee wishes to submit to the members of the Committee for their consideration the following observations and recommendations concerning the organization of the Committee's work for the thirty-fourth session:

A. Items allocated to the Fourth Committee

2. The items on the agenda of the General Assembly allocated to the Fourth Committee for consideration and report are listed in document A/C.4/34/1. Background information on these items is set out in the annotated preliminary list of items on the provisional agenda of the thirty-fourth session (A/34/100 and Add.1). 1/

B. Decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its
4th plenary meeting, on 21 September 1979

3. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 21 September, the General Assembly, by approving the first report of the General Committee (A/34/250), adopted a number of decisions on the organization of its work for the session, having particular relevance to the work of the Main Committees, as set out below:

1/ For the final list of items adopted by the General Assembly see document A/34/251.

1. Schedule of meetings

4. Both plenary and committee meetings should begin at 10.30 a.m. and 3 p.m. and, in order to expedite the work of the General Assembly, all meetings should begin promptly at the scheduled time.

2. Explanations of vote

5. Explanations of vote should be limited to 10 minutes; when the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in the plenary, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in the plenary unless that delegation's vote in the plenary is different from its vote in the Committee.

3. Right of reply

6. Delegations should exercise their right of reply at the end of the day whenever two meetings have been scheduled for that day and whenever such meetings are devoted to the consideration of the same item. The number of interventions in the exercise of the right of reply for any delegation at a given meeting should be limited to two per item. The first intervention in the exercise of the right of reply for any delegation on any item at a given meeting should be limited to 10 minutes and the second intervention should be limited to 5 minutes.

4. Closing date of the session

7. The closing date of the thirty-fourth session will be Tuesday, 18 December 1979.

5. Budgetary and financial questions

8. A mandatory deadline, not later than 1 December, should be established for the submission to the Fifth Committee of all draft resolutions with financial implications. A minimum period of 48 hours should be allowed between the submission and the voting of a proposal involving expenditure in order to allow the Secretary-General to prepare and present the related statement of administrative and financial implications.

C. Order of priorities and procedure for the consideration of items

9. Rule 99, paragraph (b), of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly provides that:

(b) Each Main Committee, taking into account the closing date for the session fixed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the General

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Committee, shall adopt its own priorities and meet as may be necessary to complete the consideration of the items referred to it. It shall at the beginning of the session adopt a programme of work indicating, if possible, a target date for the conclusion of its work, the approximate dates of consideration of items and the number of meetings to be allocated to each item.'

10. On the basis of preliminary consultations held in that regard and in the light of the availability of the relevant documentation, it is suggested that the Fourth Committee take up the item entitled "Activities of foreign economic and other interests which are impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Southern Rhodesia and Namibia and in all other Territories under colonial domination and efforts to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa" /agenda item 92/ as the first item.

11. Subject to the foregoing suggestion being acceptable to the Fourth Committee and in order to facilitate the work of the Committee, it is suggested that, in accordance with establish procedures, the Committee may wish to agree in principle to hold three separate general debates, one to cover six agenda items /18, 89, 91, 93 and 12, 94 and 95/ and the other two, agenda items 90 and 92 respectively. It is understood that draft resolutions and/or proposals will be considered separately as they become available.

12. For the purpose of planning and taking into account its experience in previous years, the Fourth Committee may wish to consider adopting as a provisional guideline the approximate dates set out below for the consideration of these items on its agenda:

D. Approximate dates for the consideration of items

Agenda item	Approximate number of meetings	Approximate dates for consideration
1. Activities of foreign economic and other interests ... / <u>92</u> /	8	3 to 12 October
2. Six items / <u>18</u> , 89, 91, 93 and 12, 94 and <u>96</u> /	19-20	15 October-2 November
3. Souther Rhodesia / <u>90</u> /	9-10	5 to 15 November

13. In the preparation of the above time-table, the Chairman was guided by the following considerations:

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(a) The order of priorities for the consideration of items may be modified should subsequent developments so warrant;

(b) It is understood that, should the General Assembly decide to take up, in plenary meetings, the question of Namibia /27/ during the period indicated above, the time-table for the work of the Fourth Committee would be modified on the basis of the related programme of work of the Assembly. The Committee will be apprised of the results of the Chairman's continuing consultations in that regard with the President of the General Assembly, the President of the United Nations Council for Namibia and the presiding officer of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

(c) For the purpose of planning, it is assumed that the question of the implementation of the Declaration as a whole /18/ may be taken up in plenary meetings during the latter half of November. Should the General Assembly decide otherwise, the Committee's time-table will also be modified accordingly;

(d) Petitioners will be heard as and when the related items are under consideration;

(e) The available conference facilities will enable the Fourth Committee to hold up to seven meetings per week.

14. With respect to the target date for the conclusion of its work called for in rule 99, paragraph (b) (see para. 9 above), the Fourth Committee may wish to set Friday, 16 November as a provisional target date, subject to possible modifications arising from the considerations outlined in paragraph 13 above.

E. Meetings records

15. Paragraph 10 (e) of General Assembly resolution 2538 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969 reads as follows:

"Speeches or statements by representatives, by the Secretary-General or his representative, or by persons presenting reports on behalf of committees or other bodies, may be reproduced in extenso in summary records or as official documents only if they serve as bases for discussion, provided that the relevant decision is taken by the body concerned after a statement of the financial implications has been submitted in accordance with regulation 13.1 of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations."

According to the competent offices of the Secretariat, the average cost of such documentation is estimated at some \$3,000 per 10 pages, in six languages.

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F. Prepared texts of speeches

16. In order to allow distribution of prepared texts of statements made in the Main Committees to delegations, specialized agencies, observers, interpreters and record-writers, 200 copies are required. A minimum of 12 copies should be given in advance of delivery of the speech, in order to help the Secretariat to provide the best possible service.
