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Agenda item 120

DRAFTING OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AGAINST THE
TAKING OF HOSTAGES

Report of the Sixth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ibrahim Abdul-Aziz OMAR (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

1. The item entitled "Drafting of an international convention against the taking of hostages: report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Drafting of an International Convention against the Taking of Hostages" was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-third session of the General Assembly pursuant to paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 32/148 of 16 December 1977.
2. On the recommendation of the General Committee, the General Assembly decided at its 4th plenary meeting, on 22 September 1978, to include the item in its agenda and at its 5th plenary meeting, held on the same date, to allocate it to the Sixth Committee.
3. In connexion with this item, the Sixth Committee had before it the report of the the Ad Hoc Committee on the Drafting of an International Convention against the Taking of Hostages 1/, as well as a report of the Secretary-General (A/33/194) containing suggestions and proposals submitted by States in response to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 32/148.
4. The Sixth Committee considered the item at its 44th and 46th to 53rd meetings, between 10 and 21 November 1978. The summary records of these meetings (A/C.6/33/SR.44 and 46 to 53) contain the views of representatives who spoke during the consideration of this item.
5. At the 46th meeting, on 13 November, the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany introduced a draft resolution (A/C.6/33/L.5) sponsored by Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana,

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/33/39 and Corr.1).

Greece, Guatemala, Iceland, India, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Philippines, Portugal, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Venezuela, later joined by Bolivia, Honduras, Paraguay, Peru and Suriname.

6. The Sixth Committee had before it a statement submitted by the Secretary-General on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution (A/C.6/33/L.6).

7. At its 53rd meeting, on 21 November, the Sixth Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.6/33/L.5 by consensus (see para. 8 below).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE

8. The Sixth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Drafting of an International Convention against the Taking of Hostages

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 31/103 of 15 December 1976 and 32/148 of 16 December 1977,

Having considered the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Drafting of an International Convention against the Taking of Hostages,

Considering that the Ad Hoc Committee has been unable to complete the mandate given to it within the allocated time,

Mindful of the need to conclude, under the auspices of the United Nations, an international convention against the taking of hostages, taking into account the urgency of formulating effective measures to put an end to the taking of hostages,

Bearing in mind the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee that it should continue its work in 1979,

1. Takes note of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Drafting of an International Convention against the Taking of Hostages;

2. Decides that the Ad Hoc Committee, as constituted, should continue, in accordance with paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 31/103, to draft, at the earliest possible date, an international convention against the taking of hostages and, in the fulfilment of its mandate, to consider suggestions and proposals from any State, bearing in mind the views expressed during the debate of this item at the thirty-third session of the Assembly;

/...

3. Invites Governments to submit, or to bring up to date, suggestions and proposals for consideration by the Ad Hoc Committee;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to render all assistance to the Ad Hoc Committee, including the preparation of summary records of its meetings;

5. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to submit its report and to make every effort to submit a draft convention against the taking of hostages to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-fourth session the item entitled "Drafting of an international convention against the taking of hostages".
