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Thirty-second session

REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM IN THE AGENDA  
OF THE THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

PLACE OF MEETING OF THE THIRTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Letter dated 1 December 1977 from the representatives of  
Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and  
Thailand to the United Nations addressed to the  
Secretary-General

Further to the letter, dated 21 October 1977, addressed to you by the Acting Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations (A/32/246), we have the honour to request, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure, the inclusion in the agenda of the thirty-second session of the General Assembly of an additional item entitled "Place of meeting of the thirty-third session of the General Assembly".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure, an explanatory memorandum and a draft resolution are attached.

(Signed) Chaidir ANWAR SANI (Indonesia)  
Tan Sri ZAITON Ibrahim (Malaysia)  
Alejandro D. YANGO (Philippines)  
T. T. B. KOH (Singapore)  
Pracha GUNA KASEM (Thailand)

ANNEX I

Explanatory memorandum

1. The Philippine Government extended its offer to act as host to the thirty-third session of the General Assembly at Manila next year in a statement by Her Excellency Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, Special Envoy of the President of the Philippines, delivered during the 15th plenary meeting of the current session of the General Assembly on 30 September 1977 (A/32/PV.15, pp. 48-50).

2. The offer was made in accordance with rule 3 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, which states:

"The General Assembly shall meet at the Headquarters of the United Nations unless convened elsewhere in pursuance of a decision taken at a previous session or at the request of a majority of the Members of the United Nations."

3. In her statement, Mrs. Marcos suggested that, in the interest of a deeper understanding of its problems and conditions, the General Assembly should meet on occasion in the third world.

4. She pointed out that the Philippines "is a country of the third world, which is a microcosm, and archetype of its problems ..." and added:

"It is a country where the General Assembly may see for itself what is meant by the third world. Perhaps we may get the feel of its problems at first hand while enjoying the most modern facilities and comforts which the work of the General Assembly and its Secretariat requires for maximum efficiency."

5. In the course of the current session extensive consultations have been made with respect to the offer of the Philippine Government. It was evident from these consultations that there was opposition to the holding of a full regular session of the General Assembly lasting three months. The Philippine Government therefore, in its desire for harmony and accommodation, has accordingly modified its offer in the sense that, instead of a full regular session, its invitation is now for the first part of the session, which consists of the ceremonial opening, the organization of work and the general debate, which altogether will last approximately four weeks.

6. Manila has the facilities to enable the General Assembly, the delegations and the Secretariat to carry out their work effectively, in connexion with the convening of the first part of the session as above specified.

7. For this purpose, the Philippine Government is prepared to undertake the financial responsibilities involved, including those provided for in General Assembly resolutions 2609 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969 and 31/140 of 17 December 1976.

/...

8. Since the founding of the United Nations, there has not been a regular session of the General Assembly held in a developing country. The General Assembly has met three times outside of Headquarters in capitals of developed countries. It is timely, therefore, that the General Assembly be convened in one of the countries of the third world.

9. It is hoped that the General Assembly would accept the offer of the Philippine Government to act as host to the above described first part of its thirty-third session in 1978.

ANNEX II

Draft resolution

The General Assembly,

Considering that, under the provisions of rule 3 of its rules of procedure, the General Assembly may be convened elsewhere than at the Headquarters of the United Nations, in pursuance of a decision taken at a previous session or at the request of a majority of the Members of the United Nations,

Aware that, since the founding of the United Nations, there has not been a regular session of the General Assembly held in a developing country,

Convinced of the desirability of convening on occasion the regular session of the General Assembly in a developing country, in order that representatives of Governments and international organizations may have a deeper understanding of the conditions and problems of the third world,

Noting the offer of the Government of the Philippines to act as host to the thirty-third regular session of the General Assembly,

Taking into account its resolutions 2609 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969 and 31/140 of 17 December 1976,

1. Decides that the first part of the thirty-third regular session of the General Assembly, which consists of the ceremonial opening, the organization of work and the general debate and will last for approximately four weeks, shall be held at Manila and that the continuation of the session shall be held at United Nations Headquarters;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to take all appropriate steps for the implementation of the present resolution.

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