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Thirty-second session  
FIFTH COMMITTEE  
Agenda item 107 (f)

APPOINTMENTS TO FILL VACANCIES IN THE MEMBERSHIP  
OF SUBSIDIARY ORGANS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

International Civil Service Commission

Note by the Secretary-General

1. By his notes of 27 May 1977 and 18 November 1977, 1/ the Secretary-General advised the General Assembly that:

(a) the terms of office of five members of the International Civil Service Commission would expire on 31 December 1977 and that it would be necessary for the Assembly to appoint five persons to fill the resulting vacancies, for terms of office of four years beginning on 1 January 1978;

(b) as a result of the death of Mr. A. L. Adu (Ghana), the late Vice-Chairman of the Commission, it would be necessary for the General Assembly to appoint a member, who would, in accordance with article 5 (2) of the statute of the Commission, serve for the unexpired portion of Mr. Adu's term of office, i.e., to serve until 31 December 1978; and

(c) it would also be necessary for the Assembly to designate a new Vice-Chairman of the Commission.

2. With regard to the appointment of five members, referred to in paragraph 1 (a) above, article 5 (1) of the statute of the Commission reads as follows:

"The members of the Commission shall be appointed for a term of four years and may be re-appointed. Of the members initially appointed, however, the terms of five members shall expire at the end of three years, and the terms of five other members at the end of two years."

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1/ A/32/106 and Add.1.

The members whose terms of office will expire on 31 December 1977, after having held office for a period of three years are:

Mr. T. Hagiwara (Japan)  
Mr. R. E. Hampton (United States of America)  
Mr. A. H. M. Hillis (United Kingdom)  
Mr. A. Fonseca-Pimentel (Brazil)  
Mr. J.-L. Plihon (France)

3. Under the procedure set forth in article 4 of the statute of the Commission, the Secretary-General has carried out the prescribed consultations with Member States, with the executive heads of the other organizations and with staff representatives. He has also consulted with the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. As a result, the Secretary-General is now in a position to propose the following actions which he suggests the Fifth Committee recommend to the General Assembly.

(a) That the General Assembly appoint the following persons as members of the International Civil Service Commission for terms of four years, beginning on 1 January 1978:

Mr. A. Fonseca-Pimentel (Brazil)  
Mr. A. H. M. Hillis (United Kingdom)  
Mr. A. Matsui (Japan)\*  
Mr. J.-L. Plihon (France)  
Mrs. E. H. Poston (United States of America)\*

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\* Biographical data in respect of these nominees are transmitted in an annex to this note. The other nominees have been members of the Commission since its inception on 1 January 1975.

(b) That the General Assembly appoint Mr. R. M. Akwei (Ghana) to replace Mr. A. L. Adu as a member of the Commission, to serve for the unexpired portion of Mr. Adu's term of office, i.e., until 31 December 1978.

(c) That the General Assembly designate Mr. Akwei as Vice-Chairman of the Commission to serve until 31 December 1978. (Biographical data of Mr. Akwei are also included in the annex to this note.)

Annex

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA OF NOMINEES

AKIRA MATSUI

Date of birth: 6 January 1908  
Place of birth: Paris, France  
Nationality: Japanese  
Education: March 1931 Graduated from the Tokyo Imperial University (Law)

Professional experience:

1954-1955 Deputy Vice-Foreign Minister for Administration  
1955-1957 Minister to France  
1957-1959 Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Ceylon  
1959-1962 Ambassador E. and P. to Sweden  
1962-1963 Deputy Permanent Representative to UN  
1963-1967 Permanent Representative to UN  
1967-1970 Ambassador E. and P. to France  
1971-1976 Commissioner, Japan Atomic Energy Commission  
1976- Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Experience in UN:

1956-1962 Member of the Executive Board of UNESCO  
1965 President, Economic and Social Council of UN  
1966 President, Security Council of UN

ERSA H. POSTON

Ersa H. Poston was nominated by President Carter on 4 May 1977 to be a member of the U.S. Civil Service Commission and was confirmed by the Senate on 15 June 1977.

She served as a member and former president of the New York State Civil Service Commission.

Career chronology

Mrs. Poston joined the New York State Civil Service Commission in 1967. Prior to that she was director of the New York State Office of Economic Opportunity from 1965 to 1967.

In 1964 and 1965 she served as confidential assistant to then Governor Nelson Rockefeller. She was youth work program coordinator for the New York State Division for Youth from 1962 to 1964 and area director for the New York State Youth Commission from 1957 to 1962.

From 1955 to 1957 she served as assistant director of the New York City Youth Board in the Office of the Mayor of New York. She was field secretary for the New York City Welfare and Health Council from 1953 to 1955.

Prior to 1953, Mrs. Poston was Director, Assistant Director, and Young Adult Program Director, Clinton Community Center, New York City (1948 to 1953); Teenage Program Director, West Side Branch YWCA, New York City (1947 and 1948); and Community Organization Secretary, Hartford, Connecticut, Tuberculosis and Health Association (1946 and 1947).

Personal

Mrs. Poston was born 3 May 1921 in Paducah, Kentucky. She received a B.A. from Kentucky State University in 1942 and an M.S.W. from the Atlanta School of Social Work in 1946. She holds an honorary Doctor of Laws degree, conferred by Union College, Schenectady, New York.

Civil and professional affiliations

Public Member, Administrative Conference of the United States.

Member: Academy of Certified Social Workers; National Academy of Public Administration; American Society for Public Administration; Board of Directors, National Institute of Public Management; Board of Directors, Whitney M. Young Memorial Foundation, Inc.; Coalition of 100 Black Women; National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; National Association of Social Workers; National Conference on Social Welfare.

Positions formerly held

U.S. delegate, thirty-first session (1976) of the United Nations General Assembly.

Vice-Presiding Officer, National Commission on the Observance of International Women's Year.

President, International Personnel Management Association (1975).

Chairman, President's Advisory Council on Intergovernmental Personnel Policy (1971 to 1974).

Vice-President, National Urban League (1972 to 1974).

Secretary, National Urban League (1968 to 1972).

Arbitration Practice Committee, American Arbitration Association.

Board of Directors, National Training and Development Service for State and Local Government.

Board of Directors, National Urban Fellows.

Board of Directors, The National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

Member: Board of Trustees, Atlanta University; National Commission on the Observance of International Women's Year (1975); National Commission to Study Goals for State Colleges and Universities.

MR. RICHARD M. AKWEI

BORN: November 1923

EDUCATION: Achimota College (Inter BA) 1945; Christ Church, Oxford University (B.A. - Politics, Philosophy, Economics) 1951; London University, Certificate of Education, 1952.

CAREER:

1945-1948 Clerk, Supreme Court of the Gold Coast  
1952-1956 Administration Officer in the then Gold Coast Service  
1957-1960 Foreign Service Officer Ghana Embassy, Washington  
1960-1962 Director, Western European and Eastern European Depts., Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ACCRA  
1963 Principal Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
1964-1965 Ambassador of Ghana to Mexico  
1965-1967 Permanent Representative of Ghana to European Office of UN in Geneva - Concurrently Ambassador to Switzerland and Representative to IAEA. Vice-Chairman contracting parties (GATT) 1966-1967.  
1967-1972 Permanent Representative of Ghana to UN NY  
1972-1976 Ambassador to People's Republic of China  
1976 Senior Principal Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ACCRA  
  
Member and Leader of Government.  
  
Delegations to many international conferences. Was Chairman of UN General Assembly's Second (Economic) Committee 1968.  
  
Vice-President of the General Assembly in 1969.