

GENERAL
ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 13 October 1959,
at 10.30 a.m.

FOURTEENTH SESSION

Official Records

NEW YORK

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President: Mr. Víctor A. BELAUNDE (Peru).

AGENDA ITEM 8

Adoption of the agenda (*continued*)THIRD REPORT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE
(A/4237) (*concluded*)

1. The PRESIDENT (*translated from Spanish*): I propose to call upon the representatives who wish to do so to explain their votes on the decision taken by the General Assembly yesterday [826th meeting] with regard to the inclusion of the question of Tibet in the agenda.

2. Mr. VIDIC (Yugoslavia): I wish to explain briefly why my delegation voted against the inclusion of the Question of Tibet in the agenda of this Assembly.

3. We have heard the views expressed on this question. I must say that the arguments brought forth in favour of debate on the question under consideration have failed to convince us. Of course, we may only regret that the international community is still unable effectively to intervene in many places where human rights are threatened or not adhered to. Notwithstanding this, and independently of the actions of the Government of the People's Republic of China in Tibet, or of the degree of responsibility involved from the viewpoint of the principles of the Charter, and leaving aside arguments about the régime in Tibet, especially as we are dealing with a matter involving national sentiments, independently of all this, I say, we see as decisive against the inclusion of this item the following reasons.

4. First, taking into account the existing set up of international circumstances and both the reasons of principle and the practical reasons, the course of action that has been taken to bring about discussion on the issue only burdens our work here with unnecessary dissensions and contributes objectively to the revival of both the substance and the methods of the cold war. This is all the more so as we are witnessing an encouraging process of improvement in international relations, a process which should be given every support.

5. Secondly, the course of action taken here is all the more unwarranted and difficult to accept since the People's Republic of China is at the same time denied the right of participating in the consideration of the question in the General Assembly, that is to say, the right of being adequately represented in the United Nations.

6. Mr. DE LEQUERICA (Spain) (*translated from Spanish*): I should like to explain the position of the Spanish delegation in this vote, in which we abstained.

7. The position of Spain with regard to the excesses committed by the communist régime of the People's Republic of China has already been set forth in the statement which I made during the general debate [823rd meeting], and it is unequivocal and clear. We categorically condemn the behaviour of the Chinese Communists towards the peaceful inhabitants of Tibet, as also their attacks on the religious beliefs, the political system and even the social structure of that country. By their action they have not only infringed fundamental human rights but have ignored their own moral commitments of a domestic nature towards the Tibetan people. We are not deterred by any suggestion that our statements might exacerbate the international atmosphere.

8. Yesterday [826th meeting] the representative of El Salvador, with his well-known eloquence, pointed out that, if international order was to be founded on the concealment of crimes and if evil deeds affecting international harmony were to be passed over in silence, peace would have little meaning since it would be based on a fiction and a denial of reality. If we are to achieve peaceful settlements, such settlements must be based on an exact knowledge of the aggression committed by whatever peoples may be involved and of the capacity they may possess for committing further aggression, so that the necessary precautions can be taken against the recurrence of such acts in the future; that is the only way in which stability can be achieved in international affairs.

9. Nevertheless, however greatly we may be concerned at the acts of injustice committed in Tibet, we cannot forget that the United Nations is an international organization, the actions of which must be governed by its Charter; Article 2, paragraph 7, of the Charter makes it quite clear that the United Nations is not competent to intervene in the domestic affairs of any country. Our reservations with regard to the question of including this item in the agenda of this session are not therefore due to political reasons or to any lack of feeling where the tribulations of the Tibetan people are concerned, but are based on our great respect for the United Nations Charter and on the desirability of not setting up any precedents which might lead in the future to unjustified interference in the affairs of other States. In the last analysis, this is an internal Chinese question. Whoever may be in authority in China, there is no evidence that Tibet is

completely independent and that it can be considered a nation; nor is there anything to prove that China— whoever may be in power there—is under any obligation to abstain from intervening in Tibetan affairs. What is incumbent upon China is to behave with humanity and due regard for the normal conduct of relations between peoples; and it is with that obligation, and that alone, that China has failed to comply.

10. In making this statement, my delegation is maintaining a position consistent with that which it has taken up to now on all the questions of a similar nature which have come before the United Nations.

11. For the same reasons, my delegation, at previous sessions, considered it improper to intervene in the Algerian question. If we supported the general feeling that the question of Hungary should be taken up, it was because of our fully justified concern at foreign intervention—that of Russian troops—in the domestic affairs of that country.

12. None of the arguments, worthy though they were, which were put forward with the idea of persuading us to vote in favour of the proposal succeeded in convincing us. Those arguments were of a flexible nature, hard to apply to a given case; if they were always to be adopted as a criterion, they would cause confusion in the affairs of the United Nations and, though they would not violate it directly, they would amount to a circumvention of a basic principle of the Charter, namely Article 2, paragraph 7.

13. Those were the considerations which determined our vote on this question.

14. Mr. LORIDAN (Belgium) (translated from French): The Belgian delegation voted for the inclusion of the Question of Tibet in the agenda of the fourteenth session of the General Assembly. It wishes, however, to express formal reservations regarding the competence of the United Nations in the matter.

AGENDA ITEM 15

Election of three non-permanent members of the Security Council (continued)

15. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): I call upon the representative of Argentina, who wishes to make an explanatory statement with regard to the reason for our meeting today.

16. Mr. AMADEO (Argentina) (translated from Spanish): I shall only take up the time of the Assembly for a few moments in order to refer to a point which I wish to clear up, since it concerns the responsible attitude expected of all delegations in this Assembly.

17. Reports have appeared in today's newspapers in which the motion submitted yesterday [826th meeting] by the Argentine delegation is described as a manoeuvre intended to influence the results of the election. I wish vigorously and categorically to deny so mistaken an interpretation.

18. It is not the custom of the Argentine delegation to lend itself to manoeuvres of this kind. Yesterday, I myself gave a clear explanation here of our reasons for taking that step. Firstly, we wished to ensure that at least part of our agenda for the day could be completed that same day. Secondly, we felt it to be advantageous and desirable that there should be a

brief interval after the wearisome process of holding thirteen unsuccessful ballots. This, and this alone, is the reason for our attitude. Moreover, we are quite certain that the forty-three delegations which supported our motion did so with the same intention in view.

19. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): It will be recalled that the election to fill the third vacancy which will occur in the Security Council at the end of this year was suspended after the first of a series of three ballots restricted to the candidates of Poland and Turkey. We shall therefore now proceed to the second restricted ballot.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Salomon (Haiti) and Mr. Lapien (Indonesia) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	81
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	0
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	81
<i>Abstentions:</i>	2
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	79
<i>Required majority:</i>	53
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Poland	43
Turkey	36

20. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): In view of the fact that the result was not decisive, the third restricted ballot will now be held.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Salomon (Haiti) and Mr. Lapien (Indonesia) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	80
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	0
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	80
<i>Abstentions:</i>	2
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	78
<i>Required majority:</i>	52
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Poland	44
Turkey	34

21. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): As a decisive result was not obtained in this vote either, we shall hold a series of three unrestricted ballots. We shall now proceed to the first of these.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Salomon (Haiti) and Mr. Lapien (Indonesia) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	82
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	0
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	82
<i>Abstentions:</i>	3
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	79
<i>Required majority:</i>	53
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Poland	41
Turkey	35
Yugoslavia	2
Sudan	1

22. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): As this first unrestricted ballot failed to produce a decisive result, we shall now hold a second unrestricted ballot.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Salomon (Haiti) and Mr. Lapian (Indonesia) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.	
Number of ballot papers:	82
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	82
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	81
Required majority:	54
Number of votes obtained:	
Poland	40
Turkey	36
Yugoslavia	3
Libya	1
Sudan	1

23. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): Since the second unrestricted ballot has not given a decisive result, we shall now hold the third unrestricted ballot.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Salomon (Haiti) and Mr. Lapian (Indonesia) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.	
Number of ballot papers:	82
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	82
Abstentions:	2
Number of members voting:	80
Required majority:	54
Number of votes obtained:	
Poland	38
Turkey	35
Yugoslavia	7

24. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): In view of the fact that this series of unrestricted ballots has not produced a decisive result, we shall now hold a series of three restricted ballots, in which the only candidates will be Poland and Turkey.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Salomon (Haiti) and Mr. Lapian (Indonesia) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.	
Number of ballot papers:	82
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	82
Abstentions:	2
Number of members voting:	80
Required majority:	54
Number of votes obtained:	
Poland	43
Turkey	37

25. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): The vote having failed to produce a decisive result, we shall now hold a second restricted ballot.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Salomon (Haiti) and Mr. Lapian (Indonesia) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.	
Number of ballot papers:	81
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	81
Abstentions:	2
Number of members voting:	79
Required majority:	53
Number of votes obtained:	
Poland	44
Turkey	35

26. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): The second vote having failed to produce a decisive result, the third restricted ballot will now be held. The only candidates are Poland and Turkey.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Salomon (Haiti) and Mr. Lapian (Indonesia) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.	
Number of ballot papers:	82
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	82
Abstentions:	2
Number of members voting:	80
Required majority:	54
Number of votes obtained:	
Poland	44
Turkey	36

27. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): We shall now hold a further series of unrestricted ballots, in which any country may be a candidate.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Salomon (Haiti) and Mr. Lapian (Indonesia) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.	
Number of ballot papers:	82
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	82
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	81
Required majority:	54
Number of votes obtained:	
Poland	42
Turkey	35
Yugoslavia	4

28. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): We shall now hold a second unrestricted ballot.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Salomon (Haiti) and Mr. Lapian (Indonesia) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.	
Number of ballot papers:	82
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	82
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	81
Required majority:	54
Number of votes obtained:	
Poland	41
Turkey	34
Yugoslavia	6

29. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): We shall now have a third unrestricted ballot.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Salomon (Haiti) and Mr. Lapian (Indonesia) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.	
Number of ballot papers:	81
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	81
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	80
Required majority:	54
Number of votes obtained:	
Poland	38
Turkey	35
Yugoslavia	7

30. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): The next step is to hold the first of three restricted ballots. The sole candidates are Poland and Turkey.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Salomon (Haiti) and Mr. Lopian (Indonesia) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	82
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	0
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	82
<i>Abstentions:</i>	3
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	79
<i>Required majority:</i>	53
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Poland	43
Turkey	36

31. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): I call upon the representative of the United Kingdom on a point of order.

32. Mr. BEELEY (United Kingdom): I think it is clear that we shall not conclude this election by continuing to vote today. I therefore propose that we should suspend the voting for this seat on the Security Council until next Monday, 19 October.

33. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): The General Assembly has heard the United Kingdom representative's proposal that the plenary meeting should be postponed until next Monday. There appears to be no objection to that proposal and I therefore assume that the General Assembly is of the opinion that we should continue this series of ballots next Monday at 10.30 a.m.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.