

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION

Official Records



**GENERAL COMMITTEE, 197th
MEETING**

Friday, 3 December 1971,
at 10.20 a.m.

NEW YORK

Chairman: Mr. Adam MALIK (Indonesia).

Request for the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the twenty-sixth session: item proposed by Argentina, Canada, Chile, Guinea, Iraq, Italy, Pakistan and Yemen (A/8495 and Corr.1)

1. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the letter (A/8495 and Corr.1) requesting the inclusion in the agenda of an item entitled "Amendment to rule 156 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly". In accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure, the representative of Pakistan had requested permission to take part in the discussion of the item.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Shahi (Pakistan) took a place at the Committee table.

2. Mr. SHAHI (Pakistan) said that the explanatory memorandum accompanying the letter clearly explained the reasons why the request for the inclusion of the item in the agenda had been made. It was proposed that rule 156 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly should be amended to increase the membership of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions by one from 12 to 13 so that a national of China might be included. The request had been sponsored by the delegations of Argentina, Canada, Chile, Guinea, Iraq, Italy and Yemen in addition to his own delegation and enjoyed virtually unanimous support in the United Nations. The inclusion of a representative of China would be another step towards implementing General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) of 25 October 1971. It was important that the matter should be dealt with as soon as possible since membership in the Advisory Committee would give China a panoramic view of the Organization's activities. A decision should not be deferred until the twenty-seventh session since that would perpetuate an element of discrimination against a country which was one of the principal contributors to the budget. The proposal was not controversial and took full account of the fact that the Advisory Committee should remain a small group so that it could be convened on short notice and take decisions in a businesslike manner. The proposal would thus not disturb the Advisory Committee's proper functioning. Any additional expenditure would be insignificant and could be approved if the General Committee decided to support the inclusion of the item in the agenda.

3. The CHAIRMAN said that, in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure, the representative of Canada had requested permission to take part in the discussion of the item.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Beaulne (Canada) took a place at the Committee table.

4. Mr. BEAULNE (Canada) said that his delegation was very happy to see a representative of the People's Republic of China in the Committee and was convinced that China could make a significant contribution to the work of the Organization. The Advisory Committee was made up of 12 members elected in such a way as to ensure that there was the widest possible geographical distribution and that the individual members had the qualifications to deal with the relevant matters. Since it favoured the widest possible geographical distribution and in view of the existing arrangements in the General Assembly, his delegation had decided to co-sponsor the request for the inclusion of the item in the agenda. If the request was approved, Canada would co-sponsor an amendment to rule 156 which ensured the full participation of China in the work of the United Nations, without prejudice to the interests of other States.

The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item entitled "Amendment to rule 156 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly" should be included in the agenda and that it should be allocated to the Fifth Committee.

Organization of work

5. The CHAIRMAN noted that more than 10 weeks of the current session had already gone by and less than three weeks remained for the completion of many important items. If the session was to be concluded on the date set, the work of the plenary and some of the Main Committees would have to be speeded up. Part of the problem had arisen as a result of the cancellation of meetings because speakers were not ready to take the floor. The Secretariat was able to service 60 meetings a week, but so far there had not been one week in which that number of meetings had been held.

6. He had already appealed to the Chairmen of the Main Committees which were behind in their work, or which had long lists of speakers, to schedule as many meetings as possible, including night and Saturday meetings where necessary. He had also asked Chairmen to request delegations to introduce draft resolutions as soon as possible. In addition, he had indicated to the officers of the Committees that it would be most desirable to give top priority to items which might have financial implications, so that the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee could act on them.

7. If those measures were acted upon, he hoped that the Assembly could conclude on time without the necessity of taking more drastic steps. However, if there was not a

marked improvement in the pace of work he intended to convene the General Committee to consider more effective measures. He was certain there could be no disagreement with such a course of action since members of the

Committee would surely not wish to contemplate a resumed session early in 1972.

The meeting rose at 10.35 a.m.