

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION

Official Records



**GENERAL COMMITTEE, 190th
MEETING**

Tuesday, 17 November 1970,
at 10.05 a.m.

NEW YORK

Chairman: Mr. Edvard HAMBRO (Norway).

**Request for the inclusion of an additional item in the
agenda of the twenty-fifth session: item proposed by Iraq
(A/8093)**

1. The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of the members of the General Committee to the request for the inclusion in the agenda of an additional item entitled "Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories", submitted by Iraq (A/8093).

2. Mr. EL-SHIBIB (Iraq) recalled that during the General Committee's consideration of the allocation of items at the 188th meeting he had mentioned that, on the publication of the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories,¹ his delegation intended to request the General Committee to recommend its inclusion in the agenda as a separate item. The report had been published on 26 October 1970, and delegations had all had the opportunity to acquaint themselves with it. He drew attention to the explanatory memorandum annexed to the request for the inclusion of the item.

3. His delegation attached great importance to the Special Committee's work. It concerned the human rights of a large number of people and merited discussion in the appropriate Committee. Since the report had already been circulated to the Third Committee and was concerned with humanitarian questions, he felt that the item might best be allocated to the Third Committee. He had an open mind on that subject, however, and would be prepared to consider other suggestions, in the light of the work schedules of the various Committees.

4. Once the decision had been taken he wished to address himself to a particular aspect of the question.

The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item entitled "Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories" should be included in the agenda.

5. Mr. BOYE (Senegal) proposed that the item should be referred to the Special Political Committee. It concerned an important question and might prompt speedier action in that Committee.

¹ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, agenda item 101, document A/8089.

6. Mr. EL-SHIBIB (Iraq), in reply to a question from the CHAIRMAN, said that it would be useful to hear the views of the Chairman of the Special Political Committee.

7. Mr. GHASUS (Afghanistan), speaking as Chairman of the Special Political Committee, said he understood that another item, at present with the First Committee, was to be referred to the Special Political Committee. He was not certain that the latter would have enough time to deal with both items. Since the item under discussion had originated in the International Conference on Human Rights, held in Teheran in 1968, and the question of respect for and implementation of human rights in occupied territories had been discussed in the Third Committee, that Committee seemed the most appropriate one.

8. The CHAIRMAN observed that, according to the Chairman of the Third Committee, the heavy agenda of that Committee would make the acceptance of another item difficult. He suggested that a vote should be taken.

9. Mr. EL-SHIBIB (Iraq), referring to the observations of the representative of Senegal, said that he had proposed that the item should be allocated to the Third Committee for the very reasons given by the Chairman of the Special Political Committee. The Third Committee was familiar with the substance of the item, as the report had already been circulated to its members; moreover, it had been responsible for setting up the Special Committee. Despite its heavy schedule of work, it would be the most appropriate Committee.

10. Mr. DE LA GORCE (France) referred to the letter sent by the President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the Main Committee.² In view of the need to hasten the work of the Assembly and in order to avoid placing an undue burden on any Committee, he supported the proposal that the item should be referred to the Special Political Committee.

11. Mr. BOYE (Senegal) said that he had made his proposal solely to help the representative of Iraq. If the item was referred to the Third Committee it might not be discussed at the present session. The Third Committee had dealt with only two or three of the items on its agenda, and only one month remained before the end of the Assembly.

12. The CHAIRMAN said that there appeared to be no strong political feelings on the allocation of the item. The Senegalese representative's proposal had been made for reasons of time and expediency.

13. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he felt that it would be best to refer the item to the

² A/8165.

Third Committee, since it was an instance of the problem of respect for human rights in armed conflicts now being discussed by that Committee. The subject was important from both the political and the humanitarian points of view, and it could be given proper attention in the Third Committee. If, however, the majority of members of the General Committee thought that it should be assigned to another Committee, his delegation would not object.

14. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the matter should be put to the vote.

15. Mr. BOYE (Senegal) said he questioned the need for a vote. He had the impression that the representative of Iraq accepted the proposal to refer the item to the Special Political Committee.

16. Mr. EL-SHIBIB (Iraq) thanked the representative of Senegal for his efforts to ensure that the item was discussed without delay. Although he had said that he had no strong feelings on the allocation of the item, his impression from speaking with other delegations was that there was a preference for allocating it to the Third Committee. He had no political views on the issue and would leave it to the Chairman.

17. Miss GROZA (Romania), speaking as Chairman of the Third Committee, said there was no reason why the item should not be allocated to the Third Committee despite the latter's heavy agenda. The Third Committee was responsible for all matters concerning human rights and had already received the document in question. If the item was allocated to the Third Committee she hoped that members would make every effort to ensure that the Committee completed its work.

18. Mr. SHEVEL (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) agreed with the Chairman of the Third Committee that the item should be assigned to that Committee.

The Committee decided by 6 votes to 2, with 9 abstentions, to recommend to the General Assembly that the item should be allocated to the Special Political Committee.

19. Mr. EL-SHIBIB (Iraq) said that there were certain curious aspects concerning the letters relating to the report of the Special Committee which he felt should be brought to the attention of the General Committee.

20. His delegation's letter dated 11 November 1970 (A/8093) requesting the inclusion of the report as an additional item in the agenda of the current session had been issued on 13 November, as had a letter from the representative of Israel³ sent to the Secretariat on 13 November and circulated with extraordinary efficiency, on the same day, to which was annexed a statement dated 2 November said to emanate from the Israeli Government. Could the Israeli Mission be so inefficient as to dispatch to the Secretariat on 13 November a statement from its Government dated 2 November?

³ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, Annexes, agenda item 101, document A/8164.

21. Moreover the statement of the representative of Israel, although purporting to be so, was clearly not from the Israeli Government. In the fifth paragraph of the statement reference was made to "this" Mission, whereas the Israeli Government would have referred to "our Mission to the United Nations". The hurried writing, dispatch and publication of the document were curious: delegations could draw their own conclusions. But it was not curious that the Israeli delegation should dismiss the report of the Special Committee—composed of three highly respected, dedicated and honourable men—when it so often dismissed decisions of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

22. He wished to make a further observation. He had been informed that that very morning, in briefing the United Nations guides on the Special Committee's report, the supervisor had not alluded to the report but had explained Israel's achievements. It was obvious to all that the dissemination to the public by guides of such information—or rather misinformation—was harmful and discriminatory. What was even more dangerous was that when asked why she had not made any reference to the report the supervisor had replied that if she had done so she would have got into trouble. From whom? What sort of atmosphere was prevailing in the lobbies and the corridors if the supervisor of guides could not make a reference to the official report of a committee without feeling threatened?

23. The SECRETARY-GENERAL thanked the representative of Iraq for bringing those matters to the notice of the General Committee. He assured him that he would look into them very closely and report to the Committee or another appropriate organ of the United Nations.

24. Mr. STAVROPOULOS (Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly Affairs), referring to the first of the questions raised by the representative of Iraq, said that so far as he could ascertain the letters from the representatives of Iraq and Israel had both been received and published on 13 November 1970.

Organization of the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly (continued)*

25. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Chairmen of the First Committee and of the Special Political Committee should discuss the transfer of the question of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space, so that the General Committee could reconsider the matter at its next meeting.

26. In connexion with his letter to the Chairmen of the Main Committees² he said that it might be necessary to extend the General Assembly session for a further week, though that could still be avoided by dint of harder work and perhaps night meetings.

27. Mr. BOYE (Senegal) said that in some Committees work was not proceeding fast enough; important items were not being discussed because too much time was being spent on minor issues. Perhaps the Chairman could ask the

* Resumed from the 187th meeting.

Chairmen of the Main Committees to speed up the discussions and keep them as brief as possible.

ask the Chairmen of the Main Committees to make every effort to dispatch their work with greater speed than up to the present.

28. The CHAIRMAN said that he could do no better than to echo the appeal of the representative of Senegal and to

The meeting rose at 10.35 a.m.