

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

TWENTY-FIRST SESSION

Official Records

**FIRST COMMITTEE, 1428th
MEETING**

Thursday, 6 October 1966,
at 10.55 a.m.



NEW YORK

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Chairman: Mr. Leopoldo BENITES (Ecuador).

Opening statement by the Chairman

1. The CHAIRMAN thanked the members of the Committee for electing him, and said that he would at all times endeavour to promote the greatest possible degree of mutual understanding between delegations and to maintain the best possible atmosphere for a constructive discussion of the various items with which the Committee would be dealing.

2. As the Committee would not be able to continue its work until the General Assembly had concluded its general debate, there would be very little time to discuss the twelve items which the Committee had before it. He would therefore strictly apply the provisions of General Assembly resolution 1898 (XVIII), sub-paragraph (g), and would in particular request representatives rising to a point of order to abide by rule 114 of the rules of procedure and not to speak on the substance of the matter under discussion. It would be helpful, too, if draft resolutions embodying the views expressed in the general debate on each item could be submitted as early as possible.

3. He welcomed the delegation of Guyana, which was taking part in the Committee's work for the first time, and the Indonesian delegation, which had resumed its place in the Committee.

4. Mr. SHARIF (Indonesia) said that his delegation was glad to be able to take part once again in the Committee's work.

Election of the Vice-Chairman

5. Mr. Endalkachew MAKONNEN (Ethiopia) nominated Mr. Ismail Fahmy (United Arab Republic) as Vice-Chairman. Mr. Fahmy had held many important posts in his country's Government, had represented the United Arab Republic in several United Nations committees and agencies and had served with distinction as Rapporteur of the First Committee during the General Assembly's twentieth session.

6. Mr. NSANZE (Burundi), Mr. AZNAR (Spain), Mr. TOMOROWICZ (Poland), Mr. WALDHEIM (Aus-

tria), Mr. QUIJANO (Argentina), Mr. BAKALA (Congo, Brazzaville), Mr. MISHRA (India), Mr. FEDORENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Mr. ZOLLNER (Dahomey), Mr. SALIM (United Republic of Tanzania), Mr. SIDI BABA (Morocco), Mr. ROSSIDES (Cyprus) and Mr. GARCIA ROBLES (Mexico) supported the nomination.

Mr. Fahmy (United Arab Republic) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

Election of the Rapporteur

7. Mr. KHALAF (Iraq) nominated Mr. Guerodot Garrilovich Chernushchenko (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) as Rapporteur. Mr. Chernushchenko had represented his country with distinction at various sessions of the General Assembly over the past fifteen years, and had been its Permanent Representative to the United Nations since 1964.

8. Mr. TARABANOV (Bulgaria), Mr. ACHKAR (Guinea) and Mr. AJAVON (Togo) supported the nomination.

Mr. Chernushchenko (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

Order of discussion of agenda items (A/C.1/931)

9. Mr. CSATORDAY (Hungary) noted that the list of twelve items allocated to the Committee for consideration and report (A/C.1/931) contained a number of new items which were of the very highest importance, not only for individual countries but for the whole community of nations.

10. He proposed that the Committee should take up the agenda items in the following order: first, item 96 (Status of the implementation of the Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention in the Domestic Affairs of States and the Protection of Their Independence and Sovereignty); second, item 97 (Renunciation by States of actions hampering the conclusion of an agreement on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons); third, item 26 (Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons: report of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament); fourth, item 98 (Elimination of foreign military bases in the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America); fifth, item 27 (Question of general and complete disarmament: report of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament); sixth, item 28 (Urgent need for suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear tests: report of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament); seventh, item 29 (Question of convening a conference for the purpose of signing a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear and thermonuclear weapons: report of

the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament); eight, item 93 (Withdrawal of all United States and other foreign forces occupying South Korea under the flag of the United Nations and dissolution of the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea); ninth, item 30 (International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space; report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space); tenth, item 89 (Conclusion of an international treaty on the principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space, the moon and other celestial bodies); eleventh, item 91 (Treaty governing the exploration and use of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies); twelfth, item 31 (The Korean question: report of the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea).

11. Item 96 should be taken up first, as the international situation at the present time was even more dangerous than it had been a year ago. The adoption of the Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention in the Domestic Affairs of States and the Protection of their Independence and Sovereignty (General Assembly resolution 2131 (XX)) had been the most important achievement of the General Assembly's twentieth session and the question had not lost any of its timeliness. As the provisions of that Declaration had not yet been put into effect, the Committee should at the earliest opportunity express its concern at the situation regarding the implementation of the Declaration, identify the main threats to peace and try thereby to reduce international tension. The world was expecting the General Assembly to ensure that the principles of the Declaration, and particularly the principle set forth in paragraph 6, were strictly observed. By taking up item 96 first, the Committee would facilitate the consideration of all the other items on its agenda relating to peace and the independence and self-determination of all peoples.

12. Before considering the question of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons on the basis of the report of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament, the Committee should discuss agenda item 97, which represented a new approach to the question. The resolution, adopted at the General Assembly's twentieth session, on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons (resolution 2028 (XX)) had not been put into effect; and, if the Committee were first to consider what obstacles there were to the conclusion of an agreement on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, it might be able to devise a new approach to the report of the Eighteen-Nation Committee. Similarly, prior consideration of agenda item 98 (Elimination of foreign military bases in the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America) would facilitate the discussion of all questions relating to disarmament.

13. After the items on disarmament, the Committee should then take up, as its eighth item, agenda item 93 (Withdrawal of all United States and other foreign forces occupying South Korea under the flag of the United Nations and dissolution of the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea). When dependent peoples throughout the

world were demanding the opportunity of exercising their right to self-determination, it was anachronistic to deny that right to the people of South Korea. It was paradoxical, too, that foreign troops should be stationed in South Korea under the United Nations flag, while the South Korean régime—acting under foreign pressure—was lending assistance in the savage imperialist war in eastern Asia. The United Nations flag should not be associated with a war which was threatening world peace; and a settlement of the South Korean question at the earliest possible opportunity would be in the interests of all peoples.

14. Mr. PATIÑO (Colombia) said his delegation favoured the suggestion that priority should be given to agenda item 96 (Status of the implementation of the Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention in the Domestic Affairs of States and the Protection of Their Independence and Sovereignty). He was aware that the debate on that item might be used to undue advantage for purposes of propaganda in favour of those who were committing aggression against South Viet-Nam. Nevertheless, the debate would afford many delegations an opportunity to discuss the Tricontinental Conference^{1/} held at Havana shortly after the Declaration had been approved. The participants in that Conference had set up a permanent organization which was currently in operation and was designed to support, through indirect and direct intervention, subversive actions in Latin America and other continents and to transform all their institutions through armed warfare. Preparations were now being made for a new conference, to be held at Cairo, aimed at strengthening that organization, in cynical disregard of the Declaration. There was ample reason, therefore, for giving priority to item 96, in order that the Committee might urgently consider a very grave situation involving a flagrant violation of the rules of non-intervention and of the most fundamental international obligations.

15. Mr. BARODY (Saudi Arabia) said that most of the Committee's agenda could be conveniently arranged into several groups of interrelated items.

16. The three items dealing with outer space—agenda item 30, on international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space, item 89, on the conclusion of an international treaty on the principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space, the moon and other celestial bodies, and item 91, on a treaty governing the exploration and use of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies—constituted one group of related and relatively non-controversial items.

17. A second category included item 26, on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, item 27, on the question of general and complete disarmament, and item 28, on the urgent need to suspend nuclear and thermonuclear tests, all of which related to the work of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament. Those items had been of only academic importance thus far, since two of the world's major nuclear Powers were not taking part in the deliberations of the Eighteen-Nation Com-

^{1/} First Solidarity Conference of the Peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America, held at Havana, 3-14 January 1966.

mittee; nevertheless, the First Committee must keep working on them, in the hope of reaching an arrangement which could be made effective with the participation of those two Powers at some future date.

18. Thirdly, items 31 and 93 both related to Korea and should be discussed simultaneously.

19. Lastly, items 96 and 98, dealing with non-intervention in the domestic affairs of States and with the elimination of foreign military bases, could be grouped together.

20. He suggested that the Committee should begin its work with the items relating to outer space. Next, it could discuss the items concerning Korea, and he hoped that representatives of both North and South Korea would be invited at a sufficiently early date to enable them to take part fully in the Committee's deliberations. After that there would be ample time to deal with item 96, mentioned by the representative of Hungary, concerning the implementation of the Declaration in General Assembly resolution 2131 (XX).

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.