

United Nations  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY

TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION

Official Records



FIRST COMMITTEE, 1802nd  
MEETING  
(Opening meeting)

Wednesday, 22 September 1971,  
at 10.45 a.m.

NEW YORK

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*Temporary Chairman: Mr. Adam Malik  
(Indonesia).*

*Election of the Chairman*

1. The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Are there any nominations for the chairmanship of the First Committee?

2. Mr. AGUILAR (Venezuela) (*interpretation from Spanish*): It is my honour to nominate as Chairman of the First Committee the First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, Mr. Milko Tarabanov. Born on 12 February 1905, Mr. Tarabanov studied advanced electricity in France. After taking an active part in the Bulgarian resistance, he began a long and outstanding career in social and political affairs. In 1945 he was elected First Deputy Mayor of Sofia, a position which he held until 1947, when he began his career in the Foreign Service of the People's Republic of Bulgaria as Ambassador of his country to Italy, a post which he held until 1950. From 1950 to 1952 he was Associate Minister of Electricity and from 1952 to 1954, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs. From 1954 to 1955 he represented his country as Ambassador to Czechoslovakia, and from 1955 to 1956 as Ambassador to Turkey.

3. In 1956 he was appointed First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, a post which he held until 1963. In that year he came to the United Nations as Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Permanent Representative of his country, a post which he held until the end of last year. In January of 1971 Mr. Tarabanov returned to Bulgaria to occupy once again the post of First Deputy Foreign Minister.

4. In our Organization, where he has held the high positions of Vice-President of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council, Mr. Tarabanov's personality and record are well known.

5. Because of his long and distinguished career, Mr. Tarabanov is highly qualified to direct the deliberations of the First Committee at the twenty-sixth session. Furthermore, he is very familiar with the work of our Committee, in which he has represented his country with great distinction for many years, and to which he has made an exceptionally valuable contribution. On this occasion I should like to remind members of his outstanding work in the Working

Group that prepared the draft declaration on the strengthening of international security, which with very few modifications was adopted first by the Committee and then by the General Assembly at the last session.

6. In the First Committee, as in all other bodies of the United Nations where Mr. Tarabanov has represented his country, he has demonstrated his great diplomatic skills and his ability and wisdom and has brought his experience to bear in the activities of our Organization. Above all, he has shown outstanding human qualities: all of the permanent representatives to the United Nations who have had the chance to know Mr. Tarabanov and work with him are very well aware that together with his firm convictions he has shown cordiality, a sense of humour and a very warm personality.

7. I am sure that, with all these qualities, Mr. Tarabanov will preside with wisdom, with great impartiality and with a great sense of democracy over the work of the First Committee at the twenty-sixth session.

8. Therefore I would ask the members of the Committee to support the nomination it has been my honour to put forward. I trust that it will be unanimously supported by the members of the Committee.

9. Mr. President, I do not wish to conclude without expressing to you on behalf of the delegation of Venezuela my warmest congratulations on your election as President of this session. When the Foreign Minister of my country makes his statement in the general debate, he will convey to you the congratulations of the Government and people of Venezuela, and therefore I shall refrain from any further compliments at this time. I merely wish to say to you on this occasion that it is a great pleasure for us to have a representative of Indonesia as President of the General Assembly. As you are aware, we have very special ties with your country, as we have been a member of the group of petroleum-exporting countries ever since its foundation, and both of us belong to the developing countries which must struggle together to change the present situation. For

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that reason we are especially pleased to see you in the high post you are now occupying.

10. The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Milko Tarabanov of Bulgaria has been nominated by the delegation of Venezuela. Since there is only one candidate, in accordance

with past practice I declare Mr. Tarabanov of Bulgaria elected Chairman of the First Committee.

*Mr. Milko Tarabanov (Bulgaria) was elected Chairman of the First Committee by acclamation.*

*The meeting rose at 10.55 a.m.*