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Chairman: Mr. Charles T. O. KING (Liberia).

AGENDA ITEM 62

Question of the consistent application of the principle of equitable geographical representation in the election of the President of the General Assembly (A/4182; A/SPC/L.39) (*continued*)

1. Mr. DZIRASA (Ghana) pointed out that the principle of equitable geographical representation underlying the draft resolution submitted by Czechoslovakia and Romania (A/SPC/L.39) had, on many occasions, received strong support in the United Nations. His delegation viewed the debate as a reaffirmation of a non-controversial principle which had hitherto guided most United Nations elections. Behind the dry formula of equitable geographical distribution stood the vital reality of different cultures and different political and social systems. The Organization drew its strength from the special material and moral resources which each particular region or system had to offer. Various offices in the United Nations had been and were being discharged devotedly by men and women of different races and creeds and representing different Member States. It was true that the office of President of the General Assembly was of a very special nature because it demanded outstanding qualities, which had been enumerated in annex 1 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

2. He did not believe, however, that the factor of the personal qualifications required of the President of the General Assembly, important though it was, should be unduly emphasized since that might create a wrong impression that competence, authority, tact and impartiality had hitherto been the monopoly of certain geographical regions or of certain groups of countries.

3. If the debate was not to become a series of mutual recriminations, the problem must be approached in a spirit of conciliation, and assurance must be given to the countries of Eastern Europe that their legitimate aspirations would be taken into account at future elections. It had to be admitted that the grievances voiced by those countries were not entirely unjustified.

4. With regard to the draft resolution, his delegation had certain reservations to make. It would prefer a formula calling upon the Committee to reaffirm the principle of equitable geographical representation and rotation by recommending to the General Assembly the consistent application of that principle. His dele-

gation therefore appealed to the Committee to examine with all due consideration the amendments submitted by the delegations of Mexico and other Latin American States (A/SPC/L.40).

5. Sir Claude COREA (Ceylon) said that his delegation felt that operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution seemed to disregard the principle of equitable geographical representation laid down in its preamble. It would certainly not be equitable to choose the President of the General Assembly only once in four years from among the Asian and African States, which constituted more than a third of the Member States. In any case it would be better to draft the resolution in more general terms, without specifying how the President's office would be filled during the next four years. His delegation supported the principle of equitable geographical representation, but would not wish the arbitrary application of that one criterion to prevent the General Assembly from electing to the office of President a man endowed with outstanding qualifications. His delegation would be inclined to support the amendments in document A/SPC/L.40 but thought that certain qualifying phrases could be deleted from the proposed operative paragraph so that it would become a straightforward statement that the Assembly should, in electing its President, respect both the principle of equitable geographical distribution and the need for special qualifications. It might be possible to draw up an amendment to that effect which would make the operative paragraph proposed in document A/SPC/L.40 acceptable to all; indeed the representatives of Czechoslovakia and Romania might perhaps be willing to consider such an amendment in place of their own draft resolution.

6. Mr. GRYAZNOV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the solution of the problem under discussion, which was of great topical interest, could, if undertaken in the spirit of the United Nations Charter, contribute to the strengthening of co-operation and mutual confidence among Member States. The principle of equitable geographical distribution, which was one of the fundamental principles of the United Nations, derived from the concept of the sovereign equality of all Member States laid down in Article 2, paragraph 1, of the Charter. The consistent application of that principle was of great importance in strengthening the Organization's universal character. It had been specifically laid down in Article 23, paragraph 1, of the Charter, dealing with the composition of the Security Council, and in rule 144 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. The gentleman's agreement concluded in London in 1946 dealt with the distribution of non-permanent seats in the Security Council on that basis. The provisions of rule 105 of the rules of procedure established that principle as a guiding one in elections to the various offices on the Main Committees. Those provisions were quite unequivocal. He would recall, moreover, that resolution 1192 (XII) confirmed the application

of the principle of equitable geographical distribution in its provisions for the distribution of seats on the General Committee. That distribution took into account the area from which the President of the General Assembly was chosen. All those provisions indicated that the principle should be applied also in the election of the President of the Assembly, but it was unfortunately evident that it had not always been observed in the case of Eastern European countries, which had been the object of discrimination in the matter of elections to various United Nations bodies, including the Security Council. The principle had been violated systematically when Presidents of the General Assembly were elected. It was a fact that representatives of all areas of the world except Eastern Europe had filled the office of President of the General Assembly. Such a distribution could surely not be considered equitable and in keeping with the principle of the sovereign equality of all Member States.

7. The objections raised to the application of the principle of equitable geographical distribution in the election of the President were quite unfounded. His delegation could not agree, for instance, that its application would require an amendment of the Charter. Indeed the principle of equitable geographical distribution was the very basis of the structure and activities of the United Nations, and resolution 1192 (XII), as well as the gentleman's agreement of London, made it an underlying principle for elections of the President of the Assembly. Thus what had to be done was strictly to observe the spirit and letter of the Charter, not to amend the Charter. Moreover, his delegation could not agree that it was only the individual qualifications of the persons nominated to the Presidency of the Assembly that should be borne in mind, although it attached the greatest importance to the qualities required for the office. Surely no one could believe that Eastern European countries had no candidates endowed with the necessary qualifications. Some representatives, while not objecting in so many words to the application of the principle of equitable geographical representation, had expressed reserves which were tantamount to a refusal to implement it: to speak of making its application dependent on prevailing circumstances could not mean anything else. Yet circumstances were no obstacle when elections to the principal offices on the Main Committees took place. Apparently a certain group of States was making use of those arguments to endeavour to turn the United Nations into a docile instrument of their selfish interests. In his statement before the General Assembly on 18 September 1959 (799th plenary meeting), Mr. Khrushchev, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, had pointed out the dangers of such a situation. He had stressed the fact that an international organization could not effectively serve the cause of peace if any group of Member States tried to impose its will on other States, and that if the situation continued to develop in the direction of factionalism, international relations were bound to deteriorate.

8. His delegation thought that the time had come to put an end to the policy of discrimination adopted by certain States towards others, particularly towards those of Eastern Europe. Such a policy was especially harmful at a time when a relaxation of tension was evident in international relations. It could only do harm to the United Nations and undermine its authority. His delegation believed that the draft resolution sub-

mitted by Czechoslovakia and Romania gave suitable expression to the need for equitable geographical representation in the election of the President of the Assembly, and would vote in favour of that resolution.

9. Mr. DAYAL (India) felt that the inclusion in the agenda of the item under discussion was further indication that certain unfortunate divisions in the present-day world were having their effect on elections in the General Assembly, and some delegations feared that they might continue to do so in the future. The office of President of the General Assembly carried high prestige and required outstanding qualifications. Very special political and personal considerations came into play in the election of the President, and the sponsors of the item would no doubt agree that those requirements had been borne in mind in the election of past Presidents.

10. It should however be realized that the geographical region from which the President was drawn was a constituent element of his qualifications for the office. The President of the General Assembly, of course, represented the Assembly as a whole and not any particular region or group of States. Nevertheless, no group of Member States should be made to feel that their candidate might be excluded from office for considerations other than those of personal qualifications.

11. The principle of equitable geographical distribution was laid down in various provisions of the Charter, which however related to the principal organs and to the recruitment of Secretariat staff and not to the office of President of the General Assembly. The Indian delegation had voted for General Assembly resolution 1192 (XII) because there had seemed to be a gap in the Charter and in the then-existing conventions regarding the composition of the General Committee. The same consideration might well apply in the present case. It should, of course, be borne in mind that a General Assembly resolution could not bind delegations in the election of the President, since the President was chosen, not by a resolution of the Assembly, but by the votes of all the delegations cast in secret ballot. Moreover, Article 21 of the Charter laid down that the General Assembly should elect its President for each session.

12. With regard to the draft resolution before the Committee, his delegation was in favour of affirming that the geographical factor should be taken into account in the election of the President of the General Assembly. It could not however support a proposal which would, in effect, call on either the next General Assembly or future Assemblies to follow any particular course of action, or to elect a President from a specified region. It had to be admitted, however, that Eastern Europe had never yet had the opportunity of providing a President of the United Nations General Assembly. Yet it could not be argued that Eastern Europe lacked men of the necessary talent or standing, or that the States of that region had not made a full contribution to the functioning of the Organization. Those States were entitled to expect that the mere fact of their being situated in a particular region, or belonging to a particular group of States, would not operate against them in that connexion.

13. His delegation might speak again on the subject of amendments in document A/SPC/L.40, but at that stage wished to point out that, with all the differences of approach to the problem, there seemed to be

agreement that the qualifications of the candidate and, as far as possible, the principle of equitable geographical distribution should be taken into account in the election of the President of the Assembly. Although the various delegations did not all place the same emphasis on the latter criterion, it should be possible to find a generally acceptable formula, which would not be too rigid but would comply with the principle which the delegations of Czechoslovakia and Romania wished to emphasize. It was important not to detract from the dignity of the office of President by turning the matter into a political issue and a factor in the cold war.

14. Mr. TETTAMANTI (Argentina) pointed out that neither the Charter nor the General Assembly's rules of procedure laid down explicit provisions for the election of the President of the Assembly. The Assembly must therefore be guided by implicit principles and base its conclusions on an analysis of the essential nature of the Organization.

15. The principle of equitable geographical distribution stemmed, it might be said, from the rules which should govern relations between the Organization's many Member States. All States and all regions had an equal right to take part in all United Nations bodies and to have access to all posts. It was logical therefore that his delegation should be prepared to uphold the principle of equitable geographical representation and its application to the election of the President of the General Assembly. That principle was not however the sole, or even the determining factor. While it was strictly applied in regard to the composition of another principal organ—the Economic and Social Council—it was not as important in the election of the President of that Council, where the personal qualifications of the candidate, his contribution to the Council's work and the prevailing circumstances at the time of the session were taken into account. Those considerations were even more cogent in the election of the President of the General Assembly. Apart from his qualifications and standing, the political situation had to be borne in mind: in a particular year it might not be advisable to vote for a candidate who, at another time, might be perfectly eligible for the high office of President of the General Assembly.

16. Consequently, his delegation could not support the draft resolution (A/SPC/L.39), which not only made no mention of the personal qualifications required of the candidate, but also proposed the rigid application of a system based solely on geographical distribution.

17. It was to be regretted that certain delegations had claimed to be the victims of discrimination. Such discrimination had never been intended by Argentina or any other Member States. Article 8 of the Charter expressly ruled out any discrimination of that nature. To uphold that principle, Argentina had joined ten other Latin American countries in sponsoring amendments (A/SPC/L.40), which were intended to be constructive, conciliatory and impartial. His delegation hoped that the Committee would show the same spirit and adopt the amendments, if possible, unanimously.

18. Mr. HANCHER (United States of America) pointed out that the Presidency of the General Assembly was one of the most respected offices in international life. The distinguished men who had held that office had admirably upheld the dignity and purposes of the Organization. The unanimous election of Mr. Belaúnde

at the current session was a personal tribute to him, in recognition of the important role he had played in the United Nations since its inception. The qualities, experience and personal prestige of the President were indeed factors in the success of each General Assembly. The international climate prevailing at the time of the session also influenced the choice. For that reason, the General Assembly had decided at its first session that it should freely elect its President by secret ballot and without nomination. At the same time, it had been recognized that no one region of the world had a monopoly of qualified candidates or should hold a monopoly of the Presidency. It was only fair that that honour should be widely shared.

19. The sponsors of the draft resolution, however, were in effect asking the Committee to abrogate the freedom of choice of future Assemblies. It was proposed that the Committee should designate in advance the area from which the President was to be chosen in any given year, thus subordinating all other essential criteria to that of equitable geographical distribution. In its explanatory memorandum (A/4182), the Czechoslovak delegation declared the latter principle to be one of the fundamental principles of the Organization. It should be remembered, however, that Czechoslovakia and the other members of the Soviet bloc had prevented any increase in the membership of the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, although such an increase was necessary if those two organs were to give equitable representation to all the Members of the United Nations, whose number was constantly increasing.

20. His delegation did not question the importance of the principle of equitable geographical distribution, of which due regard should be taken in the election of the President of the General Assembly, and it should be noted that, as the Czechoslovak delegation had recalled in its explanatory memorandum, the Assembly's President had been elected from a wide range of geographical regions. If there had been no President from a particular region, it had been due to factors unrelated to geography. The explanation could easily be found by recalling the prevailing circumstances at the time of any particular session.

21. The acceptance of equitable geographical distribution as the sole criterion would result in the automatic election of any candidate put forward by the region whose turn it was to hold the Presidency, without regard to his personal qualifications or to the circumstances prevailing at the time of the Assembly's session. It would make it incumbent on a region to put forward a candidate even if it did not wish to do so. Such a procedure could be only detrimental to the effective functioning of the Assembly. While the office of President should be open to candidates of all geographical areas, the Assembly should retain the power to decide for itself at the time of the election at each session whether a particular candidate was suitable for that office, taking into account all the relevant criteria.

22. For all those reasons, his delegation would vote against the draft resolution before the Committee.

23. Mr. DE VAUCELLES (France) recalled that his country in general favoured the application of the principle of equitable geographical representation in the various United Nations organs. It had given fresh evidence of that during the discussion concerning the

increase in the membership of the various Councils. His Government felt, however, that it would be unwise to deal in the same way with the case of the President of the General Assembly as with that of organs which, by definition, were collective bodies. In that connexion, he wished to point out, as several delegations had already done, including that of Poland (165th meeting), that neither the Charter nor the rules of procedure of the General Assembly mentioned equitable geographical representation in connexion with the Presidency. Article 21 of the Charter merely stated that the General Assembly should elect its President for each session. The founding Members of the United Nations could easily have mentioned that the principle of equitable geographical representation should be observed in the successive elections of Presidents. If they had not done so, it was no doubt because they rightly considered that so exalted an office as that of President of the General Assembly should transcend geographical groups. He must not only have all the qualities of impartiality, competence, energy and courtesy necessary for a genuine arbitrator, but he must also, so to speak, play the role of father confessor.

24. Several delegations had seemed to consider that resolution 1192 (XII) at least implicitly provided for the application of the principle of geographical representation to the appointment of the President of the General Assembly. In his view, such an interpretation was not correct. That resolution concerned itself solely with ensuring that each of the geographical regions should be represented on the General Committee in proportion to its numerical importance. It mentioned the President only to indicate that after his election, the regional group to which he belonged should be taken into account in ensuring the equitable allocation of vice-presidencies. If that resolution had applied the principle of equitable geographical representation to the election of the President, as some had maintained, the draft resolution submitted by the Czechoslovak and Romanian delegations would be superfluous.

25. As the representatives of Romania (164th meeting) and Albania (165th meeting), among others, had recalled, the United Nations was composed of fully sovereign Member States, placed on an equal footing, who were fully responsible for their acts and who had to retain full freedom of decision, particularly in the matter of elections. From the outset, it had been implicitly decided that there should be no official candidacies for the Presidency of the Assembly, so as to leave delegations as free as possible in their votes. For that reason his delegation could not accept the principle of compulsory rotation for the Presidency of the General Assembly, as set forth in operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution (A/SPC/L.39). His delegation shared the belief expressed by the delegations of Canada (165th meeting) and India that it would be much wiser not to tie the hands of the General Assembly, even if it were only for a period of four years. Political circumstances might arise which would prevent the General Assembly from electing the representative of a State belonging to a particular region, if it really wished, in the words of the explanatory memorandum submitted by the Czechoslovak delegation (A/4182), to "contribute to a further development of co-operation and the strengthening of mutual confidence among the Member States". On the other hand, certain conditions might nullify in favour

of the selection of a particular country. That would particularly be the case if the General Assembly ever decided to meet away from New York; it would then no doubt, according to custom, wish to confer the Presidency on a prominent citizen of the host country.

26. All those possibilities should be taken into account in any draft resolution on the question before the Committee. His delegation considered it necessary, however, that the General Assembly should be free to select its President from among the nationals of the greatest possible number of Member States, without showing an exclusive preference for any particular part of the globe. It was perfectly true, as indicated in the explanatory memorandum in document A/4182, that there was one particular geographical region to which the Presidency of the General Assembly had never been allocated. It should be pointed out, however, that one of the nine members of that region was debarred from the Presidency as a Permanent Member of the Security Council, and four others had belonged to the Organization for only four years. With regard to two other members of that group, it should be noted that many jurists doubted whether they really possessed that individuality and capacity which a French international jurist had, according to the Ukrainian representative, regarded as constituting the principal element of sovereignty. In any event, his delegation wished to state that it had no objection in principle to the eventual election to the Presidency of a national of a State belonging to the Eastern European group.

27. His delegation regretted that it would be unable to support the draft resolution (A/SPC/L.39), because it made no reference to the personal qualifications required of a candidate for the Presidency of the General Assembly, nor to considerations of political expediency, of time and of place, and infringed the freedom of decision of the Members of the General Assembly by fixing in advance, in a given order, the regions from which the Presidents of the next four sessions should be selected. On the other hand, the French delegation welcomed the amendments contained in document A/SPC/L.40, as they stressed the need for the General Assembly to select its President primarily on the basis of personal qualifications. However, those amendments contained no reference to considerations of time and place which might lead the General Assembly to select someone from a geographical region other than the one fixed in the pre-established order. His delegation therefore suggested that the sponsors of the amendments should add the following words at the end of the operative paragraph: "... and due account being taken of the prevailing circumstances".

28. Mr. SOBOLEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) stressed the political importance of the question under discussion, on which the activities of the General Assembly largely depended. The problem of applying the principle of equitable geographical representation, which the United Nations encountered in all its spheres of activity, had been considered in one form or another at almost every session of the Assembly. No one would dispute the fact that the structure and activities of the Organization were based on that principle, which was the logical expression of the sovereign equality of Member States recognized by the Charter. It was also evident that the consistent application of that principle contributed to the development of co-operation and of mutual confidence among

Member States, whereas a violation of that principle was an obstacle to the normal operation of the principal organs of the United Nations and to the accomplishment of the tasks assigned to the Organization. The principle of equitable geographical distribution, which had been consistently disregarded in relation to elections to the Security Council, had been equally ignored in the elections to the office of President of the General Assembly, one of the most important posts in the United Nations. Since the inception of the United Nations, the office of President of the General Assembly had never been filled by a representative from Eastern Europe. His delegation agreed with the French delegation that no preference should be shown to any particular group of countries. In the present case, it could be said that while there was no preference, there was nevertheless discrimination. Such a situation was abnormal and it was time for the General Assembly to take steps to remedy it. Some representatives had pointed out that there was no provision in the Charter which expressly stipulated that the principle of equitable geographical representation should be observed in the election of the President of the General Assembly. That was all the more reason for the General Assembly to give special consideration to the question and find a satisfactory solution, as it had done in the case of the General Committee through the adoption of resolution 1192 (XII). As a matter of fact, the principle involved was implied in that resolution and it should be clearly set forth.

29. His delegation welcomed the Czechoslovak delegation's proposal for the inclusion of the question in the agenda, and it felt that the concrete measures advocated in the draft resolution submitted by Czechoslovakia and Romania (A/SPC/L.39) were in keeping with the provisions of resolution 1192 (XII). The States were divided into the same groups as in that resolution, and the order of rotation recommended would make it possible to undo the injustice suffered by the Eastern European countries up to now, without infringing the rights of any geographical region. Some representatives had felt that in electing the President it was necessary to take into account only the personal qualifications of the candidate. Those qualifications certainly were important, but the question of personal abilities could not take the place of the principle of equitable geographical distribution. That was, however, what the sponsors of the amendments (A/SPC/L.40) were proposing. Although the principle was recognized in their text, various restrictions were placed on its application. The phrase "to the greatest possible extent" limited its scope by introducing an element of uncertainty and subjective judgement, which was incompatible with the principle itself. It was further stipulated that "special attention" should be "paid in the first place" to the qualifications that the President of the General Assembly must possess, thus giving personal qualifications precedence over the principle of equitable geographical distribution. In those circumstances, the principle would have no practical significance. That was why the Soviet Union delegation urged the sponsors of the amendments to reconsider their proposal so that a decision might be taken which would make it possible to apply the principle of equitable geographical distribution, from the following session onwards.

30. The United States representative had accepted the principle of equitable geographical distribution,

but had added that it was necessary to be guided by other considerations in electing the President. The French representative had stressed the need to preserve the freedom of choice of delegations. Delegations would unquestionably retain that freedom, because the election was held by secret ballot. It was however a fact that long before the actual ballot took place, agreement had been reached on the candidates for the Presidency, and it frequently happened that only one candidate emerged, a fact which in no way limited the freedom of choice of representatives. It was, moreover, no coincidence that the succession of Presidents had followed a specific pattern during the past fourteen years and that a certain group of countries had been excluded. It was time for the Assembly to take a decision ensuring the application of the principle of equitable geographical distribution to the election of the President. There was no question of any innovation, but merely of applying well-established principles.

31. If the argument that there could be no restrictions on the freedom of choice were conceded, resolution 1192 (XII) would be unacceptable because it restricted the Assembly's freedom of choice in electing the members of the General Committee. The limitations provided for in that resolution were sound and, so far from impeding the work of the United Nations, they made it easier. In point of fact, the freedom of action of delegations was limited by certain rules, including the rules of procedure, and those limitations, which had been established by voluntary agreement among delegations, were useful and contributed to the smooth functioning of the Organization.

32. The Soviet delegation hoped that the Committee would vote in favour of the draft resolution submitted by Czechoslovakia and Romania (A/SPC/L.39), which stated the principle of equitable geographical distribution clearly and precisely, without qualifications of any kind.

33. Mr. YOSANO (Japan) said that, in the opinion of his delegation, the principle of equitable geographical distribution must be observed, even in the election of the President of the General Assembly. It should not, however, be the only consideration governing the choice of President. The draft resolution before the Committee would have the effect of introducing an automatic procedure for the election of the President of the General Assembly during the next four years and, for that reason, was unacceptable to the Japanese delegation. On the other hand, the eleven-Power amendments (A/SPC/L.40) to the draft resolution rightly emphasized the importance of the qualifications that the President of the General Assembly must possess. It had been drafted in a spirit of compromise and the Japanese delegation was prepared to support it.

34. Mr. LIU (China) reminded the Committee that his delegation had voted against resolution 1192 (XII) relating to the enlargement of the General Committee, principally on the ground that it would not be in the interest of the United Nations to consolidate or perpetuate any rigid division into blocs for the purpose of voting. The draft resolution submitted by Czechoslovakia and Romania would result in the extension of that system to the election of the President of the General Assembly. Although the Chinese delegation supported the principle of equitable geographical distribution in the composition of all international

bodies, it believed that the election of the President of the Assembly must be determined primarily by personal qualifications. The draft resolution entirely disregarded that consideration and the procedure it would introduce would make a mockery of the secret ballot. The Chinese delegation would therefore vote against it.

35. Mr. ASHA (United Arab Republic) said that the real point at issue was the principle of universality. All Member States should have an opportunity of participating in all United Nations activities. It was a regrettable fact that no President of the General Assembly had ever come from an Eastern European country and that in that respect the principle of equitable geographical distribution had not been observed. It was, however, also necessary to consider the personal qualifications of candidates for the office of President. The two principles were of equal importance and the representative of Ceylon had rightly emphasized the need to strike a balance between them.

36. The delegation of the United Arab Republic would have some difficulty in supporting the draft resolution (A/SPC/L.39). Under that proposal, a President of the General Assembly would be elected from the Asian and African States—which represented over one-third of the Member States and over one-half of the world's population—only once every four years, which was inequitable.

37. The amendments submitted by eleven Latin American countries (A/SPC/L.40) had some merit, but gave more importance to the requirement of personal qualifications than to the principle of equitable geographical distribution. His delegation appealed to the sponsors of the draft resolution and of the amendments to consider the suggestion of the representative of Ceylon and to agree on a simpler text giving equal importance to the two requirements.

38. Mr. SYLLA (Guinea) said that the principle of equitable geographical distribution was one of the corner-stones of the United Nations. His delegation was surprised at the discriminatory procedure the General Assembly had hitherto followed in electing its President, a procedure which was detrimental to international co-operation and to mutual confidence among Member States. It therefore whole-heartedly supported the draft resolution before the Committee (A/SPC/L.39), which would bring that procedure to an end.

39. With regard to the eleven-Power amendments (A/SPC/L.40) his delegation would suggest that the word "desirability" in the proposed text of the second preambular paragraph should be replaced by the word "necessity" in order to give greater force to the idea expressed. It would also suggest that the words "to the greatest possible extent" and "in the first place" in the proposed operative paragraph should be deleted in order to establish a balance between the two criteria. Subject to those changes, the delegation of Guinea would vote for the eleven-Power amendments.

40. Mr. SALAMANCA (Bolivia) requested the representative of Guinea not to submit his sub-amendments as a formal proposal. Consultations were at present in progress between the sponsors of the draft resolution and the sponsors of the amendments and it would make the Committee's work easier if delegations which had made suggestions took part in those unofficial consultations with a view to working out a text acceptable to all delegations.

41. Mr. ASHA (United Arab Republic) supported the sub-amendments proposed by the representative of Guinea, since he felt they would have the effect of

giving equal weight to both the principles involved, in line with the suggestion of the representative of Ceylon.

42. Mr. DE VAUELLES (France) said that, in the same spirit as had motivated the representative of Bolivia, he had confined himself to making an informal suggestion to the sponsors of the eleven-Power amendments. If, however, the representative of Guinea submitted a formal proposal which had to be put to the vote, he would request that the sub-amendment he himself had suggested should also be put to the vote.

43. Mr. GAMBOA (Philippines) thought that, as only one post was involved, that of President of the General Assembly, the term "equitable geographical distribution" used in the eleven-Power amendments was not very felicitous. He suggested that the sponsors might substitute the phrase "equitable geographical representation".

44. Mr. ASHA (United Arab Republic) supported the Philippine representative's suggestion.

45. Mr. BARTLETT (United States of America) thought that the various elements in the new operative paragraph proposed by the eleven Powers in document A/SPC/L.40 should be more closely linked. For that reason, and having regard to the Philippine representative's suggestion, he proposed to the sponsors of the amendments that the operative paragraph might be redrafted to read as follows:

"Recommends that in the election of the President of the General Assembly the principle of equitable geographical representation shall be upheld to the greatest possible extent commensurate with the primary consideration which should be given at each session to the qualifications that the President of the General Assembly must possess in order to perform the important duties of his office."

46. Mr. SHAHA (Nepal) said that his delegation was convinced of the need to apply the principle of equitable geographical distribution in the election of the President of the General Assembly and regretted that the principle had not hitherto been fully applied. The draft resolution (A/SPC/L.39) was not, however, entirely satisfactory to his delegation, because it appeared to suggest that that principle should be the Assembly's sole guide in electing its President. His delegation attached great importance to the personal qualifications that the President of the General Assembly must possess in order to perform his important duties. It would therefore support the eleven-Power amendments (A/SPC/L.40).

47. Mr. GARCIA ROBLES (Mexico), supported by Mr. KURKA (Czechoslovakia) and Mr. ASHA (United Arab Republic) proposed that discussion of the amendments and sub-amendments submitted during the meeting should be adjourned. The Committee's work would be greatly facilitated if, as was to be hoped, the negotiations mentioned by the representative of Bolivia resulted in agreement on a text that was universally acceptable.

48. The CHAIRMAN said he trusted that the negotiations would achieve the desired result. In accordance with rule 121 of the rules of procedure, the Secretariat would, however, circulate, in time for the following morning's meeting, the texts of the various amendments submitted during the current meeting.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.