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CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE THIRD SPECIAL SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Report of the Credentials Committee

Chairman: Mr. Foss Shanahan (New Zealand)

1. At its 996th plenary meeting on 21 August 1961, the General Assembly, in accordance with rule 28 of its rules of procedure, appointed a Credentials Committee for its third special session consisting of the following Member States: Costa Rica, Haiti, Morocco, New Zealand, the Philippines, Spain, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Arab Republic and the United States of America.
2. The Credentials Committee met on 24 August 1961.
3. Mr. Foss Shanahan (New Zealand) was unanimously elected Chairman of the Committee.
4. The representative of the USSR, referring to the credentials submitted by the Government of the Republic of China, stated that China could be legally represented only by the representatives of the People's Republic of China; the fact that such representatives were as yet unable to take part in the work of the United Nations was a violation of the Charter and seriously impaired the Organization's authority and effectiveness.
5. The representative of the United States stated that the credentials of the representatives of the Government of the Republic of China were fully in accord with the provisions of rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and that the United States supported the continued seating of the representatives of that Government.
6. The representative of the United Arab Republic stated that his Government recognized the Government of the People's Republic of China and therefore considered the credentials issued for the representatives of China as unacceptable.

7. The representative of the United States introduced a proposal that, following the previous practice, the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that no decision be taken at the third special session regarding the credentials of the representatives of Hungary. That, he said, was the least the United Nations could do to indicate its concern over the situation in Hungary.
8. The representative of the USSR stated that her delegation strongly opposed the attempt to cast doubt on the validity of the credentials of the representatives of Hungary, which had been submitted in accordance with the Charter and with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.
9. The representatives of the United Arab Republic and Morocco stated that their Governments recognized the Hungarian Government and considered the credentials of its representatives as having been issued in accordance with the rules of procedure.
10. The United States proposal was adopted by 6 votes to 3.
11. The representative of the USSR, referring to the credentials of the representatives of Laos, stated that the only legitimate representatives of Laos would be those whose credentials were issued by the legal Government of that country, which was headed by the Prince Souvanna Phouma.
12. The representative of the United States stated that there could be no question as to the validity of the credentials of the Laotian delegation, which had been issued by the King of Laos, who was the sovereign Head of State. He added that the United States recognized the Royal Government, which had been installed by the Laotian National Assembly, as the only legal Government of Laos.
13. The Chairman drew the attention of the Committee to the memorandum by the Secretary-General on the status of credentials of representatives to the third special session of the General Assembly. He noted that all Member States had submitted credentials for their representatives in accordance with rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, with the exception of nine Member States from which no credentials had yet been received. Given the circumstances in which the special session had been convened, the Chairman suggested that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly to recognize the representatives of those States and at the same time should draw the Assembly's attention to the position of those representatives, in the hope that their credentials would be put in order before the end of the session.

14. It was so agreed.
15. The Chairman then proposed that, bearing in mind the decision relating to Hungary and the decision regarding the position of the representatives of the nine Member States for whom no credentials had been received, the Credentials Committee recommend that the General Assembly approve its report.
16. This proposal was adopted unanimously.
17. The representative of the USSR stated that the approval of the Committee's report by the delegation of the USSR should not be interpreted as a modification of its position on the question of the representation of the People's Republic of China and the credentials of the Hungarian and Laotian delegations.

Recommendation of the Credentials Committee

18. The Credentials Committee therefore recommends that the General Assembly adopt the following draft resolution:

Credentials of representatives to the third special session
of the General Assembly

The General Assembly

Approves the report of the Credentials Committee.
