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NEED TO CONSIDER SUGGESTIONS REGARDING THE REVIEW
OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Report of the Sixth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Piet Hein HOUBEN (Netherlands)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. By a letter dated 21 November 1969 (A/7659), accompanied by an explanatory memorandum and a draft resolution, Colombia proposed the inclusion in the agenda of the twenty-fourth session of an additional item of an important and urgent character entitled "Establishment of a Special Committee to consider suggestions for revising the Charter of the United Nations".
2. At its 186th meeting, on 26 November 1969, the General Committee considered the request presented by Colombia. In the course of the meeting the sponsor of the request suggested that the proposed item should be referred to the Sixth Committee and accepted a suggestion that the item should be entitled as follows: "Need to consider suggestions regarding the review of the Charter of the United Nations". The General Committee decided to recommend that the item, as re-titled, should be included in the agenda and referred to the Sixth Committee (A/7700/Add.5, para. 1).
3. At its 1819th plenary meeting, on 1 December 1969, the General Assembly, accepting the recommendations of the General Committee, decided to include the item in the agenda of its twenty fourth session and allocated it to the Sixth Committee.
4. The Sixth Committee considered this item at its 1174th and 1175th meetings, on 9 December 1969.

II. PROPOSALS AND AMENDMENTS

5. At the 1174th meeting of the Sixth Committee, on 9 December 1969, the representative of Colombia introduced a draft resolution sponsored by Chile and Colombia (A/C.6/L.789), of which Guatemala, Nicaragua and Trinidad and Tobago subsequently became co-sponsors. The draft resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Having considered the item entitled 'Need to consider suggestions regarding the review of the Charter of the United Nations',

"Recognizing the fundamental importance of such consideration,

"Realizing that the eventual formulation of such suggestions will entail particularly careful work on the part of Member States, the responsible and constructive accomplishment of which will require a sufficient lapse of time,

"1. Decides to include an item entitled 'Need to consider suggestions regarding the review of the Charter of the United Nations' in the provisional agenda of its twenty-fifth regular session;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit the text of this resolution to the Governments of Member States."

6. At the 1175th meeting, the representative of Ghana introduced a draft resolution sponsored by his delegation (A/C.6/L.790). The draft resolution, as orally corrected by the sponsor, read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Having considered the item entitled 'Need to consider suggestions regarding the review of the Charter of the United Nations',

"Recognizing the fundamental importance of such consideration,

"Realizing that the eventual formulation of such suggestions will entail particularly careful work on the part of Member States, the responsible and constructive accomplishment of which will require a sufficient lapse of time,

"Bearing in mind that the Committee for the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the United Nations will take into account the views which have been expressed during this session when carrying out its task under paragraph 5 (c) of General Assembly resolution 2499 (XXIV),

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"1. Requests the Secretary-General, in order to assist the Committee for the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the United Nations in its task, to invite all Member States to submit to him prior to 30 June 1970 any suggestions they may consider appropriate concerning the review of the Charter;

"2. Further requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee for the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the United Nations a report containing any suggestions which he may have received pursuant to operative paragraph 1;

"3. Invites the Committee for the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the United Nations to report, as appropriate, to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth regular session on the suggestions made regarding the review of the Charter."

7. Also at the 1175th meeting, the representative of Iraq orally submitted an amendment to the draft resolution sponsored by Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Trinidad and Tobago (A/C.6/L.789; see paragraph 5 above), to the following effect:

(a) Replace the first preambular paragraph by the following:

"Not having had the time to examine adequately the item entitled 'Need to consider suggestions regarding the review of the Charter of the United Nations',";

(b) Delete the second and third preambular paragraphs and operative paragraph 2.

At the same meeting, the foregoing oral amendment was accepted by Colombia on behalf of the sponsors.

III. VOTING

8. At the 1175th meeting, the representative of Ghana requested that priority should be given in the voting to the draft resolution sponsored by his delegation (A/C.6/L.790), as orally corrected. The Sixth Committee rejected the procedural motion for priority by 32 votes to 17, with 35 abstentions. Following this vote on his procedural motion, the representative of Ghana withdrew the draft resolution sponsored by his delegation (A/C.6/L.790).

9. Also at its 1175th meeting, the Sixth Committee adopted the draft resolution sponsored by Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Trinidad and Tobago (A/C.6/L.789), as orally amended by Iraq, by 52 votes to 9, with 22 abstentions (see paragraph 11 below). The vote, which was taken by roll-call was as follows:

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- In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Ceylon, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo (Brazzaville), Congo (Democratic Republic of), Cyprus, Dahomey, Ecuador, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Kuwait, Liberia, Libya, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Southern Yemen, Spain, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia.
- Against: Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cuba, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.
- Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Burma, Canada, China, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Ghana, Greece, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Portugal, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

10. The representatives of France, Mexico, the United Kingdom, Indonesia, Cameroon, India and Ghana explained their votes.

IV. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE

11. The Sixth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Need to consider suggestions regarding the review
of the Charter of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Not having had the time to examine adequately the item entitled "Need to consider suggestions regarding the review of the Charter of the United Nations",

Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its twenty-fifth session an item entitled "Need to consider suggestions regarding the review of the Charter of the United Nations".