United Nations GENERAL ASSEMBLY

THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION

Official Records

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President: Mr. Salim Ahmed SALIM (United Republic of Tanzania)

AGENDA ITEM 15

Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs (continued):

(a) Election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council

1. The PRESIDENT: As members are aware, the General Assembly has over the course of 12 plenary meetings, since 26 October 1979, held 115 ballots to elect one non-permanent member of the Security Council, all of which have proved inconclusive.

2. The Assembly will now proceed to the one hundred and sixteenth ballot, the first in a series of three restricted ballots, in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure. This balloting is restricted to the two candidates that have obtained the largest number of votes, namely Cuba and Colombia. Any ballot paper containing any name other than Cuba or Colombia will be declared invalid. The ballot papers are now being distributed.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Mardovich (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) and Mr. Çelikkol (Turkey) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

3. The PRESIDENT: I propose now to suspend the meeting while the ballots are being counted.

The meeting was suspended at 3.50 p.m. and resumed at 4 p.m.

4. The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting is as follows:

Number of ballot papers:	142
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	142

110th PLENARY MEETING

Wednesday, 19 December 1979, at 3.35 p.m.

NEW YORK

Abstentions: Number of members voting: Required majority:	1 141 94
Number of votes obtained:	
Cuba	82 59

5. The PRESIDENT: Since this first restricted ballot has proved inconclusive, we shall now proceed to a second restricted ballot under the same terms and conditions. The ballot papers will now be distributed.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Mardovich (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) and Mr. Çelikkol (Turkey) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

6. The PRESIDENT: I propose now to suspend the meeting while the ballots are being counted.

The meeting was suspended at 4.05 p.m. and resumed at 4.15 p.m.

7. The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting is as follows:

Number of ballot papers:	142
Invalid ballots:	1
Number of valid ballots:	141
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	140
Required majority:	94
Number of votes obtained:	
Cuba	86
Colombia	54

8. The PRESIDENT: As neither of the two countries obtained the required two-thirds majority, the General Assembly will now proceed to a third restricted ballot. As in the last ballot, the only countries whose names may be included in the ballot papers are Cuba and Colombia. Any papers containing the names of other countries will be declared invalid. The ballot papers will now be distributed.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Mardovich (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) and Mr. Çelikkol (Turkey) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

9. The PRESIDENT: I propose now to suspend the meeting while the ballots are being counted.

The meeting was suspended at 4.20 p.m. and resumed at 4.30 p.m. 10. The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting is as follows:

Number of ballot papers:	147
Invalid ballots:	0 147
Number of valid ballots: Abstentions:	147
Number of members voting: Required majority:	146 98
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i> Cuba Colombia	92 54

11. The PRESIDENT: Since the third restricted ballot has proved inconclusive, the General Assembly will now proceed to a series of unrestricted ballots in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure. In this unrestricted ballot, any member State from the group of Latin American States may be a candidate for election, except, of course, Bolivia, which is about to vacate its seat, and Jamaica, which is already a member of the Security Council. The ballot papers will now be distributed.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Mardovich (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) and Mr. Çelikkol (Turkey) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

12. The PRESIDENT: I propose now to suspend the meeting while the ballots are being counted.

The meeting was suspended at 4.35 p.m. and resumed at 4.50 p.m.

13. The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting is as follows:

Number of ballot papers:	149
Invalid ballots:	1
Number of valid ballots:	147
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	146
Required majority:	98
Number of votes obtained:	
Cuba	88
Colombia	56
Brazil	1
Mexico	1

14. The PRESIDENT: As the result of the voting was inconclusive we shall now proceed to a second unrestricted ballot under the same terms and conditions. The ballot papers will now be distributed.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Mardovich (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) and Mr. Çelikkol (Turkey) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

15. The PRESIDENT: I propose now to suspend the meeting while the ballots are being counted.

The meeting was suspended at 5 p.m. and resumed at 5.10 p.m.

16. The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting is as follows:

Number of ballot papers:	148
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	148
Abstentions:	2
Number of members voting:	146
Required majority:	98
Number of votes obtained:	
Сиба	84
Colombia	59
Mexico	2
El Salvador	1

17. The PRESIDENT: Since the second in this series of unrestricted ballots has proved inconclusive, we shall now proceed to a third unrestricted ballot. As before, in this unrestricted ballot any member State from the group of Latin American States may be a candidate for election, except, of course, Bolivia and Jamaica. The ballot papers will now be distributed.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Mardovich (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) and Mr. Çelikkol (Turkey) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

18. The PRESIDENT: I propose now to suspend the meeting while the ballots are being counted.

The meeting was suspended at 5.15 p.m. and resumed at 5.35 p.m.

19. The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting is as follows:

Number of ballot papers:	148
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	148
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	147
Required majority:	98
Number of votes obtained:	
Cuba	86
Colombia	60
Honduras	1

20. The PRESIDENT: Since the third unrestricted ballot has proved inconclusive, the Assembly will now proceed to the first of a series of three restricted ballots in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure. This balloting is restricted to the two candidates that have obtained the largest number of votes, namely Cuba and Colombia. The ballot papers will now be distributed.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Mardovich (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) and Mr. Çelikkol (Turkey) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

21. The PRESIDENT: I propose now to suspend the meeting while the ballots are being counted.

The meeting was suspended at 5.40 p.m. and resumed at 5.55 p.m. 22. The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting is as follows:

Number of ballot papers:	147
Invalid ballots:	1
Number of valid ballots:	146
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	145
Required majority:	97
Number of votes obtained:	
Cuba	88
Colombia	57

23. The PRESIDENT: As this first restricted ballot has proved inconclusive, we shall now proceed to a second restricted ballot under the same terms and conditions. The ballot papers will now be distributed.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Mardovich (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) and Mr. Çelikkol (Turkey) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

24. The PRESIDENT: I propose now to suspend the meeting while the ballots are being counted.

The meeting was suspended at 6.05 p.m. and resumed at 6.15 p.m.

25. The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting is as follows:

Number of ballot papers:	149
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	149
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	148
Required majority:	99
Number of votes obtained:	
Cuba	91
Colombia	57

26. The PRESIDENT: Since the second in this series of restricted ballots has proved inconclusive, we shall now proceed to a third and, for this afternoon, last restricted ballot. As in the previous ballot, the only countries whose names may be included in the ballot papers are Cuba and Colombia. Any papers containing the names of other countries will be declared invalid. The ballot papers will now be distributed.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Mardovich (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) and Mr. Çelikkol (Turkey) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

27. The PRESIDENT: I now propose to suspend the meeting while the ballots are being counted.

The meeting was suspended at 6.25 p.m. and resumed at 6.40 p.m.

28. The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting is as follows:

Number of ballot papers:	148
Invalid ballots:	0

Number of valid ballots:	148	
Abstentions:	2	
Number of members voting:	146	
Required majority:	98	
Number of votes obtained:		
Cuba	88	
Colombia	58	

29. The PRESIDENT: The third in this series of restricted ballots has proved inconclusive.

Organization of work

30. The PRESIDENT: I shall now indicate to representatives my views on the remainder of the session.

31. It is once again clear that we have not been able to discharge our important obligation under the Charter to elect five non-permanent members of the Security Council, despite historically unprecedented efforts to do so. I have been discussing the dimensions of this dilemma with a number of delegations, including the two candidates themselves. The intensity and frequency of our balotting and the continued inconclusiveness of the outcome have now clearly revealed that further efforts in that regard tonight may not necessarily resolve the issue. I am, of course, aware that delegates are extremely tired. We have worked through a lengthy and difficult agenda. It therefore seems to me that delegates need a little time for rest and reflection and that the forthcoming holiday period is ideally suited to that.

Therefore I propose that, rather than continuing 32. the balloting on a daily basis, which is the only alternative that I can see, we agree now to pause and resume the election effort on 26 December in the morning. In making this proposal I have taken into account the need for reflection and also the fact that at this time, as I said earlier, delegations are extremely tired. You have all done a tremendous amount of work. The Committees have discharged their responsibilities with maximum efficiency and responsibility and the Fifth Committee, which is about to wind up its affairs, will have done so under tremendous pressure and with an extraordinary sense of devotion and dedication. In those circumstances, therefore, it is my considered judgement that it would not be fair to continue the voting process on a daily basis. I believe that the spirit of the holidays, when people rest, relax and reflect, will certainly inspire us all when we next resume the session for consideration of that important item.

33. I believe also that during the holiday season all members will reflect seriously on the need to preserve the integrity and credibility of our Organization and the need to ensure that there is no questioning of the viability of that important organ of this Organization, namely the Security Council. I appeal to you all to use the holiday break for serious reflection and contemplation with a view to reaching a suitable solution which can only be the election of the one remaining non-permanent member of the Security Council.

34. With regard to the remaining work before us, I wish to announce that all the necessary documenta-

tion that will permit us to conclude the remaining item of the Second Committee is available and we shall deal with it immediately after this statement.

The Fifth Committee, which has laboured long 35. and hard, is still dealing with the last-minute difficulties attendant upon its enormous agenda. I understand that it would be physically possible for us to receive the report of the Fifth Committee and act upon it later tonight if that were necessary in order for us to conclude our session today. However, since, as I have already indicated, we really cannot adjourn the session until we have discharged our obligation to fill the remaining vacancy on the Security Council, and as the session will therefore remain open for that purpose, I would suggest that we give our overworked colleagues on the Fifth Committee a few hours to rest and digest the result of their labours of today. Thus, I propose that the Assembly extend the present session by one additional day to dispose of all its regular work on the agenda, completing all Fifth Committee items tomorrow and then recessing until 26 December when the only item left in suspense would be the election of a non-permanent member of the Security Council. May I take it that the General Assembly agrees to this proposal?

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 70

United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development (concluded)*

REPORT OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE (A/34/779)

36. The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 13 of its report [A/34/779]. The report of the Fifth Committee on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution is contained in document A/34/845. A separate vote on section III of the draft resolution has been requested by the delegation of Ireland.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Burma, Burundi, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Oatar, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tome and

Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mongolia, Netherlands, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Section III of the draft resolution was adopted by 114 votes to 1, with 22 abstentions.

37. The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution as a whole. The Second Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution as a whole was adopted (resolution 34/218).

38. The PRESIDENT: I now call upon those representatives who wish to explain their votes after the vote.

39. Mr. vanden HEUVEL (United States of America): An understanding was reached between interested parties in the Second Committee regarding the manner in which the new Centre for Science and Technology for Development would be established and come into operation. This understanding included an agreement that additional resources would not be requested immediately, but that the Secretary-General would be allowed to examine the situation and proceed in a rational fashion.

40. This understanding was accurately reflected in the decision taken by the Second Committee. Our representatives believe that there was an understanding that there would be no need at this time for personnel other than those made available by the clear terms of the resolution. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, on the basis of the decision taken in the Second Committee and the proposals made by the Secretary-General, recommended in its report that a step-by-step formula be used for the implementation of the Second Committee's decision, which would have allowed the Centre to begin operations at the time proposed by the Secretary-General.

41. Yesterday, in the Fifth Committee, a decision was taken which runs counter to the understanding reached in the Second Commitee, and which undercuts the decisions taken by the Secretary-General regarding how best to set in motion the new Centre taking fully into account the terms of the understanding reached in the Second Committee.

^{*} Resumed from the 107th meeting.

42. I might add that the events in the Fifth Committee last night, upsetting as they did a carefully negotiated understanding which had been reached through the efforts of many countries, including my own, are an ominous sign. Apparently there are some in this body who believe that the proposals and positions of the major donor countries can be ignored, that our understanding of carefully negotiated agreements can be disregarded and that a numerical majority can do whatever it wants.

43. Permit me to say that those who hold such attitudes misunderstand the goodwill that the United States has tried to show in the negotiations on this particular subject and in the United Nations generally.

44. We do not accept section III of this resolution, or the callous disregard of the need to use the resources of the United Nations system to their full advantage. An important opportunity for progress in a major area of substantive interest has been endangered and a larger issue has been left behind for all of us to ponder.

45. Mr. KINSMAN (Canada): My delegation has changed its vote on section III since it voted in the Second Committee. Our reason is the decision taken yesterday at the 86th meeting of the Fifth Committee to seek additional appropriations specifically for the seven temporary posts identified in paragraph 10 (b) of document A/C.2/34/L.105.

46. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had observed in document A/34/ 7/Add.28—in our view correctly—that the immediate redeployment of most of the posts and budgetary resources of the Office for Science and Technology which was decided upon in the Second Committee made the specific designations in paragraph 10 (b) of document A/C.2/34/L.105 inappropriate, and that all that was necessary was a ceiling amount.

47. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee was overturned—sadly, in our view—by a divisive vote, despite the clear possibility that we might well have managed to find a solution whereby the redeployed resources of most of the Office for Science and Technology could have been supplemented by whatever was necessary. Instead, it was decided to seek additional appropriations for the seven specific officer posts identified in document A/C.2/34/L.105, as well as, we presume, for most of those of the Office for Science and Technology.

48. Why was this done? Apparently, to provide specific jobs to specific people. We deplore this perpetuation of the inane personalization of work which marred the Conference from the start. We deplore the fact that, at a time when my Government is trying to cut 40,000 jobs from our civil-service rolls, we are here creating positions without specific justification in fact. We deplore the fact that there was no one from the Secretariat in the Fifth Committee yesterday who was able to respond competently to the basic questions regarding the financial and personnel implications at hand.

49. We particularly deplore the fact that this new beginning for science and technology has become com-

promised in this way, as least in so far as concerns the support my delegation was able to promise in the Second Committee.

50. Mr. NISHIDA (Japan): My delegation abstained in the vote on section III of resolution 34/218. When that section was adopted earlier in the Second Committee, my delegation voted in favour of it on the understanding that the provisions contained in paragraph 5 of section III did not require immediate appropriation for starting costs from the regular budget of the United Nations, but that they merely authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments to redeploy immediately most of the posts and budgetary resources of the existing Office for Science and Technology to the new Centre for Science and Technology for Development.

51. Furthermore, this logical interpretation of the paragraph was endorsed by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its report [A/34/7/Add.28]. Yesterday, however, the Fifth Committee, at its 86th meeting, adopted by vote a proposal submitted by India on behalf of the Group of 77 which replaced the recommendation of the Advisory Committee with a request to appropriate for temporary posts for the new Centre an amount not to exceed \$300,000. In view of our basic position as expressed in the Fifth Committee, my delegation has regretfully decided to abstain on this issue.

52. Mr. GREET (Australia): Australia has always supported the aims of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development. We believe the Conference achieved an important political result in establishing a climate of constructive cooperation. In our view, effective and reasonable working arrangements needed to be established to ensure that the new Centre for Science and Technology for Development could begin to set in motion as quickly as possible the important follow-up arrangements to carry out the Vienna Programme of Action.¹

53. For these reasons, therefore, my delegation voted in the Second Committee in favour of section III of the resolution and in favour of the resolution as a whole. However, we then felt that, in the light of the decision taken by the Fifth Committee, we could no longer support section III, and we therefore abstained on this section in the vote just completed. We have always been of the view that the resources of the new Centre should draw to the fullest extent possible on the posts in the Office for Science and Technology, which was to be abolished. We are prepared to be flexible about that, but the Fifth Committee report would seem to us to lead to a duplication of resources and posts to an unacceptable degree.

54. We associate ourselves with the very pertinent remarks of the Canadian delegation.

55. Mr. BASSIN (Finland): I have the honour of speaking on this occasion on behalf of the delegations

¹ See Report of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, Vienna, 20-31 August 1979 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.I.21 and corrigenda), chap. VI, sec^{*}. A.

of Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Finland. Our delegations have not changed their votes on the resolution just adopted from those they expressed in the Second Committee. We have noted, however, to our regret, that the Fifth Committee yesterday approved a budgetary appropriation related to this resolution, the content of which did not correspond to our understanding of the result reached in the Second Committee.

56. The PRESIDENT: The representative of India has asked to be allowed to speak in exercise of his right of reply, and 1 now call on him.

57. Mr. B. C. MISHRA (India): It is not the delegation of India as such that wishes to exercise the right of reply, but the Group of 77, whose Chairman I have the honour to be.

58. The explanations of vote some delegations have just made have given the impression that other delegations—the majority of this Assembly and in particular the Group of 77—have gone back on some understanding reached during informal negotiations. In addition, it has been said, and very undiplomatically in my humble view, that the action taken by the Fifth Committee yesterday was meant to further the personal interests of certain Secretariat officials.

59. I reject these insinuations categorically. The draft resolution adopted by the Second Committee was explicit on the question of resources for the new Centre for Science and Technology for Development. Paragraph 5 of section III clearly stated:

"Decides also to allocate all the necessary resources from the United Nations regular budget to the Centre . . .",

and it goes on to mention redeployment and further review by the Intergovernmental Committee for Science and Technology for Development. A clear reading of this section can lead to but one conclusion, namely, that the resources for the Centre would not be confined to redeployed posts from the Office for Science and Technology and that additional resources from the regular budget would be made available.

60. This was made abundantly clear in the statement of financial implications which accompanied the resolution when it was adopted by the Second Committee. *Inter alia*, it was made clear that the Centre would need seven temporary professional and some administrative posts, and the total cost was estimated at \$300,000 for the year 1980. For reasons unknown, the Secretariat, in its submission to the Fifth Committee of the financial implications of the resolution, asked for a commitment of \$300,000 rather than an appropriation of that amount. This discrepancy was pointed out by the Group of 77 and had to be corrected. It will be noted that no additional funds would have to be found to convert the commitment sought by the Secretary-General into an appropriation.

61. Now, why is there need for an immediate appro-The Intergovernmental Committee on priation? Science and Technology for Development meets towards the end of January. Its session has to be prepared and this requires immediate availability of staff and resources. If we were to follow the arguments that were adduced a few minutes ago, then the new Centre, which is to be headed by an Assistant Secretary-General, would have fewer posts than the present Office for Science and Technology. That is hardly a reasonable argument. In any case, to redeploy staff from the Office for Science and Technology will take time and the new Assistant Secretary-General would naturally have to recruit some staff immediately. It is a very important and urgent practical requirement.

62. The entire question of the strength of the Centre is subject to the review of the Intergovernmental Committee. But at the same time, it is essential that the Centre should be a going concern from the very beginning. The Intergovernmental Committee can take its decision in the light of the functioning of the Centre.

63. The Fifth Committee's decision reaffirms the clearly expressed decision of the Second Committee in the statement of the administrative and financial implications of the resolution. There is absolutely no occasion for any suggestion of bad faith on the part of the Group of 77. We cannot accept that the outcome of the issue in the Fifth Committee provides legitimate grounds for a change of vote. We can only regret the second thoughts about the resolution that are evident in the changes of vote that have been announced this evening.

64. From the point of view of the Group of 77, the science and technology resolution is one of the most important decisions adopted by the Assembly at this session. It represents a balance between the interests and needs of all Member States. On behalf of the Group of 77, 1 express the hope that all Member States will make all necessary efforts to ensure that the resolution is implemented faithfully so that the fruits of the Vienna Conference are not lost.

The meeting rose at 7.15 p.m.