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SIXTH COMMITTEE
60th meeting
held on
at 10.30 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 60th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. GUNA-KASEM (Thailand)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 119: CONSOLIDATION AND PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRINCIPLES AND NORMS OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW RELATING IN PARTICULAR TO THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER (continued) (A/31/172; A/C.6/34/L.7 and L.17/Rev.1)

1. Mr. VERCELES (Philippines), introducing the revised draft resolution contained in document A/C.6/34/L.17/Rev.1, pointed out that, in the first line of the fifth preambular paragraph, the words "the Charter of the United Nations and" had been inserted, since the Charter was also a source of international law and contained principles and norms of international economic law.
2. With regard to paragraph 1, after the words "Requests the Secretary-General" the words "in collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and in co-ordination with the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law" had been added; reference had been made to UNITAR because that Institute also had an interest in work currently under way on the new international economic order and had prepared publications on that matter. Accordingly, it was important to obtain its assistance. As to UNCITRAL, a Working Group on the New International Economic Order had been set up, although its field of action was limited to questions of international trade law. In carrying out activities in co-operation with that body, the necessary precautions should be taken to avoid any duplication of work. The last sentence of paragraph 1 had also been changed to read: "with a view to embodying them in an appropriate instrument". When it received the report of the Secretary-General on that matter, the Sixth Committee would have the task of determining what form such an instrument should take.
3. Paragraph 2 was new; the date referred to in that paragraph reflected the need to give the Secretary-General enough time to consider the views of Member States.
4. Paragraph 3 was based on paragraph 2 of the original draft resolution to which had been added, after the words "a preliminary report on his study", the words "and the views of Governments received", on the understanding that those views would be contained in the preliminary report.
5. The revised draft resolution had also incorporated the suggestions made by various delegations in official meetings and in informal consultations. His delegation did not consider it timely to incorporate other suggestions, because, in its opinion, they had represented a divergence from the principal goal of the draft resolution. For example, the representative of Cuba had proposed that reference should be made to the Arusha Programme for Collective Self-Reliance and to the Political Declaration of the Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Countries, held at Havana. Although his delegation did not have any substantive objections to that proposal, it thought that the draft resolution of which it was a sponsor was not the appropriate place in which to make such references.

(Mr. Verceles, Philippines)

6. He pointed out that some delegations had suggested that the decision on the draft resolution should be postponed. However, in view of the fact that it had already been postponed twice, his delegation hoped that the Committee would adopt the revised draft resolution soon, if possible without putting it to a vote.

AGENDA ITEM 113: DRAFTING OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AGAINST THE TAKING OF HOSTAGES: REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE DRAFTING OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AGAINST THE TAKING OF HOSTAGES (continued) (A/34/39; A/C.6/34/L.12 and Corr.7, A/C.6/34/L.23)

7. Mr. FLEISCHHALLER (Federal Republic of Germany), introducing the draft resolution contained in document A/C.6/34/L.23, pointed out that it recommended that the General Assembly should adopt the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages, the text of which would be annexed to the resolution. He drew attention to the fact that, when his country had proposed the drafting of such a convention, it had felt an urgent need for an internationally agreed instrument against the taking of hostages. It had also been convinced that it should be possible to distinguish between the particularly odious crime of hostage-taking and the vast series of acts of international terrorism and to reach an agreement among nations on the adoption of effective measures for the prevention, prosecution and punishment of that crime. Currently, the need for such a convention seemed even greater than ever, and both the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Drafting of an International Convention against the Taking of Hostages and the discussions of the Sixth Committee had proved that an agreement could be reached among States in that connexion.

8. For technical reasons, the text which was to be annexed to the resolution was not yet ready for distribution. However, that text was almost the same as that which had been contained in document A/C.6/34/L.12, taking into account the purely linguistic changes contained in documents A/C.6/34/L.12/Corr.1 to Corr.6. Moreover, the third and fourth preambular paragraphs were the same as the text contained in document A/C.6/34/L.14, which seemed to have received widespread support.

9. The text of the draft convention was the result of the work of delegations from all the regional groups and had received broad support in the Committee, with the exception of article 9, which had required additional consultations. He therefore expressed the hope that the Committee would adopt the draft resolution and the draft convention by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM 115: REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH THE HOST COUNTRY (continued) (A/34/26; A/C.6/34/L.15)

10. The CHAIRMAN announced that Cuba had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.6/34/L.15.

11. Mr. PINTO (Costa Rica) announced that the correction to draft resolution A/C.6/34/L.15, which had just been submitted to the Committee, had not included the names of Canada, Costa Rica and Cyprus among the original sponsors. Accordingly,

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(Mr. Pinto Costa Rica)

he requested that the fact that those countries had been among the original sponsors should be included in the Sixth Committee's report to the General Assembly and that the appropriate change should be made in issue No. 79/236 of the Journal, in which it had been announced that "Canada, Cyprus and Costa Rica became co-sponsors of the draft resolution". Those countries had not become sponsors subsequently but had been among the original sponsors.

12. Mr. GRIBACH (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) pointed out that his delegation attached great importance to the activities of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, the body entrusted with the task of studying the problems faced by the diplomatic community in New York. Consideration of the Committee's report (A/34/26) and of the documents referring to the item under discussion revealed that, although the safety of diplomatic representatives accredited to the United Nations had improved somewhat, the remaining problems still had not been solved.

13. Recently, the Permanent Missions of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic had been the victims of provocations and demonstrations organized by Zionist and anti-Soviet groups, who had uttered threats and insults to mission staff and to members of their families, including women and children. Some people had dismissed those deplorable activities as examples of freedom of opinion in a democratic society but, in the eyes of the world society, they could only be considered acts of lawlessness. One of the latest demonstrations had been held deliberately to coincide with the sixty-second anniversary of the Great October Revolution in order to disrupt celebrations commemorating that event. Those acts, which had been committed with impunity, had seriously disrupted the normal functioning of the missions and had impaired the safety of their personnel. Aware of their impunity, bands of undesirable elements still continued their provocations and acts of terrorism, for example, by exploding a bomb in the building occupied by the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations. Although the identity of the perpetrators of such attacks was publicly and widely known, the appropriate authorities had not taken proper measures; although the offenders had been arrested several times, they had never been prosecuted. Those incidents constituted a grave violation of the 1972 Federal Act on the Protection of Foreign Officials and Official Guests of the United States and of various international instruments, in particular the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, which imposed special obligations on the host State for the protection of the premises of diplomatic missions and of their staff.

14. Another unresolved problem concerned the parking of vehicles with diplomatic licence plates. He pointed out that parking tickets were frequently given to automobiles having diplomatic licence plates, while private vehicles were not given tickets under the same circumstances. An automobile belonging to the Permanent Mission of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic had been given a ticket, when it had been legally parked in a spot specially designated for that purpose. As was indicated in the report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, effective measures should be adopted to remedy that situation. A

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(Mr. Gribach, Byelorussian SSR)

propaganda campaign, launched through the news media, on the importance of encouraging understanding and collaboration between countries having different social and economic systems, would have a positive effect on that situation. During its 76th and 79th meetings, the Committee on Relations with the Host Country had discussed the problem of the gasoline shortage and the effects it had on the normal functioning of missions. It was to be hoped that the appropriate steps would be taken to prevent such problems from recurring in future. His delegation thought that the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, although in many cases they repeated the wording of those from previous years, were perfectly valid, and the host country should take the necessary steps to put those recommendations into practice.

15. Lastly, he was in favour of extending the Committee's mandate and of its holding regular meetings.

AGENDA ITEM 108: REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION ON THE WORK OF ITS THIRTY-FIRST SESSION (continued) (A/34/10; A/C.6/34/L.21)

16. The CHAIRMAN announced that Australia, New Zealand, Niger and Romania wished to become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.6/34/L.21.

17. Miss OLIVEROS (Argentina) pointed out that, through an involuntary omission, document A/C.6/34/L.21 had not included the names of Costa Rica, Bahrain, Tunisia and Uruguay among the original sponsors of that draft resolution. Moreover, she wished to draw attention to the fact that, during discussions in the drafting group, it had been stated that the International Law Commission should indicate how the Sixth Committee could best convey to the Commission the results of its consideration of the Commission's report.

18. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Committee decided to adopt draft resolution A/C.6/34/L.21 by consensus.

19. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11.35 a.m.