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GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE THIRD MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Saturday, 20 September 1986 at 12.55 p.m.

President:

Mr. CHOUDHURY

(Bangladesh)

- Adoption of the agenda and organization of work: first and second reports of the General Committee

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The meeting was called to order at 12.55 p.m.

ITEM 8 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK: FIRST AND SECOND REPORTS OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE (A/41/250 and Add.1)

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now consider the report of the General Committee on its first meeting, held on 16 September 1986. That report has been circulated as document A/41/250.

We shall first examine section II of the report, which deals with the organization of the session.

Members are aware that by its decision 34/401, which is reproduced as annex VI to the rules of procedure, and by its resolution 39/88 B, which is reproduced as annex VII to the rules, the General Assembly adopted a number of provisions aimed at rationalizing its procedures and organization. Many of these provisions have already been implemented at previous sessions, but some have not or have been only partly implemented. It is hoped that at the present session the Assembly will endeavour to advance this process of rationalization.

The provisions of General Assembly decision 34/401 and resolution 39/88 B, to which I have just referred, that directly affect the organization of work of the General Committee are reproduced in paragraph 2 of document A/41/250. In that paragraph, the General Committee informs the General Assembly that it took note of those Assembly decisions.

As concerns the schedule of meetings referred to in paragraphs 3 to 5 of its report, the General Committee first draws the Assembly's attention to paragraph 3 of Assembly decision 34/401 and recommends that, as has been done for the past three sessions, morning plenary meetings during the period of the general debate should begin at 10 a.m. instead of 10.30 a.m.

(The President)

May I take it that the Assembly approves that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: In paragraph 5 of its report, the General Committee recommends to the General Assembly that delegations should be reminded of the utmost importance of punctuality in the interest of ensuring an effective and orderly organization of work and achieving economies for the United Nations.

May I take it that the Assembly approves that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: In this connection I should like to assure the Assembly that I shall be in the Chair punctually at the scheduled time and I urge the Chairmen of the Main Committees to do the same. I sincerely hope that all delegations will make a special effort to co-operate in this regard.

We turn now to paragraphs 6 and 7 of the General Committee's report, concerning the general debate.

May I take it that the General Assembly approves the recommendations contained in paragraph 6?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: In view of the very large number of speakers already inscribed for the general debate, I shall urge representatives to speak in the order in which they appear on the list. Those who are unable to speak at the scheduled time will be put at the end of the list for that day.

In paragraph 7 the General Committee draws the General Assembly's attention to the decision taken by the Assembly at the third plenary meeting of its fortieth session, held on Friday, 20 September 1985, that the practice of expressing congratulations in the General Assembly Hall after a speech had been delivered was prohibited.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to decide that this provision also applies during the forty-first session?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Regarding explanations of vote and right of reply, referred to in paragraph 8, the General Committee draws the General Assembly's attention to paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 of its decision 34/401.

Paragraph 9 deals with records of meetings. May I take it that the Assembly approves the recommendations contained in paragraph 9?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: In paragraph 10 the General Committee draws the General Assembly's attention to paragraphs 18 and 19 of its decision 34/401 concerning the election of the Chairmen of the Main Committees. I hope that these provisions will be fully implemented to facilitate the organization of the work of future sessions of the General Assembly.

The General Committee also draws the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 17 of its decision 34/401, which is reproduced in paragraph 11, concerning concluding statements in the General Assembly and its Main Committees.

(The President)

Paragraphs 12 and 13 refer to questions related to the programme budget. In this connection, the General Committee draws the General Assembly's attention first to paragraphs 12 and 13 of its decision 34/401. It also draws to the Assembly's attention regulation 4.9 of the regulations governing programme planning, the programme aspects of the budget, the monitoring of implementation and the methods of evaluation, which reads as follows:

"No Council, Commission or other competent body shall take a decision involving either a change in the programme budget approved by the General Assembly or the possible requirement of expenditure unless it has received and taken account of a report from the Secretary-General on the programme budget implications of the proposal." (resolution 37/234, annex)

As members are aware, this has been a serious problem, especially towards the end of the session. If the General Assembly decides to curtail the forty-first session, the target date for the conclusion of the work of the Main Committees and the mandatory deadline for the submission to the Fifth Committee of all draft resolutions with programme budget implications should be adjusted accordingly.

Furthermore, the General Committee draws the attention of the General Assembly to paragraph 6 of its resolution 35/10 A, of 3 November 1980, which reads as follows:

"Decides that all proposals affecting the schedule of conferences and meetings made at sessions of the General Assembly shall be reviewed by the Committee on Conferences when administrative implications are being considered under the requirements of rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly." (resolution 35/10 A, para. 6)

Paragraphs 14 and 15 refer to documentation. In paragraph 14 the General Committee draws the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 28 of its decision 34/401.

(The President)

Regarding paragraph 15, may I consider that the General Assembly approves the recommendation of the General Committee concerning the need to adopt stricter measures in urging all Member States and subsidiary organs to exercise maximum restraint in requesting circulation of material as official documents of the General Assembly?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: In paragraphs 16 and 17, the General Committee draws the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 32 of its decision 34/401, concerning resolutions, and to paragraphs 17, 18 and 19 of the relevant recommendations made by the Presidents of the General Assembly in the appendix to document A/40/377.

Paragraph 18 relates to special conferences. The General Committee draws the General Assembly's attention to recommendation 6 of the Committee on Conferences, adopted by the Assembly in paragraph (b) of its decision 34/405, and to paragraphs 10 (h) and (i) of Assembly decision 40/243, section I.

In paragraph 19 the General Committee, in the light of recommendations submitted by the Committee on Conferences, recommends to the General Assembly that the following subsidiary organs of the Assembly should be authorized to hold meetings during the forty-first session: the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People; the United Nations Council for Namibia; and the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

Furthermore, the General Committee decided to recommend to the Assembly that the Special Committee against Apartheid should also be authorized to hold meetings during the forty-first session.

May I take it that the General Assembly approves those recommendations?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: That completes our consideration of section II of this report of the General Committee, which relates to the organization of the session.

We turn now to section III of the first report of the General Committee, relating to the adoption of the agenda.

May I recall to members of the General Assembly rule 23 of the rules of procedure, which provides that

"Debate on the inclusion of an item in the agenda, when that item has been recommended for inclusion by the General Committee, shall be limited to three speakers in favour of, and three against, the inclusion."

I should like to stress that at this time we are not discussing the substance of any item.

In paragraph 21 the General Committee decided to recommend that item 42 of the draft agenda, "Celebration of the one-hundred-and-fiftieth anniversary of the emancipation of slaves in the British Empire", and item 44, "Observance of the quinqucentenary of the discovery of America", should be deleted.

May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to adopt that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: In paragraph 22, which relates to item 111 of the draft agenda, "Question of East Timor", the General Committee informs the Assembly of its decision to defer for the time being a decision on the inclusion of this item.

May I take it that the Assembly takes note of this decision of the General Committee?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: In paragraph 23, which concerns item 143 of the draft agenda, "External debt crisis and development", the General Committee informs the Assembly of its decision to defer to a subsequent meeting its decision on the inclusion of this item.

I take it that the Assembly takes note of this decision of the General Committee.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We shall return to this item later.

Finally, in paragraph 24, which relates to item 145 of the draft agenda, "Establishment of a comprehensive system of international security", the General Committee recommends to the Assembly that the wording of the title of the item be amended to read "Establishment of a comprehensive system of international peace and security" and that the Assembly should include the item in the agenda as amended.

I take it that the Assembly adopts those recommendations.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We turn now to the agenda which the General Committee recommends for adoption by the General Assembly.

In accordance with past practice, we shall follow the numbering given in paragraph 25 of the General Committee's first report (A/41/250) and shall consider several items in groups, where that seems appropriate. I should like to remind members once again that at present we are not discussing the substance of any item except when such discussion can assist the Assembly in deciding whether or not to include an item in the agenda.

Items 1 to 6 have already been acted upon in plenary meeting; therefore their inclusion has been approved.

We come now to items 7 to 23.

I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to include those items in the agenda.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Next we turn to item 24, entitled "Armed Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations and its grave consequences for the established international system concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and international peace and security". May I take it that item 24 is included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Item 25 is entitled "The situation in Kampuchea". May I consider that item 25 is included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Next we turn to item 26, "The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security". May I take it that item 26 is included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: The next item is item 27, "Co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity". May I take it that this item is included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Item 28 is entitled "Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)". May I take it that item 28 is included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We now turn to item 29, "Critical economic situation in Africa". May I take it that item 29 is included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Next we turn to item 30, "Co-operation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee". I take it that the Assembly wishes to include that item in the agenda.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: The next item, item 31, is entitled "Question of the Comorian Island of Mayotte". Taking into account the report of the General Committee and the statement made in that Committee, may I take it that item 31 is included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Next we come to item 32, entitled "Law of the Sea". May I take it that this item is included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Item 33 is entitled "Policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa". May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to include this item in the Agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We come now to item 34, entitled "United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy". I take it that this item is included in the agenda.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Next we come to item 35, entitled "Question of Palestine". I take it that the Assembly wishes to include this item in the agenda.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: May I take it that item 36, entitled "Question of Namibia", this item is included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Item 37, entitled "The situation in the Middle East", is recommended for inclusion. I take it that this item is included in the agenda.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We come next to item 38, entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations: report of the Group of High-Level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations". I take it that the Assembly wishes to include this item in the agenda.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We turn now to item 39, entitled "Question of peace, stability and co-operation in South-East Asia". May I take it that item 39 is included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I take it that the General Assembly has no objection to the inclusion in the agenda of item 40, "Launching of global negotiations on international economic co-operation for development"?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Item 41, entitled "Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council", has been recommended for inclusion in the agenda. May I take it that the Assembly approves this recommendation?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We turn next to item 42, "The situation in Central America: threats to international peace and security and peace initiatives". May I take it that item 42 is included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Item 43, "Question of Cyprus", has been recommended for inclusion in the agenda. I take it that the Assembly approves that recommendation.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Next we turn to item 44, "Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations". I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to include this item in the agenda.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Item 45 is entitled "Consequences of the prolongation of the armed conflict between Iran and Iraq". I take it that the Assembly wishes to include this item in the agenda.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We come now to the inclusion of items 46 to 58. May I take it that those items are included in the agenda?

It was decided.

The PRESIDENT: Next we come to item 59, entitled "Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons". May I take it that this item is included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I now put before the Assembly the question of the inclusion of items 60 to 65. I take it that those items are included in the agenda.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We now turn to the question of the inclusion of item 66, entitled "Question of Antarctica". I take it that the Assembly wishes to include this item in the agenda.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Next we come to items 67 to 69. May I take it that these items are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: May I also take it that items 70 to 76 are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We turn now to the question of the inclusion of item 77, entitled "Question of the Malagasy Islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas Da India". Taking into account the report of the General Committee and the statements made in that Committee, may I take it that item 77 is included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We turn now to the question of the inclusion of item 78, entitled "Question of the composition of the relevant organs of the United Nations". May I take it that item 78 is included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We now come to items 79 to 82. I take it that they are included in the agenda.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We come next to items 83 to 103. May I take it that those items are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We come now to items 104 to 108. May I take it that those items are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We now turn to items 109 to 120. May I take it that those items are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Items 121 to 136 have been recommended for inclusion in the agenda. I take it that the General Assembly approves that recommendation.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Next we turn to item 137, entitled "Question of the review of the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space". May I take it that the Assembly includes this item in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Now we turn to item 138, entitled "Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties between States and International Organizations or between International Organizations". I take it that this item is included in the agenda.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Next we turn to item 139, entitled "Zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic". I take it that the Assembly wishes to include this item in the agenda.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We turn now to item 140, entitled "Current financial crisis of the United Nations". May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to include this item in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Item 141 is entitled "Establishment of a comprehensive system of international peace and security". I take it that this item is included in the agenda.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: The last item recommended by the General Committee for inclusion in the agenda, item 142, is entitled "Declaration of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity on the aerial and naval military attack against the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya by the present United States Administration in April 1986".

May I take it that the Assembly includes item 142 in the agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We now turn to the question of the allocation of items dealt with in section IV of the first report of the General Committee. In this connection, the General Committee, in paragraph 26, draws the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 4 of its decision 34/401, which states that

"substantive items should normally be discussed initially in a Main Committee and, therefore, items previously allocated to plenary meetings should henceforth be referred to a Main Committee unless there are compelling circumstances requiring their continued consideration in plenary meeting".

The modifications indicated in paragraph 27 are reflected in the proposed allocation. We shall therefore consider them when we come to the relevant items under paragraph 28.

May I now invite members to turn to the list of items recommended for consideration in plenary meeting.

(The President)

Regarding item 19, the General Committee recommends in paragraph 27 (a) (i) that the Assembly refer to the Fourth Committee all the chapters of the report of the Special Committee relating to specific Territories so that the General Assembly may deal in plenary meeting with the question of the implementation of the Declaration as a whole.

May I take it that the General Assembly approves that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I now invite members to consider item 28, "Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)". In this connection, as stated in paragraph 27 (a) (ii), the General Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item should be considered directly in plenary meeting, on the understanding that bodies and individuals having an interest in the question would be heard in the Fourth Committee in conjunction with the consideration of the item in plenary meeting.

May I take it that the Assembly approves that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I now invite members to turn their attention to item 33, entitled "Policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa". In this connection, as stated in paragraph 27 (a) (iii), the General Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item should be considered directly in plenary meeting, on the understanding that representatives of the Organization of African Unity and of national liberation movements recognized by that organization would be permitted to participate in the discussion in plenary meeting and that organizations and individuals having a special interest in the question would be permitted to be heard by the Special Political Committee.

(The President)

May I take it that the General Assembly approves the recommendation of the General Committee?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We turn now to the recommendation of the General Committee on the allocation of item 36, entitled "Question of Namibia". As indicated in paragraph 27 (a) (iv), the General Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item should be considered directly in plenary meeting, on the understanding that hearings of the organizations concerned would be held in the Fourth Committee.

I take it that the General Assembly approves that recommendation.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We now turn to item 38, "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations". I should like to inform the Assembly that in the light of further consultations among members the following allocation of this item has been agreed upon: item 38, "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations", will be considered in plenary meetings of the General Assembly. During the course of this consideration, the Fifth Committee will, within the scope of its responsibilities, undertake a factual examination of the report and submit its findings to the plenary meeting.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I now invite the General Assembly to turn its attention to paragraph 27 (a) (vi), regarding the item entitled "Question of Cyprus", in which the General Committee recommends that the General Assembly defer a decision on the allocation of the item to an appropriate time in the future.

May I take it that the Assembly adopts that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I now invite the General Assembly to turn its attention to paragraph 27 (a) (vii), regarding the item entitled "Zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic", in which the General Committee recommends that the item should be considered directly in plenary meeting.

I take it that the General Assembly adopts that recommendation.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We turn now to paragraph 27 (a) (viii) dealing with item 140, "Current financial crisis of the United Nations". The General Committee recommends that the Assembly consider this item directly in plenary meeting, on the understanding that the Fifth Committee will deal with the clarification of technical questions relating to the item.

May I take it that the Assembly approves that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Finally, the General Committee has recommended in paragraph 27 (a) (ix) that item 142, "Declaration of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity on the aerial and naval military attack against the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya by the present United States Administration in April 1986", should be considered directly in plenary meeting.

May I take it that the General Assembly approves that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: May I now take it that the General Assembly approves the allocation of the other items listed for consideration directly in plenary meeting?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We turn now to the list of items which the General Committee has recommended for allocation to the First Committee.

In connection with item 60, "General and complete disarmament", the General Committee has recommended in paragraph 27 (b) (i) that the relevant paragraphs of the annual report of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which is to be considered directly in plenary meeting under item 14, should be drawn to the attention of the First Committee in connection with its consideration of item 60.

May I take it that the Assembly approves that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Next we turn to paragraph 27 (b) (ii), concerning item 141, entitled "Establishment of a comprehensive system of international peace and security". The General Committee decided to recommend that this be allocated to the First Committee.

May I take it that the General Assembly approves that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: May I take it that the General Assembly approves the allocation of the items proposed for allocation to the First Committee?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We turn now to the list of items which the General Committee has recommended for allocation to the Special Political Committee.

May I take it that the General Assembly approves the allocation of the items proposed for allocation to the Special Political Committee?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We turn now to the list of items which the General Committee has recommended for allocation to the Second Committee.

May I take it that the General Assembly approves this recommendation?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We come now to the items proposed for allocation to the Third Committee.

In connection with item 12, entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council", the General Committee recommends in paragraph 27 (c) (i) that the question entitled "Families in the development process" should be discussed by the Third Committee under item 12.

May I take it that the General Assembly adopts that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: In connection with item 93 (b), entitled "United Nations Development Fund for Women", the General Committee recommends in paragraph 27 (c) (ii) that the annual report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the operations, management and budget of the Fund should be referred to the Second Committee for consideration under item 80, "Operational activities for development".

May I take it that the General Assembly adopts that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: May I take it that the General Assembly approves the proposed allocation of items to the Third Committee?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Are there any comments on the proposed allocation of items to the Fourth Committee? I hear none, therefore I take it that the General Assembly approves the proposed allocation.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We turn now to the list of items proposed for allocation to the Fifth Committee.

(The President)

Regarding item 114, entitled "Joint Inspection Unit", the General Committee recommends in paragraph 27 (d) that the item be allocated to the Fifth Committee, on the understanding that reports of the Joint Inspection Unit dealing with subject-matters assigned to the other Main Committees will be referred also to those Committees.

May I take it that the General Assembly adopts that recommendation and approves the allocation of the other items proposed for allocation to the Fifth Committee?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Next we come to the items recommended for allocation to the Sixth Committee. May I take it that the General Assembly adopts this recommendation?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: The General Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of the first report of the General Committee.

The General Assembly will now turn to the report of the General Committee on its second meeting, held on 19 September 1986 (A/41/250/Add.1).

First, we shall examine section II, "Organization of the session".

In paragraph 2 the General Committee draws the attention of the General Assembly to the fact that, in view of the current financial crisis of the United Nations and the efforts being undertaken to review the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the Organization, questions relating to the rationalization of the work of the General Assembly must be dealt with on a priority basis if the forty-first session is to be conducted in the most effective manner.

May I take it that the General Assembly takes note of paragraph 2 of the General Committee's report?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: In paragraph 3, which concerns the report of the Group of High-Level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency and the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations (A/41/49), the Committee recommends that the General Assembly consider the recommendations contained in that report relating to the rationalization of the work of the Assembly at the earliest possible opportunity.

May I take it that the General Assembly approves that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Paragraphs 4 and 5 deal with the closing date of the forty-first session. In paragraph 4, in connection with General Assembly decision 40/472, on the Secretary-General's proposal to curtail by three weeks the duration of the forty-first session, the General Committee decided to defer consideration of the closing date of the forty-first session to a future meeting.

May I take it that the General Assembly takes note of this decision?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Further, in paragraph 5 the General Committee recommends that the Assembly should draw the attention of the Chairmen of the Main Committees to the desirability, when approving their respective programmes of work for the session, of sufficient flexibility to allow for an orderly shortening of the session if the Assembly should so decide.

May I take it that the General Assembly approves that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: In paragraph 6 the General Committee draws to the attention of the Assembly the fact that, owing to a 30 per cent reduction in costs relating to overtime, the Secretariat will not be able to provide all the services rendered in previous years.

May I take it that the Assembly takes note of that information?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Paragraph 7 concerns the observance of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the International Covenants on human rights. Recalling paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 40/114, whereby the Assembly decided, inter alia, to convene on 16 December 1986, during the forty-first session, a commemorative plenary meeting devoted to the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the International Covenants on human rights, the Committee recommends that, in the light of the fact that 16 December would normally be the closing date of this session, a commemorative plenary meeting should be convened on a date to be decided at a later stage.

May I take it that the General Assembly approves that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We turn now to paragraph 8 of the report, in which the Committee recommends that the General Assembly waive, at this session, the requirement of the presence of at least one third of the members to declare a plenary meeting open and permit the debate to proceed, and one quarter of the members to declare a meeting of a Main Committee open and permit the debate to proceed. This recommendation is made on the understanding that such a waiver would not imply any permanent change in the relevant provisions of rules 67 and 108 of the rules of procedure and that, in accordance with those rules, the presence of a majority of the members shall be required for any decision to be taken.

May I take it that the General Assembly approves this recommendation?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: In paragraph 9, regarding the length of statements, the General Committee draws the attention of the Assembly to rules 72 and 114 of the rules of procedure and paragraph 22 of annex VI thereof for appropriate action in plenary meeting and in the Main Committees.

May I take it that the General Assembly takes note of that paragraph?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We turn now to section III of the second report of the General Committee, relating to adoption of the agenda and allocation of items. In paragraph 10 it is stated that the General Committee decided to consider at a subsequent meeting at an early date the Secretary-General's suggestions with regard to (a) the grouping of related items under a single heading and (b) the staggering of items over two or more years.

May I take it that the General Assembly takes note of that decision?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: In paragraph 11 the General Committee recommends that item 143 of the draft agenda, "External debt crisis and development", be included in the agenda and allocated to the Second Committee.

I take it that the General Assembly wishes to include that item in the agenda and allocate it to the Second Committee.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: The General Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of the second report of the General Committee.

Each Main Committee will receive promptly the list of agenda items allocated to it so that it may begin its work as soon as possible, in accordance with rule 99 of the rules of procedure.

The meeting rose at 1.40 p.m.

