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Forty-first session  
Agenda item 3

### CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FORTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

#### First report of the Credentials Committee

Chairman: Mr. Andrés AGUILAR (Venezuela)

1. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 16 September 1986, the General Assembly, in accordance with rule 28 of its rules of procedure, appointed a Credentials Committee for its forty-first session consisting of the following Member States: Bahamas, China, Fiji, Ghana, Netherlands, Rwanda, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America and Venezuela.
2. The Credentials Committee held its first meeting on 16 October 1986.
3. Mr. Andrés Aguilar (Venezuela) was unanimously elected Chairman.
4. The Committee had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General, dated 16 October 1986, on the status of credentials of representatives to the forty-first session and to the fourteenth special session of the General Assembly. In this latter respect, it was recalled that the General Assembly at its fourteenth special session had decided that, in order to permit the Assembly to use the limited time available to it for the consideration of the substantive question before it, the status of credentials of representatives to the fourteenth special session would be reported on during the forty-first regular session. The Committee also had before it document A/41/689.
5. The memorandum by the Secretary-General, which contained information based on communications received by the Secretary-General as at 15 October 1986, indicated as follows:

A. Forty-first session of the General Assembly

(1) Credentials issued by the Head of the State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, as provided for in rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, have been submitted to the Secretary-General by the following 138 Member States:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, St. Christopher and Nevis, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia and Zaire.

(2) In addition, information concerning the appointment of their representatives to the forty-first regular session had been communicated to the Secretary-General by means of a cable from the Head of the Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs or in the form of communication from the Permanent Mission concerned by the following nine Member States:

Benin, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Luxembourg, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Uruguay and Zimbabwe.

B. Fourteenth special session of the General Assembly

(1) Credentials issued by the Head of the State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, as provided for in rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, have been submitted to the Secretary-General by the following 60 Member States:

Afghanistan, Albania, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Ecuador, Fiji, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Jamaica, Kenya, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mexico, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Rwanda, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela, Viet Nam and Yemen.

(2) In addition, information concerning the appointment of their representatives to the fourteenth special session has been communicated to the Secretary-General by means of a cable from the Head of the Government or the Minister for Foreign Affairs or in the form of a communication from the Permanent Mission concerned by the following 13 Member States:

Algeria, Bahrain, Congo, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Gabon, Haiti, Mauritius, Nepal, Nigeria, Portugal, Romania and Seychelles.

6. The Legal Counsel made a statement concerning the information contained in the memorandum by the Secretary-General. He indicated that the Secretary-General would provide additional information to the Credentials Committee at a subsequent stage regarding the Member States that had not yet submitted credentials for their representatives to the forty-first regular session and to the fourteenth special session of the General Assembly in the form required under rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly. The Legal Counsel informed the Committee that a majority of Member States were represented at the fourteenth special session by permanent representatives whose credentials empowered them to represent their respective States in all organs of the United Nations without limitation as to session and for those representatives no additional credentials were required. The Legal Counsel further drew the attention of the Committee to the fact that a communication from certain States had been circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 3 of the agenda entitled "Credentials of representatives to the forty-first session of the General Assembly". A copy of the document bearing the symbol A/41/689 was made available to each member of the Committee during the meeting.

7. Statements concerning the credentials of the representatives of the Member States listed in the memorandum by the Secretary-General were made by the representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, China, the United States of America, Ghana, the Netherlands, Rwanda, the Bahamas and Fiji.

8. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that the Soviet delegation firmly opposed acceptance of the credentials for the representatives of so-called "Democratic Kampuchea". The presence of that band of outcasts, driven from their country for their bloody crimes against the Kampuchean people, conformed to neither the spirit nor the letter of the Charter. The

political intentions of certain circles were extremely clear: by arranging for the so-called "coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea" to be represented in the United Nations, they were trying to repudiate the fact that a State - the People's Republic of Kampuchea - existed on the political map of the world. The People's Republic of Kampuchea, founded in 1979, represented the fundamental interests of the Kampuchean people. The Government, formed as a result of universal free elections, exercised effective control over the territory of the country and was rapidly restoring the national economy which the Pol Pot criminal clique had brought to the point of collapse. Advancing along the road of revival, the Kampuchean people had scored major successes in agriculture and in education and culture. The fifth congress of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea, in October 1985, decided on the next stages of the country's continuing development and confirmed the readiness of the People's Republic of Kampuchea to establish friendly relations and co-operation with the countries of the region and with all the world's States, regardless of differences in political structure, on the basis of mutual respect, independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. The People's Republic of Kampuchea was ready to do its part in turning the South-East Asian region into a zone of peace, stability and co-operation. In that connection, the Soviet delegation called for the legitimate representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea to be afforded forthwith their sovereign right to represent the interests of their people in the United Nations. That was the only outcome which would correspond to the actual state of affairs.

9. The representative of the Soviet Union added that he would also like to reaffirm the Soviet delegation's position regarding its non-acceptance of the credentials of the delegation of the fascist régime in Chile and of the representatives of the puppet régime installed by the Americans in Grenada.

10. The representative of China stated that, as was well known, Democratic Kampuchea was the sole legal Government of Kampuchea and it was widely recognized internationally. The relevant resolutions of the General Assembly had also fully confirmed this fact. The so-called "People's Republic of Kampuchea" was a product of foreign aggression. It was an agent of foreign authorities and had no right to represent the Kampuchean people. Therefore, it was the view of the Chinese delegation that the credentials of Democratic Kampuchea were totally legitimate and legally valid.

11. The same representative added that the Chinese delegation wished to reiterate that the fact that the representatives of Afghanistan were allowed to participate in the current session and in the fourteenth special session should in no way be interpreted as an acquiescence in the situation created by the foreign armed invasion and occupation in Afghanistan.

12. The representative of the United States of America stated that the credentials of the representatives of Democratic Kampuchea were in order, fulfilled the requirements of rule 27 of the rules of procedure, had already been accepted by the General Assembly in the past and should be accepted at the current session. The suggested alternative was a régime brought to power by a foreign military invasion and one that was clearly not representative in any way, shape or form of the Kampuchean people.

13. The representative of the United States added that the credentials of the representatives of Chile were also in order and there was no basis for their rejection. If members of the Committee failed to recognize the technical nature of the credentials exercise and rejected the credentials of a country's representatives merely because they did not like its Government's policies it would lead to chaos in international relations.

14. The same representative stated that the objections to the credentials of the representatives of Grenada were also without foundation because its Government was representative of the people of Grenada as a result of free elections. The credentials in question were in order and there was no basis for questioning their validity.

15. The representative of the United States stated further that, out of respect for the technical nature of the credentials exercise, the United States was not raising any objection to the acceptance of the credentials of the representatives of Afghanistan. That did not mean, however, that it did not object to the unrepresentative nature of that country's Government, which had been installed as a result of foreign aggression from the North, namely, from the Soviet Union. The people of Afghanistan should be allowed to choose their Government through free and fair elections.

16. The representative of Ghana stated that his delegation's position on the problem of Kampuchea was that it was a domestic one and should be left to the Kampuchean people themselves to resolve. However, Ghana supported the current political efforts to find solutions to the problem and, accordingly, would abstain on the issue of the credentials of the representatives of Democratic Kampuchea if it were put to the vote.

17. Regarding the credentials of the representatives of Chile and Grenada the same representative stated that his delegation maintained that the situations in those countries too were domestic matters and should be left to the people themselves to resolve. Accordingly, the delegation of Ghana would abstain if the issue of the credentials of the representatives of those countries were put to the vote.

18. The representative of Ghana added that the situation in Afghanistan was one of those unfortunate unsolved regional issues for which his delegation expected the international community to find solutions in the near future. Ghana would therefore abstain if the question of the credentials of the representatives of Afghanistan were put to the vote.

19. The representative of the Netherlands stated that the task of the Credentials Committee was to verify whether the credentials of representatives of Member States had been issued in accordance with the requirements of rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. On the basis of the information provided to the Committee, it appeared that the credentials of the representatives of all the Member States listed in the memorandum by the Secretary-General were in order. The Committee had a technical task to perform - it was not its function to make political judgements regarding the Governments that issued the credentials. Accordingly, his delegation would accept the credentials of the representatives of all the States listed in the Secretary-General's memorandum.

20. The representative of Rwanda stated that his delegation did not have any formal objection to the credentials of the representatives of any of the Member States listed in the Secretary-General's memorandum. In view of statements made by some members of the Committee regarding certain situations his delegation wished, however, to clarify its position. With respect to Kampuchea, Rwanda did not recognize any Government imposed from outside and so it did not recognize the so-called People's Republic of Kampuchea because that Government had not been chosen by the people of Kampuchea. Neither did Rwanda recognize any Government that operated from outside its own territory. That was a position of principle. His delegation maintained that Kampuchea as a State was a Member of the United Nations and as such it was entitled to a seat in the General Assembly. It was for the Kampuchean people themselves to decide who should occupy that seat. For technical reasons, and because the credentials of the representatives of Democratic Kampuchea had been accepted in previous years by the international community, Rwanda saw no reason for opposing them now and would therefore go along with the majority.

21. The same representative stated further that the delegation of Rwanda was not opposed to the acceptance of the credentials of the representatives of Chile but that was not to be interpreted as Rwanda's acceptance of certain policies of that Government.

22. The representative of Rwanda added that, again for technical reasons, his delegation would accept the credentials of the representatives of Afghanistan. In regard to Afghanistan the Rwanda delegation welcomed with satisfaction the information according to which foreign troops were beginning to withdraw from that country. That development was encouraging and his delegation hoped that the withdrawal would continue, which would facilitate the solution of the problem.

23. The representative of the Bahamas stated that her delegation was willing to accept the credentials of the representatives of all the States mentioned in the Secretary-General's memorandum since they complied with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

24. The representative of Fiji stated that the Committee's exercise was a technical one regardless of the political persuasion of delegations. The delegation of Fiji would therefore accept the credentials of the representatives of the States listed in the memorandum by the Secretary-General as long as they were in accordance with rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

25. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that the statement made by the United States representative concerning Afghanistan was a conscious and evil attempt to distort the historical and political reality in that country. That statement could not change the fact that the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan was a sovereign non-aligned State which was a full and equal Member of the United Nations. The comment by the United States representative was an attempt to interfere in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and was contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and to the interests of normalization of the situation in South-West Asia, a process that was being assisted by the personal efforts of the Secretary-General.

26. The Chairman proposed that, taking into account the statement made by the Legal Counsel and the statements made by members of the Committee which would be reflected in the Committee's report, the Committee should decide to accept the credentials of the representatives of the Member States referred to in the memorandum by the Secretary-General on the understanding that formal credentials for representatives of the Member States referred to in paragraphs of the memorandum (see para. 5 A (2) and para. 5 B (2)) would be communicated to the Secretary-General as soon as possible. There was no objection to this proposal.

27. Accordingly, the Chairman proposed the following draft resolution for adoption by the Committee:

"The Credentials Committee,

"Having examined the credentials of the representatives to the forty-first session and to the fourteenth special session of the General Assembly of the Member States referred to in paragraph 5 of this report,

"Taking account of the various reservations made by delegations during the debate,

"Accepts the credentials of all these representatives."

28. The draft resolution was adopted without a vote.

29. The Chairman then proposed that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution (see para. 31). The proposal was adopted without a vote.

30. In the light of the foregoing, the present report is submitted to the General Assembly.

#### RECOMMENDATION OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

31. The Credentials Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Credentials of representatives to the forty-first  
session and to the fourteenth special session of  
the General Assembly

The General Assembly

Approves the first report of the Credentials Committee.

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