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INSTALLATION OF MECHANICAL MEANS OF VOTING

Letter dated 6 December 1967 from the Chairman of the Sixth
Committee to the President of the General Assembly transmitting
a report of the Sixth Committee

I have the honour to refer to your letter of 23 October 1967
(A/C.6/380), concerning the proposal of Mexico (A/6862) to adopt certain
amendments to rules 89 and 128 of the rules of procedure of the General
..... Assembly, and to transmit to you a report of the Sixth Committee on this
matter. That report contains a draft resolution which the Committee
recommends to the General Assembly for adoption.

(Signed) Edvard HAMBRO
Chairman of the Sixth Committee

REPORT OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE

Rapporteur: Mr. Sergio GONZALEZ GALVEZ (Mexico)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 1009th and 1010th meetings, on 28 and 29 November 1967, the Sixth Committee considered a proposal by Mexico (A/6862) to adopt certain changes to rules 89 and 128 of the rules of procedure in connexion with agenda item 25 entitled "Installation of mechanical means of voting". The President of the General Assembly had brought this question to the attention of the Sixth Committee by a letter of 23 October 1967 (A/C.6/380), in which he stated that, since amendments to the rules of procedure were being suggested, he was referring the matter to the Sixth Committee in accordance with rule 164 and in conformity with the principle set forth in paragraph 1 (c) of annex II to the rules of procedure.

II. CONSIDERATION BY THE SIXTH COMMITTEE OF ADDITIONS
TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

2. Rule 89 of the rules of procedure is concerned with voting by the General Assembly and rule 128 with voting by committees of the Assembly. In their present form these rules make no explicit provision for the use of mechanical means of voting. However, such means of voting are now available in the General Assembly Hall, and the Sixth Committee noted that this equipment is used not only by the Assembly itself but also on occasion by Main Committees. The Sixth Committee therefore considered that it was necessary to make provision both in rule 89 and in rule 128 for the use of mechanical means of voting by the Assembly and by committees, irrespective of the question of the further installation of such means in conference rooms at Headquarters. This latter question was not before the Sixth Committee in the present context and will be decided in due course by the General Assembly itself.

3. The Sixth Committee noted that, since the installation of mechanical means of voting in the General Assembly, the terms "recorded vote" and "non-recorded vote" have come into general usage. The Sixth Committee understands these terms as follows. When mechanical means of voting are employed, a "non-recorded vote" replaces a vote

by show of hands or by standing in that no record is made of the manner in which each delegation voted, the voting equipment and subsequently the relevant summary or verbatim records of the meetings indicating only the numerical results of the voting. Similarly, when mechanical means of voting are used, a "recorded vote" replaces a roll-call vote in that a record is made by the equipment of the way in which each delegation cast its vote, such a record subsequently being inserted in the relevant summary or verbatim records of the meeting together with the numerical results of the vote.

III. VOTING

4. At the 1009th meeting of the Sixth Committee, on 28 November, a draft resolution was introduced on behalf of Czechoslovakia, Kenya, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Senegal, Thailand and the United Arab Republic (A/C.6/L.632/Rev.1). This draft resolution, based on the understandings recorded in the previous section of this report, was adopted unanimously by the Committee at its 1010th meeting, on 29 November.

IV. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE

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

Installation of mechanical means of voting: amendments
to rules 89 and 128 of the rules of procedure

The General Assembly,

Noting that the introduction of voting by mechanical means makes desirable certain amendments to the rules of procedure,

Decides, with effect from 1 January 1968, but without prejudging the question of the installation of mechanical means of voting in the committee rooms, to amend rules 89 and 128 of its rules of procedure as follows:

(a) In rule 89:

- (i) Designate the existing text as paragraph (a);
- (ii) Add a new paragraph (b) as follows:

"(b) When the General Assembly votes by mechanical means, a non-recorded vote shall replace a vote by show of hands or by standing

and a recorded vote shall replace a roll-call vote. Any representative may request a recorded vote. In the case of a recorded vote, the General Assembly shall, unless a representative requests otherwise, dispense with the procedure of calling out the names of the Members; nevertheless, the result of the voting shall be inserted in the record in the same manner as a roll-call vote."

(b) In rule 128:

- (i) Designate the existing text as paragraph (a);
- (ii) Add a new paragraph (b) as follows:

"(b) When the committee votes by mechanical means, a non-recorded vote shall replace a vote by show of hands or by standing and a recorded vote shall replace a roll-call vote. Any representative may request a recorded vote. In the case of a recorded vote, the committee shall, unless a representative requests otherwise, dispense with the procedure of calling out the names of the Members; nevertheless, the result of the voting shall be inserted in the record in the same manner as a roll-call vote."
