

United Nations  
**GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY**

SIXTEENTH SESSION

Official Records

**SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE, 261st  
MEETING**



Friday, 6 October 1961,  
at 3.10 p.m.

**NEW YORK**

CONTENTS

	Page
Statement by the Chairman . . . . .	3
Election of the Vice-Chairman. . . . .	3
Election of the Rapporteur . . . . .	3
Order of discussion of agenda items . . . . .	3

**Chairman:** Mr. Yordan TCHOBANOV (Bulgaria).

Statement by the Chairman

1. The CHAIRMAN thanked the members of the Special Political Committee for his election to the Chair which, he said, was an honour for him and for his country. He pledged himself to work impartially and effectively on their behalf. He was sure that he could count on the co-operation of all the members to bring the Committee's work to a speedy and successful conclusion.

Election of the Vice-Chairman

2. Mr. GAMBOA (Philippines) nominated Mr. Angel Sanz Briz (Spain).

3. Mr. CROWE (United Kingdom) and Mr. GARCIA PIÑEIRO (Argentina) supported the nomination.

*Mr. Sanz Briz (Spain) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.*

4. Mr. SANZ BRIZ (Spain) thanked the Committee for the distinction conferred upon him and upon his country.

Election of the Rapporteur

5. Mr. SULEIMAN (Sudan) nominated Mr. Fukushima (Japan).

6. Mr. GALLEGOS (Ecuador) and Mr. TOWNSEND (Peru) supported the nomination.

*Mr. Fukushima (Japan) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.*

7. Mr. FUKUSHIMA (Japan) thanked the Committee for the confidence shown in him and for the honour thus shown to his country.

Order of discussion of agenda items (A/SPC/50)

8. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to the letter from the President of the General Assembly containing the list of items allocated to the Special Political Committee (A/SPC/50).

9. Mr. TREMBLAY (Canada) said that, among the diverse items allocated to the Committee, one was of common and urgent concern to all delegations. The Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs had spoken in the General Assembly [1022nd plenary meeting] of the deep anxiety aroused throughout the world by the growing hazards from atomic radiation. The annual progress report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation for 1960 had been dealt with by the fifteenth session of the General Assembly as a routine item. The recent dramatic increase in radio-active fall-out from nuclear weapons tests in the atmosphere demanded that at the current session it should be given urgent and substantive consideration. In due course, the Canadian delegation would place specific proposals before the Committee drawing attention to the increasing danger to mankind and calling for intensified studies. In proposing that priority should be given to the annual progress report of the United Nations Scientific Committee for 1961 (A/4881 and Corr.1), he was not detracting in any way from the importance of the other items on the agenda, nor did he intend to involve the Committee in issues being dealt with by other Committees. He merely wished the Committee to give the pressing and universal problem of the menace of radiation the consideration it demanded.

10. Mr. FUKUSHIMA (Japan) said it was appropriate that the annual progress report of the United Nations Scientific Committee for 1961 should be given priority over the other items on the Committee's agenda. In the general debate in the General Assembly the Foreign Minister of Japan had already expressed (1011th plenary meeting) his country's deep concern about the question of nuclear tests. The resumption of tests since the Scientific Committee had issued its last comprehensive report had made the need for intensified studies yet more pressing. His delegation was aware of the importance of the other items on the agenda but the item in question demanded immediate and world-wide consideration. As the representative of a country that had experienced the bitter reality of atomic disaster, he supported the Canadian proposal whole-heartedly.

11. Mr. AMONOO (Ghana) had no objection to moving item 4, Report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, to first place on the agenda. He urged, however, that item 3, Question of race conflict in South Africa resulting from the policies of "apartheid" of the Government of the Republic of South Africa, should be taken up next.

12. Mr. TSARAPKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) felt that the annual report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the effects of Atomic Radiation offered nothing to discuss on the lines suggested in the Canadian and Japanese proposal. The

report contained no proposals or recommendations but was merely a brief description of the work done by the Committee and its plans for the future. The Committee's comprehensive report would not be out until 1962 and it would therefore be premature to discuss the question in detail and inopportune to turn it into a political matter, as the Canadian proposal was clearly intended to do. He thought that the Committee should not take up item 4 first.

13. Mr. NGILERUMA (Nigeria) thought that item 3, the question of race conflict in South Africa, was extremely urgent and important. He would have liked to see it given first place, but if it was generally felt that item 4 should be taken first, he would support the Ghanaian proposal that item 3 should come second. Since item 2, Treatment of people of Indian and Indo-Pakistan origin in the Republic of South Africa, and item 3 were interrelated, item 2 should be taken up immediately after item 3.

14. Mr. VALDES LARRAIN (Chile) supported the Canadian proposal. He did not agree that it was an attempt to open a political debate on the report of the United Nations Scientific Committee. Far deeper and more serious considerations were involved, namely an attempt to ward off a threat to the health and future of the entire world.

15. Mr. ZOPPI (Italy) welcomed the representative of Sierra Leone. Although he understood the reasons for the Canadian and Ghanaian proposals, he thought that the item entitled "The status of the German-speaking element in the Province of Bolzano (Bozen); implementation of General Assembly resolution 1497 (XV) of 31 October 1960" should be given third place, since a debate on that matter would contribute to the solution of certain difficulties in implementing that resolution and would bring an agreed settlement of the whole question nearer. He therefore proposed that that item should come third on the agenda.

16. Mr. MIDIBURO (Congo, Leopoldville) supported the Ghanaian representative's proposal. He thought that it was the duty of the Committee to find effective means to end a situation in South Africa which deprived human beings of their sacred rights. That should be made item 2, and item 2, relating to people of Indian and Indo-Pakistan origin in the Republic of South Africa, would stand third on the agenda.

17. Mr. HEDAYATI (Iran) supported the Canadian proposal. The question of atomic radiation was the most burning issue before the Committee and should be considered first.

18. Mr. PAPAGOS (Greece) supported the Canadian proposal. He was convinced that the Canadian representative had made it not because he wanted to raise a political issue, but because he was concerned about the effect of atomic radiation on world health.

19. Mr. ASTAPENKO (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) saw no reason for the changes proposed by the Canadian representative, since the report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation contained no recommendations that required discussion in the Committee.

20. Mr. WALDHEIM (Austria) recalled that his delegation had proposed (A/4802 and Add.1) that the item relating to the German-speaking element in the Province of Bolzano (Bozen) should be placed on the agenda of the General Assembly. In view, however, of the arguments of the representatives of Canada,

Japan, Ghana and Nigeria, he would not insist that the item should stand first on the Committee's agenda.

21. Mrs. QUAN (Guatemala) supported the Canadian proposal. Since there was widespread concern about the resumption of nuclear tests, it was essential that that item be discussed at once in order properly to estimate the degree of danger they represented for mankind. If the report did not provide a sufficient basis for such an evaluation, the Committee should seek means to accelerate its inquiry. However she wished to make it clear that her support for the Canadian proposal in no way diminished her delegation's profound interest in the question of racial conflict in the Republic of South Africa which the Committee should examine and for which an appropriate solution should be found.

22. Mr. PUDLAK (Czechoslovakia) said that the Committee should deal first with the question of "apartheid", in order to remove a dangerous source of unrest. He understood the Japanese people's feelings about atomic radiation, since they had been the first to suffer from it; but the report of the Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation was a routine and technical document, and it would not be expedient to make it the first item on the agenda.

23. Mr. COLLET (Guinea) said he had no objection to placing any item first on the agenda, but he supported the Ghanaian proposal that the item relating to "apartheid" should be placed second. The Committee should dispose of the matter before the South African elections, which would probably be held on 18 October.

24. Mr. BARNES (Liberia) said that the policy of "apartheid" caused widespread concern. Since the General Assembly had adopted many resolutions designed to eliminate the practice, which endangered international peace and security, his delegation had hoped that the item would be given priority. He was willing, however, to support the Canadian proposal that atomic radiation should be discussed first, and the Ghanaian proposal that the question of "apartheid" should become the second item.

25. Mr. ALVARADO (Venezuela) welcomed the representative of Sierra Leone. He said that the most important item on the agenda concerned atomic radiation, since the resumption of nuclear testing had caused great anxiety. He therefore supported the Canadian proposal, as well as the Ghanaian proposal.

26. Mr. KIKHIA (Libya) welcomed the representative of Sierra Leone to the Committee. His delegation thought that priority should be given to the question of "apartheid", to which the African countries attached the greatest importance. He therefore supported the Ghanaian proposal.

27. Mr. HAQUE CHAUDHURY (India) also welcomed the representative of Sierra Leone. He said that, although the Indian delegation was very concerned about the treatment of people of Indian and Indo-Pakistan origin in the Republic of South Africa, it had no objection to the Ghanaian proposal that the item relating to "apartheid" should be considered before that item, and should take second place on the agenda.

28. The CHAIRMAN asked whether the Committee agreed that the first item on its agenda should be the "Report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation" and the second "Question of race conflict in South Africa resulting

from the policies of 'apartheid' of the Government of the Republic of South Africa".

*It was so decided.*

29. Mr. ZOPPI (Italy) did not wish the item dealing with the status of the German-speaking element in Bolzano to be postponed too long and proposed that it should be placed third.

30. Mr. WALDHEIM (Austria) stated that he had no objection to the proposal made by the representative of Italy.

31. Mr. HAQUE CHAUDHURY (India) agreed that the item relating to the German-speaking element in the Province of Bolzano (Bozen) should be considered before the item relating to people of Indian and Indo-Pakistan origin in the Republic of South Africa.

32. The CHAIRMAN asked whether the Committee agreed that the third item on the agenda should be "The status of the German-speaking element in the Province of Bolzano (Bozen); implementation of General Assembly resolution 1497 (XV) of 31 October 1960", the fourth item "Treatment of people of Indian and Indo-Pakistan origin in the Republic of South Africa", the fifth item the "Report of the Director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East" and the sixth item the "Question of Oman".

*It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 4.35 p.m.