



General Assembly

PROVISIONAL

A/46/PV.50
13 December 1991

ENGLISH

Forty-sixth session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 50th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 20 November 1991, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. SHIHABI (Saudi Arabia)

- The situation in Cambodia [24]
 - (a) Report of the Secretary-General
 - (b) Draft resolution
- Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments [18] (continued)
 - (g) Appointment of members of the Joint Inspection Unit: note by the Secretary-General

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 24

THE SITUATION IN CAMBODIA

- (a) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/46/617)
- (b) DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/46/L.21)

The PRESIDENT: The report of the Secretary-General on the item has been issued as document A/46/617. In this connection, a draft resolution has been issued as document A/46/L.21.

I am of the view that draft resolution A/46/L.21 duly reflects the concerns of the parties involved. Accordingly, the draft resolution I am submitting is the result of a consensus between the parties. I trust that the Assembly, too, will adopt it by consensus. This will mark a historic occasion for the people of Cambodia.

Here I should like to express my appreciation to the international community for its support and assistance, especially the humanitarian aid given to the Cambodian people since 1978, and to all interested States and parties in making possible the conclusion of the agreements on a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodia conflict, signed at the Paris Conference on Cambodia on 23 October 1991.

The Paris Agreements provide for a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodia conflict which, inter alia, would maintain, preserve and guarantee the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, inviolability, neutrality and national unity of Cambodia.

(The President)

In this regard, I should like to express my special appreciation for the continuing efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General and his staff towards the implementation of the Paris Agreements on a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodia conflict. I should also like to thank the co-Presidents of the Paris Conference on Cambodia, the members of the Security Council, the regional and other States, in particular the States members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the Cambodian parties themselves, especially His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, for their invaluable contribution to restoring and maintaining peace and unity in Cambodia and to promoting national reconciliation.

I appeal to all parties concerned to support the efforts of the Secretary-General to set up an effective United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia as soon as possible, with the aim of restoring peace and stability in Cambodia and of implementing the Paris Agreements. I also call upon all parties concerned to comply fully with the cease-fire that entered into force at the time of the signing of the Paris Agreements, and urge all parties concerned to implement fully the terms of the Paris Agreements in close cooperation with the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia.

The draft resolution currently before the Assembly welcomes the fact that commitments to self-determination for the Cambodian people through free and fair elections organized and conducted by the United Nations, and full respect for human rights, have been incorporated in the provisions of the settlement. It calls upon all parties concerned to ensure respect for and full observance of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Cambodian people, and to assist them in exercising their right to self-determination in free and fair elections, as provided for in the Paris Agreements.

(The President)

Finally, I should also like to express my deep appreciation also to the donor countries, the United Nations agencies and other national and international humanitarian organizations that have rendered assistance to the Cambodian people, and urge them to continue their support for the process of repatriating Cambodian refugees and displaced persons under the leadership and coordination of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Cambodia. In this connection, the draft resolution reiterates deep appreciation to the Secretary-General for his efforts in coordinating humanitarian relief assistance and in monitoring its distribution, and requests him to continue such efforts as necessary.

Before moving on to take action on the draft resolution, I wish to point out that, as part of the understanding between those directly concerned, it was agreed that there would be no debate on the item in the General Assembly. It is therefore suggested that we proceed accordingly, in order to permit the broadest possible support for the draft resolution.

If I hear no objections, I shall take it that the General Assembly agrees not to discuss the item under consideration.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/46/L.21.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt this draft resolution?

Draft resolution A/46/L.21 was adopted (resolution 46/18).

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 24.

AGENDA ITEM 18 (continued)

APPOINTMENTS TO FILL VACANCIES IN SUBSIDIARY ORGANS AND OTHER APPOINTMENTS

(g) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT: NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/46/107 and Corr.1)

The PRESIDENT: In connection with this item, a note by the Secretary-General has been circulated in document A/46/107 and Corr.1.

I call on the representative of the United States.

Mr. WATSON (United States of America): I hope fellow representatives will excuse this last-minute intervention, but we would like to suggest that, in order to give regional groups a little more time to discuss this issue among themselves, perhaps further consideration of the issue could be postponed for two or three weeks.

The PRESIDENT: There is a suggestion from the representative of the United States to postpone the consideration of this item until a time to be agreed upon later. Does any member wish to comment?

Mr. SALAH (Jordan) (interpretation from Arabic): I think that the request made at this point in time has come somewhat late since these elections were expected to take place 10 days ago. The different geographical groups have spent a lot of time in arriving at agreed lists of candidates from each group. In the Asian Group there is a clean slate, and the same is also true with regard to the Eastern European Group of countries. Therefore, I do not see a justification. I would like to hear what the justifications are for postponing these elections for yet another three weeks, and this at a time when we deem it appropriate to follow the timetable of the work of the General Assembly so as to conclude at the appropriate time the consideration of the agenda items of the forty-sixth session.

Mr. WATSON (United States of America): I would like to try to respond, if I can, to the question of the representative of Jordan. It is simply the view of my delegation that a little more thought needs to be given to this issue than we and others have been able to give, despite the delay we have had until now. Thus, we made an informal suggestion at this point to put it off for another couple of weeks so that we may consider the matter more thoroughly and in more detail.

I would hope that other members of the General Assembly would be able to oblige us. At this stage, however, I would still like to leave my proposal simply as a suggestion without necessarily moving under a rule for any particular action by the Assembly at this time. I wonder if we could ask our friends from Jordan if they would be so kind as to allow another two or three weeks for us to consider the matter in a little more detail.

Mr. SALAH (Jordan) (interpretation from Arabic): I believe that we can reach a compromise on the question of postponement. A postponement for two or three weeks seems too long, for it would lead us to mid-December, when we will be very near the end of this session. Perhaps the question could be postponed for a week or 10 days at the most.

Mr. WATSON (United States of America): I think the suggestion of the representative of Jordan is eminently reasonable. If we could agree to postpone the item for 10 days, I should be completely satisfied.

The PRESIDENT: Does any other member wish to comment? Since that is not the case, I suggest that we postpone consideration of the item until a date before the end of November, because I must confess that December will be a very difficult month in which to schedule a meeting for the purpose of

(The President)

voting. Therefore, in consultation with the various groups and interested parties, we can probably reschedule consideration of the item before the end of November.

If I hear no objection, I shall take it that that procedure meets with the Assembly's approval.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 3.30 p.m.

