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**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

FORTY-SECOND SESSION

Official Records*



FIRST COMMITTEE
1st meeting
held on
Tuesday, 15 September 1987
at 4.10 p.m.

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 1st MEETING

Temporary Chairman: Mr. Florin (President of the General Assembly)

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The meeting was called to order at 4.10 p.m.

ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Russian): Rule 103 of the rules of procedure provides that each main committee shall elect a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur. These officers shall be elected on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, experience and personal competence.

The elections shall be held by secret ballot unless the committee decides otherwise in an election where only one candidate is standing. The nomination of each candidate shall be limited to one speaker, after which the Committee shall immediately proceed to the election.

Furthermore, rule 110 of the rules of procedure provides that congratulations to the officers of a main committee shall not be expressed except by the Chairman of the previous session - or, in his absence, by a member of his delegation - after all the officers of the Committee have been elected.

This meeting has been convened for the election of the Chairman of the First Committee. Are there any nominations?

Mr. ZACHMANN (German Democratic Republic): I am glad to have the unique opportunity to speak immediately after you, Sir, have been elected to the high office of President. Without wishing to anticipate the official congratulations of the head of the delegation of the German Democratic Republic to the forty-second session of the United Nations General Assembly, I should like to express to you most cordial felicitations and my best personal wishes for successful work.

May I also pay a warm personal tribute to your predecessor, His Excellency Mr. Choudhury, Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, under whose inspiring and instructive leadership I had the privilege of serving on the Bureau of the forty-first session of the General Assembly.

(Mr. Zachmann, German
Democratic Republic)

As we embark upon the task before at this forty-second session of the General Assembly we are all acutely aware of the multifarious and momentous challenges that confront mankind. Indeed, as we open our deliberations we do so against the backdrop of a historical chance that must not be missed as the two major military Powers seem poised on the threshold of significant agreement in the field of medium and short-range nuclear arsenals. That would be a beginning for genuine disarmament.

As we witness these important developments, it is clear that the First Committee of the General Assembly will be seized of issues that are of great concern to the international community and of immediate relevance to the peace and security of the world. It thus has the opportunity at this crucial stage to bend every effort, in a constructive and businesslike manner, towards enhancing the cause of peace and security in the world through disarmament.

This enormous task would be impossible to accomplish without having an efficient and skilful Chairman. It therefore gives me great satisfaction to be able to inform the Assembly that the Government of Zaire has decided to present the candidature of one of its most qualified and skilful diplomats, Ambassador Bagbeni Adeito Nzengeya for the post of Chairman of the First Committee during the forty-second session of the General Assembly.

Ambassador Bagbeni's impressive and distinguished career needs no introduction for his diplomatic experience has stretched across almost every continent of the world. After receiving his Master's degrees in political and administrative sciences and international relations, Ambassador Bagbeni joined his country's diplomatic service and subsequently served as ambassador of his country to the Netherlands, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Singapore. Furthermore,

(Mr. Zachmann, German
Democratic Republic)

Ambassador Bagheni served as the Ambassador of Zaire to the Organization of African Unity in Addis Ababa from 1972 to 1975 and headed the Zaire delegation to ministerial conferences and summits of the non-aligned countries. He served as Director-General of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation in his Foreign Ministry during 1975 and 1976.

(Mr. Zachmann, German
Democratic Republic)

While in Geneva, Ambassador Bagbeni also served as the head of the Zaire delegation to the disarmament conference on three separate occasions, and he was President of the conference in June 1985. His other experience in the field of disarmament includes serving as deputy head of the Zaire delegation to the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

Ambassador Bagbeni was Permanent Representative of his country to the United Nations and the specialized agencies in Geneva from 1980 to 1983 and since 1985 has been the Permanent Representative of Zaire to the United Nations in New York. Since his arrival in New York, he has also served as the Vice-Chairman of the First Committee, during the fortieth session.

Based upon his vast experience, Ambassador Bagbeni will guide the work of the First Committee with efficiency and skill. It is, accordingly, my great honour and privilege to nominate him for the post of Chairman of the First Committee.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Russian):

Mr. Bagbeni Adeito Nzengeya has been nominated by the representative of the German Democratic Republic.

Since only one candidate has been nominated, I propose that under rule 103 the Committee decide not to hold a secret ballot.

It was so decided.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Russian): I therefore declare Mr. Bagbeni Adeito Nzengeya of Zaire elected Chairman of the First Committee by acclamation.

The meeting rose at 4.20 p.m.