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Chairman: Mr. G. F. DAVIDSON (Canada).

Statement by the Chairman

1. The CHAIRMAN wished to thank the delegations, in particular those of Australia and Indonesia, for the confidence they had shown in him by nominating him as Chairman. He would spare no effort to perform his duties properly, following the example of the representatives who had presided over the Committee's debates at previous sessions.

2. Although all the matters examined by the Committees of the General Assembly were actually important, those dealt with by the Third Committee—social, cultural and humanitarian problems—affected the welfare of the international community most directly, and so the Committee was called upon to play a leading part in discharging the duties incumbent on the United Nations. Conscious of the responsibilities placed upon the Committee and upon the United Nations as a whole, he would do all in his power to bring the Committee's work to a successful conclusion and thus promote the ideals of the United Nations.

Election of the Vice-Chairman

[Item 5]*

3. Mr. MEADE (United Kingdom) nominated Miss Bernardino, the representative of the Dominican Republic, as Vice-Chairman. She had been called upon to act as Chairman at some meetings of the previous session and had done remarkably well. She had signed the United Nations Charter on behalf of her Government and had since taken an outstanding part in United Nations activities. She had been the Chairman of the Inter-American Commission of Women and the Commission on the Status of Women and had represented her country on the Trusteeship Council and at the Chapultepec Conference. Her proved competence and devotion to the United Nations were strong arguments in favour of her election to the office of vice-chairman.

4. Mr. HUIZI AGUIAR (Venezuela), Mrs. TSALDARIS (Greece) and Mrs. LORD (United States of America) supported the nomination for the

* Indicates the item number on the agenda of the General Assembly.

reasons put forward by the United Kingdom representative.

5. Mr. AZMI (Egypt) said that he would support the United Kingdom proposal not only for the reasons advanced by previous speakers, but also because by electing her to the office of vice-chairman the Committee would be manifesting its desire that women should take part in its work.

6. Mrs. PINTO DE VIDAL (Uruguay), Mr. YU Tsune-Chi (China) and Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) also supported the nomination of Miss Bernardino.

Miss Bernardino (Dominican Republic) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

7. Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic), Vice-Chairman, thanked the representatives for their courtesy and for the tribute they had paid to her country. She was especially grateful to the United Kingdom representative for nominating her and to all the representatives who had supported him. The Committee might rest assured that the Dominican Republic would, as it had done in the past, do all that it could to contribute enthusiastically and impartially to the accomplishment of the hard task incumbent on the United Nations.

Election of the Rapporteur

[Item 5]*

8. Mr. SHAH (Pakistan) nominated Mr. Pazhwak, the representative of Afghanistan, as Rapporteur. He had held an important position in his country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and had then been appointed Director of Information. He had also—which was most important—been editor of the Kabul daily newspaper *Islah (Reformation)*. His long career as an information officer had made Mr. Pazhwak, who had worked with the Committee since 1948, especially well qualified to act as its Rapporteur.

9. Mr. CHANDA (India) was pleased to support the nomination of the representative of Afghanistan, whose participation in the Committee's work since 1948, particularly in the matter of human rights, had been very valuable.

10. Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic), Mrs. LORD (United States of America) and Mr. AZMI (Egypt) also supported Mr. Pazhwak's nomination.

Mr. Pazhwak (Afghanistan) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

11. Mr. PAZHWAQ (Afghanistan) expressed his sincere gratitude to the Committee, in particular to the representatives of Pakistan, India, the Dominican Republic, the United States of America and Egypt. He felt especially honoured to have represented Afghanistan on the Third Committee for five years

and to have worked with the outstanding personalities who represented their countries on that body. He would always try to prove himself worthy of the trust which the Committee had shown in him by electing him unanimously and to discharge the duties which it was entitled to expect from him.

Order of discussion of agenda items (A/C.3/569, A/C.3/L.337 and Corr.1)

12. The CHAIRMAN asked the Committee to decide in what order it would consider the items on its Agenda, the list of which had been submitted to him by the President of the General Assembly (A/C.3/569).

13. He had suggested a provisional order in his note (A/C.3/L.337 and Corr.1) and had pointed out that item 1 could not be dealt with until the United Nations High Commissioner for refugees had arrived in New York. He asked for suggestions.

14. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) regretted that the item on chapters IV and V of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/2430) should have been placed last. The subjects dealt with in those chapters were of primary importance and had engaged the attention of most delegations for several years.

15. One of them was freedom of information. The Economic and Social Council had appointed a Rapporteur and had deferred discussion of the subject to its seventeenth session. The Council was of course entitled to make its own decisions, but the Third Committee should not lose interest in the question of freedom of information. It had not been able to consider the subject properly at the sixth session of the General Assembly for lack of time and had then considered giving it absolute priority at the next session. Meanwhile, the Council had appointed the Rapporteur and the Committee had expected that a special report would be submitted to it at the eighth session of the General Assembly. Since it had not been, the subject should be given high priority and should not be left until the last.

16. Similarly, anything to do with the draft international covenants on human rights deserved special attention. The United Nations had long been concerned with that subject. Many delegations thought that the United Nations might, in the absence of covenants proper, adopt resolutions defining certain principles: proposals to that end had been submitted at the Assembly's seventh session. Early consideration should be given to the chapter in the Economic and Social Council's report dealing with the subject. The rights of women, a subject included in the Committee's agenda, were only one aspect of human rights. It would be illogical to pay more attention to specific points than to the general problem.

17. Accordingly, the subject appearing as item 8 should be taken before others which seemed less urgent, especially before items 6 and 7. He would move that as a formal proposal, if need be.

18. Mr. AZMI (Egypt) said that he would comment on freedom of information and on the report of the Commission on Human Rights (E/2447) at the proper time. He merely wished to point out that that report was referred to in paragraph 5 of the note by the Chairman (A/C.3/L.337), but not in paragraph 7; he hoped that the omission would be rectified.¹

19. The CHAIRMAN thought the Saudi Arabian representative's suggestion apposite. Most of the items were connected with sections of chapters IV and V of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/2430) and it would be logical to take them before going on to the subjects comprising the remainder of those chapters, which were not separate items on the agenda.

20. Mr. PAZHAWAK (Afghanistan) said that he was particularly interested in the matter brought up by the Saudi Arabian representative. It might be wise to hold a general debate on the report of the Economic and Social Council and thus avoid having one on each item. That would enable the Committee to see to which subjects it wished to devote most consideration, and the work could be organized accordingly.

21. The CHAIRMAN, on the other hand, thought that the Committee should take item 2 first, then items 3, 4 and 5. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees might have arrived by then and the Committee would be able to revert to item 1.

22. Mr. AZMI (Egypt) agreed with the Chairman. Items 2 to 5 dealt merely with decisions and resolutions forwarded to the General Assembly by the Economic and Social Council. The Committee need only give its views on each of them and would not need to hold a general debate on chapters IV and V first. The general debate might be held after the specific items connected with certain sections had been considered and might for that very reason be brief.

23. Mr. MENESES PALLARES (Ecuador), supported Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia), formally moved that item 8 should be inserted between items 5 and 6, with the understanding that the Committee might return to item 1 as soon as the High Commissioner could take part in its discussion.

The proposal was adopted by 47 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

24. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee would begin considering item 2 of its agenda—"Technical assistance in promoting and safeguarding the rights of women"—at its next meeting.

The meeting rose at 4.55 p.m.

¹The omission was rectified in document A/C.3/L.337/Corr.2.