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Thirtieth Session

FIRST COMMITTEE

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TWO THOUSAND AND  
FORTY-SEVENTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Friday, 3 October 1975, at 3 p.m.

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. GHORRA	(Lebanon)
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. ARTEAGA ACOSTA	(Venezuela)

- Organization of work

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

#### ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The CHAIRMAN: The agenda for today's meeting concerns the organization of work of the Committee. You may recall that at the last meeting the Committee decided to take up first the item on outer space. That was agreed upon but we had to conduct some consultations regarding the order of discussion of the remaining items. As a result of consultations which I had with the Chairmen of various groups and with a number of representatives I am in the happy position to report to the Committee that agreement has been reached on the programme of work which I will propose to you and I hope it will meet with your general satisfaction.

That programme would be as follows: we are allocating eight meetings for the consideration of the items relating to outer space, from Thursday, 9 October -- and I will come back later for further information about that particular date -- to Tuesday, 14 October; after that the Committee could take up item 49 "Implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security", that is, from 15 to 20 October. We will devote about eight meetings to this item. On 21 October the Committee will take up the Question of Korea which it could discuss in 14 meetings, completing its work on this item, I hope, on Wednesday, 29 October. On Thursday, 30 October, the Committee could proceed to consider the items relating to the questions of disarmament, in one stretch without interruption, until the completion of our work early in December.

Those are the proposals that I have the pleasure of submitting to the Committee and I hope that they will meet with its approval. Are there any comments or objections? As I hear none, it is so decided.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to make a short announcement. The People's Republic of Mozambique has become a co-sponsor of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.709 on the Question of Korea. Belgium, Italy and Gambia have become co-sponsors of the amendments submitted by France

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to the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/L.708 on the Question of Korea. These amendments are contained in document A/C.1/L.710.

Our meeting, I am very happy to say, is going to be very short and sweet, but, before we conclude our work, now that I have had your endorsement of the programme of work, may I make one further suggestion. In order to facilitate the work of the Committee and the Secretariat and to benefit fully from the various services placed at our disposal, may I ask representatives kindly to give written notice of draft resolutions, amendments, co-sponsorship, inscriptions on the speakers list and, lastly, requests for accommodation for group meetings. Such notices would avoid the possibility of any misunderstanding and delay.

I know that sometimes it has been the practice of some delegations to pick up the telephone and contact the Secretariat regarding co-sponsorship, for instance, or a request for a room for a group meeting. Members know the difficulties of the Secretariat during the General Assembly and I think it would be useful if we could give written notice to them in order to avoid any confusion or any mistake and in order to give the Secretariat enough time to draw up a useful programme of work and, at the same time, to allocate the rooms to the various groups.

Before I conclude I should like to go back to one particular aspect which I touched on during our last meeting, and that is, the inscription of names on the speakers list. Now that we have had some changes in the schedule of our work as compared to past years -- we have outer space, international security, Korea and so forth -- I consider that the lists of speakers for those items are already open and I urge delegations to inscribe their names early so that we can plan our meetings and use all the meetings that we will hold, to good advantage. I mention that because it is my hope, and I am sure it is your desire, not to have any meetings cancelled for lack of speakers. We have enough time now to begin inscribing the names of delegations wishing to speak on those various items. Please do so at the earliest possible opportunity. Are there any comments that anyone would like to make?

Mr. ISSRAELYAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I should like to draw the attention of all members of the Committee to the fact that the Soviet Union has submitted a draft resolution on item 122 of the agenda which is to be found in document A/C.1/L.707 of 23 September 1975 on the question of the "Conclusion of a treaty on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear weapon tests", as well as on agenda item 126, document A/C.1/L.711 dated 30 September 1975 on the question of the "Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and of new systems of such weapons". I should like to ask the members of the Committee, to consider those draft resolutions as they are now before us.

The CHAIRMAN: These documents, as you have heard, are already in the Committee's hands and have been distributed by the Secretariat.

Mr. ADJIBADE (Dahomey) (interpretation from French): Mr. Chairman, I would like to refer to two items, that is, the recommendations you made concerning requests for meetings and announcements of co-sponsorship. You suggested that they should be made in writing to the Secretariat. We can fully well understand the concern of the Secretariat. But I do not believe that our work should be complicated by bureaucratic procedures and that the recommendations you have just indicated should be binding. It could very well happen sometimes, despite our goodwill, that we cannot write or send a request in writing to the Secretariat. So, as I say, if this should happen, the Secretariat should not consider this as something on which action could not be taken.

What we ask is that, to the extent possible, delegations be asked to put their announcements of co-sponsorships or requests for rooms for meetings in writing; that if that is not possible, the Secretariat be able to accept oral requests that are made to it. This is my first point.

My second point concerns documentation. I apologize for not being present at the previous meetings, and I do not know whether something has already been done about this. There is a tradition in the United Nations and in this Committee that for all the items to be discussed a document is prepared giving the reference numbers of all documents dealing with each item. I do not know whether this has been done. If not, it should be done because it has been an excellent thing for us to have the reference numbers of documents concerning each item on the agenda. This would make the work much easier for us as representatives, and certainly will make life easier for the Secretariat, too.

This proposal we would like to make because we think that this was done last year. I can well remember that there was a document which gave indications concerning the documents for each item we have to consider.

The CHAIRMAN: I quite agree with the representative of Dahomey that regarding his first point, we should not make it an absolute rule. But it would be preferable if delegations could send their requests in writing to avoid

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misunderstanding. There have been some misunderstandings in the past, especially regarding co-sponsorship. If a delegation cannot do this in writing because of the rush of work or because of a last-minute decision, perhaps the delegation could notify the officers of the Committee by phone, or directly here, and then have this confirmed later in writing, in order that the record could be set straight. I hope that this will satisfy the representative of Dahomey.

Regarding the second point about documentation, he is absolutely right. I think such a document will help delegations especially regarding the various documents to be considered. Document A/C.1/L.711 will be out soon.

I mentioned in my previous statement that I would come back to the question of 9 October. We may have a very short meeting on 9 October because the General Assembly would not have completed its debate on 8 October. There are other possibilities, and we may really start our work on 10 October. But the Committee will be notified well ahead of time about this programme of work.

Mr. YANGO (Philippines): Mr. Chairman, this afternoon you gave us the number of meetings and the dates for the consideration of the various items. However, you did not mention the exact date for the conclusion of our work, you merely said early December.

From this, and in connexion with the information which you gave us at the previous meeting, there are 86 meetings allocated to the First Committee. Now, I take it that the schedule you have read out to us is flexible. In other words, we can have more meetings than the 86 allocated to us, that is, we can also have voting on draft resolutions beyond the schedule that you mentioned for each item.

If that is correct, Mr. Chairman, would you be so kind as to confirm it.

The CHAIRMAN: The representative of the Philippines is right that at the previous meeting I mentioned the cut-off date for our meetings as 6 December. We hope to conclude our meetings on that date. I mentioned also that we had 86 meetings and that it was hoped that we would be able to conclude our work in 86 meetings. Naturally, we are very flexible, and the main thing is that when we come to the questions of disarmament we shall have an opportunity to review our schedule of work and the number of meetings which we shall require.

The meeting rose at 3.45 p.m.