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**Chairman:** Mr. Manfred LACHS (Poland).

### *Statement by the Chairman*

1. The CHAIRMAN thanked the Committee for the honour it had conferred upon him in calling on him, for the third time, to preside over its proceedings. The Committee could be rightly proud of the work accomplished during the past ten years by the eminent jurists who had represented their countries on it.
2. The year 1955 brought to mind two dates which should stir the imagination of all those interested in the evolution of legal thought and in the development of international law in particular: it was the bicentenary of the birth of John Marshall and of the death of Montesquieu.
3. Although the Committee's agenda might seem light, some of the items had far-reaching implications. He would do his utmost to apply the rules of procedure in a way conducive to the harmonious conduct of debate.
4. As the climate of international relations improved, the function of jurists would undoubtedly gain in importance. They would have to ensure that the law did not become, to quote the word used by Shakespeare, a "scarecrow", but that it made a constructive contribution to the progress of mankind.

### *Election of the Vice-Chairman*

5. Mr. SEPULVEDA (Chile) nominated Mr. Alfonsin (Uruguay), a distinguished jurist and professor of law.
6. Mr. BROKENBURR (United States of America), Mr. TABIBI (Afghanistan) and Mr. MIRANDE (Argentina) supported the nomination.

*Mr. Alfonsin (Uruguay) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.*

7. Mr. ALFONSIN (Uruguay) thanked the Committee for the great honour which his nomination conferred upon himself and his country.

### *Election of the Rapporteur*

8. Mr. VALLAT (United Kingdom) nominated Mr. Tammes (Netherlands) who was eminently suited, by reason of his extensive knowledge of law, his office, and

the part which he had played in the International Court of Justice, to act as Rapporteur.

9. Mr. PEREZ PEROZO (Venezuela) seconded the nomination.

*Mr. Tammes (Netherlands) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.*

10. Mr. TAMMES (Netherlands) thanked the Committee for the honour bestowed upon him and, through him, upon his country. He would do his utmost to be worthy of the Committee's confidence.

### *Order of discussion of agenda items (A/C.6/347)*

11. Mr. MAURTUA (Peru) said that one of the Committee's functions was to study, from the legal and constitutional points of view, items with some juridical aspects. Many of those items which were allocated to other Committees were discussed entirely without reference to the law. The question of the review of the Charter, for example, would be debated in the plenary Assembly; preferably, the Sixth Committee should have been consulted because, as a specialized body, it could have given an authoritative opinion on the legal implications.

12. The only object of his remarks, he added, was to uphold the privileges and prestige of the Sixth Committee.

13. The CHAIRMAN referred to the letter dated 3 October 1955 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the Sixth Committee (A/C.6/347), in which the items allocated to the Committee were listed.

14. The question of the registration and publication of international treaties and agreements, which had been allocated to the Fifth Committee, might possibly be referred to the Sixth Committee for study and advice.

15. Mr. SEPULVEDA (Chile) said that the order of items 1 [50\*] and 4 [52\*] should be reversed so that the Committee would have more time for discussing the important item relating to the report of the International Law Commission on the work of its seventh session.

16. Mr. STAVROPOULOS [The Legal Counsel] said that, apart from item 1 on the agenda, the only item ready for debate was item 4. So far as item 2 [53\*] was concerned, it would be better to await the outcome of the current negotiations between Italy and Libya; and so far as item 3 [51\*] was concerned, the Secretary-General's report, which would be rather voluminous, would not be circulated for some days.

17. Mr. SEPULVEDA (Chile) said that he would not press his proposal.

18. Mr. SEN (India) said he had intended to support the Chilean representative's proposal, but after

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

hearing the explanations by the representative of the Secretary-General he thought the agenda should be adopted in the form transmitted by the General Assembly.

19. He asked for further particulars concerning item 2 [53\*].

20. Mr. STAVROPOULOS [The Legal Counsel] said that at the moment no case was pending before the United Nations Tribunal in Libya, but that Italy had

indicated that certain matters might be referred to that Tribunal. The Secretary-General would in any case communicate whatever information was in his possession when the Committee was ready to deal with the item.

*The agenda was adopted unanimously in its original order.*

The meeting rose at 3.50 p.m.