



UN/SA COLLECTION

FIRST COMMITTEE  
3rd meeting  
held on  
Thursday, 9 October 1980  
at 3 p.m.  
New York

---

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 3RD MEETING

Chairman: Mr. NAIK (Pakistan)

CONTENTS

ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIRMEN (concluded)

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

---

\* This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room A-3550, 866 United Nations Plaza (Alcoa Building), and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate fascicle for each Committee.

80-63515

**Distr. GENERAL**  
A/C.1/35/PV.3  
9 October 1980

ENGLISH

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

ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIRMEN (concluded)

Mr. KOSTENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) (interpretation from Russian): Since we have reached the final stage in the election of the officers of this Committee, I should like first of all, Sir, to take this opportunity, in accordance with rule 110 of the rules of procedure, to congratulate you on your election to the chairmanship of the First Committee at the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, and also to congratulate all the members of the Bureau of our Committee on their elections.

My delegation has the honour of submitting the candidacy of the Deputy Permanent Representative of Ireland, Mr. Aidan Mulloy, for the post of Vice-Chairman of the First Committee. Mr. Mulloy graduated in 1950 from the National University of Ireland. A member of the diplomatic corps since 1951, he has represented his country in a number of European capitals. He has taken part in important international conferences and meetings, including in particular the first session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in 1964 and the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe from 1973 to 1975. He has great experience in negotiating on arms limitation and disarmament and represented Ireland in the Ad Hoc Committee to Study the Role of the United Nations in the Field of Disarmament and took part in all five sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, as well as in the special session itself.

Since 1975, Mr. Mulloy has been participating in the work of the First Committee of the General Assembly and last year and this year he represented Ireland in the United Nations Disarmament Commission.

We are sure that Mr. Aidan Mulloy will make a useful contribution to the work of this Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic for his nomination of Mr. Aidan Mulloy of Ireland for the post of Vice-Chairman. I thank him also for his kind remarks addressed to me

(The Chairman)

personally. I am sure that I am expressing the sentiments of all the members of the Committee when I thank him for his delegation's important contribution to the work of this Committee as Vice-Chairman at last year's session.

There being no other nomination, I take it that, in accordance with rule 103 of the rules of procedure and with established practice, the Committee wishes to dispense with the secret ballot and to declare Mr. Aidan Mulloy of Ireland elected Vice-Chairman of the First Committee by acclamation.

Mr. Aidan Mulloy (Ireland) was elected Vice-Chairman of the First Committee by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN: I wish to express to the Vice-Chairman my warmest congratulations on the distinction that has been conferred upon him and his delegation and assure him of my confidence that jointly we shall successfully discharge the responsibilities incumbent upon us.

Mr. MULLOY (Ireland), Vice-Chairman: First and foremost, Mr. Chairman, I should like to associate myself and my delegation with the warm expressions of congratulations offered just now by our colleague from the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. I should like at the same time to express my appreciation to him for the kind words he has expressed in my regard. I wish also to say how grateful I am to my colleagues in the First Committee for having elected me Vice-Chairman of this Committee for the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

Ireland feels honoured by this attention and, speaking in a personal capacity, I should like to assure my colleagues that I shall do all in my power to contribute to the furtherance within this Committee of the aspirations of our members for internationally attainable measures for disarmament and international security in a manner which truly reflects the desire of our generation - and, I should say, of succeeding generations - to save the world from the scourge of war and build positively the foundations of peace.

I shall continue to work for genuine, effective and verifiable disarmament measures based on full respect for the purposes, principles and other provisions of the Charter, thus aspiring to implement the consensus which

I feel already exists in the hearts of men that peace is achievable, security attainable and a better life, from which war has been banned, already within our grasp.

With the positive achievements of the first special session on disarmament behind us, and with our eyes towards the second special session to be held in 1982, we are now confronted with the dual task of applying the provisions adopted at the first special session while preparing our minds, our briefs and our Governments for the second. A Janus approach in our work this year may therefore to some extent be de rigueur, provided both faces are adequately balanced, and cast an occasional glance forward at the immediate future and the expectation of our peoples that peace, through disarmament, should not be so distant as to be without immediate effect or so ephemeral as to have no lasting impact.

The Irish poet William Butler Yeats told us many years ago that peace comes dropping slow - a fine poetic concept no doubt, but we simply have not the patience to wait for peace to drop. It is our duty therefore to secure its foundations and plan its structure with care, forethought and plumbline. But if the architecture of the future is in our hands, our immediate need is for shelter and protection. Our need is that the task entrusted to us should not founder, but bring about a true meeting of wills and ensure the aspirations of our peoples, so that at the end of this session we should be able to say that we have achieved attainable aims and charted a course for the future, even if the line of that course should be anything but straight.

## ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The CHAIRMAN: Before we proceed to discuss the organization of work, I should like to draw the Committee's attention to documents A/C.1/35/1 and addendum 1, dated 24 September 1980 and 2 October 1980 respectively, containing the letters dated 19 September 1980 and 2 October addressed to me by the President of the General Assembly and informing me that the General Assembly, at its 3rd and 20th meetings, decided to allocate 21 items to the First Committee.

In establishing a time-table for the discussion of the items on our agenda, the following limitations imposed by the General Assembly on the recommendations of the General Committee should be taken into account. First, according to established practice, the First Committee will start its substantive work only after the end of the general debate in the plenary Assembly scheduled for Friday, 10 October 1980. Secondly, the First Committee should not go beyond the cut-off date suggested by the President of the General Assembly, that is, 5 December 1980. These limitations leave the First Committee with a period for its 1980 session during which it should be able to cover its rather heavy workload.

After conducting informal consultations the officers Committee considered the programme of work, and on their behalf I should like to suggest the following for the Committee's consideration.

The Committee could take up first the items relating to disarmament, namely items 31 to 49 and 121 of the session's agenda. With respect to these items, I should like to make it clear that it is my intention to follow the practice that has been accepted by the Committee in past years, namely that delegations may address themselves to each, some or all of the disarmament items in the order they deem appropriate during the general debate. Any delegation can start

(The Chairman)

with any of the items on disarmament, regardless of the order in which they appear. Not only may delegations speak on the items in the order in which they wish, but they may also make more than one statement. This is the practice which the Committee followed in past sessions, and we believe that it will again prove to be most useful during our present session.

Therefore, for the consideration of disarmament items that I have indicated, I would propose the allocation of 60 meetings during the period from 15 October to 25 November, which should be rather reasonable.

I should like to indicate that out of the total of 60 meetings 26 meetings, from 15 to 31 October 1980, would be allotted for a general debate, and the remaining 34 meetings, from 3 to 25 November 1980, for consideration of and action upon all draft resolutions under these items. It will be noticed that these recommendations follow, with some minor adjustments, the previous practice in the Committee. There is a slight increase in the number of meetings to be devoted to consideration of and action upon draft resolutions and a corresponding reduction in the number of meetings assigned to the general debate. These changes are suggested in view of the fact that at previous sessions many meetings allotted for the general debate were cancelled. It is also hoped that, by these procedures, more time will be made available for negotiations and consultations on draft resolutions.

With regard to the deadline for the submission of draft resolutions, I would suggest that it be announced at an appropriate time, after the Committee starts its substantive work, since there is no need at present to take a decision on that question. However, delegations are invited to submit draft resolutions with financial implications at the earliest possible time, in order to enable the Secretariat, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee to take action on them.

(The Chairman)

The Committee will then take up item 50, namely, "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security", in 10 meetings from 26 November to 3 December 1980. The last two days, namely 4 and 5 December, are left open for any pending business of the Committee. Thus the Committee would be able to dispose of all the items allocated to it within the available time.

(The Chairman)

With regard to item 50, entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security", I should like to stress the following points:

First, for the consideration of the item this year, which marks the tenth anniversary of the Declaration, the First Committee will have before it a report by the Secretary-General. This document, which will be distributed shortly, contains a report prepared by a group of governmental experts under the chairmanship of Ambassador Hepburn, giving an assessment of the implementation of the Declaration during the past decade and suggesting steps to be undertaken to ensure full compliance with all its provisions.

Secondly, in connexion with the subitem relating to non-interference in the internal affairs of States, it may be recalled that the General Assembly, by its resolution 34/101 of 14 December 1979, decided to set up an open-ended ad hoc working group of the First Committee at the beginning of the present session. The purpose of that working group, according to the resolution, is to elaborate and finalize a declaration on the inadmissibility of intervention and interference in the internal affairs of States. It is my understanding that at this time consultations are taking place among various delegations with a view to the establishment and functioning of the working group. When those consultations are completed, it is my intention to bring the matter before this Committee.

I should also like to add that the suggestion which I have described does not attempt to foresee all possible developments during the session. Its objective is only to provide guidance for our future work, and it is therefore a flexible instrument which may be adjusted as the session proceeds, if the Committee so desires.

Having consulted with the Bureau, I now have the honour of submitting our proposals for the organization of this Committee during this session.



(The Chairman)

If there are no objections or observations concerning the suggestion that I have submitted, I shall take it that the Committee agrees with the suggested programme of work and the time-table.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: I should now like to make some remarks about the efficient utilization of conference services for our deliberations.

With reference to documentation, I should like to point out that the General Assembly has, over the years, adopted a number of resolutions on the control and limitation of documentation containing measures designed to make the most effective and economical use of this vital but very expensive element of the services. These rules have been summarized in document A/INF/136/Rev.1. I would therefore, at the outset, request all members strictly to limit any requests for additional documents. This is necessary, as representatives are aware, because of the pressure on the Secretariat during the General Assembly session, as far as preparation, translation and distribution of documents are concerned.

I also wish to draw the attention of the Committee to General Assembly decision 34/401, particularly its provisions dealing with explanations of vote, right of reply, budgetary and financial questions and the work of the Main Committees, which I intend to apply, with the co-operation of all members of this Committee.

In order fully to utilize the time available to the Committee and to avoid the loss of time arising from late starting or early ending of meetings, I should like, with the co-operation of members, to start the meetings of the First Committee punctually. In this regard, I am fully aware that my predecessors - both Ambassador Hepburn and Ambassador Pastinen - have set a very fine example of punctuality in starting the meetings. Following that example would enable us to avoid unnecessary delays in meeting the target-date agreed upon for the conclusion of the general debate. Therefore, I will open the meetings of the Committee at 10.30 a.m. and 3 p.m. sharp, and will endeavour to close the meetings at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. respectively.

(The Chairman)

I shall convene meetings of the Committee only when there is a sufficient number of speakers. I feel that, as a general rule, we should have no less than four speakers inscribed for a particular meeting so that we can use our time and resources in the most effective manner. Resources allocated to a meeting cancelled at an appropriate time may be released for other meetings held within or outside the framework of the First Committee. May I note, in that connexion, that the cost of servicing one meeting of this Committee has reached the figure of \$10,300.

In order to give colleagues ample time and to avoid a rush, I open the list of speakers as of today for the members of the Committee to inscribe their names for statements on any item. Some delegations have already signified their intention to speak, and the Secretariat has taken note of those requests. I should also like to inform representatives that the list of speakers for the general debate on disarmament items will be closed on Tuesday, 21 October, at 6 p.m. Therefore, I urge delegations to inscribe their names on the list of speakers before the Committee begins its substantive work on 15 October.

The Secretariat has asked me to request members of the Committee to note that draft resolutions, amendments and sponsorships should be submitted in writing to the Secretariat in order to avoid any possible misunderstanding. Regarding requests for the use of conference rooms for group meetings, they should also be submitted in writing to the Secretariat.

(The Chairman)

May I appeal to all members of the Committee to take these provisions into account.

It would also be appreciated if delegations could provide the conference officers with 12 copies of a statement when a prepared text is to be delivered in the Committee.

In addition, may I invite delegations to communicate to the Secretariat the list of their representatives attending the present session of the Committee. That information would be helpful not only to the Secretariat but also, I am sure, to members of the Committee as well.

Lastly, I should like to draw the attention of the Committee once again to rule 110 of the rules of procedure, which reads as follows:

"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."

I would personally urge all members of the First Committee to observe the provisions of rule 110.

In the light of these observations, I would again invite any delegation to offer any remarks or comments at this stage on any of the points I have raised.

If no delegation wishes to make any observations or remarks at this stage, I propose to adjourn the meeting of the Committee. The next meeting will be held on 15 October at 10.30 a.m.

The meeting rose at 3.55 p.m.