

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

FOURTEENTH SESSION

Official Records


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Chairman: Mr. Alberto HERRARTE (Guatemala),

Statement by the Chairman

1. The CHAIRMAN said that the International Law Commission had been established in conformity with Article 13 of the United Nations Charter to encourage "the progressive development of international law and its codification". If the Commission's work was progressing slowly, as was sometimes alleged, that was due to the fact that international law had undergone profound changes in recent years. Such a situation should not cause concern as the codification of international law was not simply a work of clarification but also included the making of improvements and had to reflect the realities of modern international life.

2. The debates in the Sixth Committee provided a new forum for the development of international law and he expressed the hope that they would prove fruitful.

Election of the Vice-Chairman

3. Mr. CASTAÑEDA (Mexico) nominated Mr. Monaco (Italy).

4. Mr. URQUIA (El Salvador) and Mr. CHAYET (France) supported the nomination.

Mr. Monaco (Italy) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

Election of the Rapporteur

5. Mr. PERERA (Ceylon) nominated Mr. Shardyko (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic).

6. Mr. TABIBI (Afghanistan) and Mr. PECHOTA (Czechoslovakia) supported the nomination.

Mr. Shardyko (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

Order of discussion of agenda items (A/C.6/358)

7. The CHAIRMAN called attention to the letter from the President of the General Assembly (A/C.6/358) and asked the Committee to discuss the order in which it would deal with the agenda items allocated to it.

8. Mr. RAO (India) said that his delegation attached considerable importance to the item "Reservations to multilateral conventions: the Convention on the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization", which was listed as item number five in the President's letter. Since any inordinate delay in discussing that item would cause difficulties to his delegation, he proposed that the Committee should discuss it as item number two on its agenda.

9. Mr. MOROZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Mr. ASHA (United Arab Republic) and Mr. FERNANDEZ (Cuba) said that they were prepared to support the Indian proposal.

10. Mr. TABIBI (Afghanistan) said that his delegation also was prepared to accept the Indian proposal but was somewhat concerned about the position on the Committee's agenda of the item dealing with diplomatic intercourse and immunities, which might well consume much of the Committee's time. He hoped that members would consider carefully before taking any action which might prejudice the priority accorded that item.

11. Mr. MOROZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he appreciated the view expressed by the Afghan representative; he accordingly proposed that the item concerning diplomatic intercourse and immunities should be dealt with first by the Committee, on the understanding that the item respecting reservations to multilateral conventions would, as the Indian representative had proposed, be dealt with second.

12. Mr. ILLUECA (Panama) said that he was prepared to agree to the Indian proposal but was reluctant to depart from the long-standing tradition in the Sixth Committee whereby the report of the International Law Commission was always the first item discussed.

13. Mr. URQUIA (El Salvador) shared the view of the representative of Panama.

14. Mr. MOROZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that in view of the objections of the Panamanian and Salvadorian delegations, he would not press his proposal. Since the report of the International Law Commission covering the work of its eleventh session (A/4169) did not contain any proposals which called for decisions by the Sixth Committee, there was no reason to believe that its discussion would require much time.

15. The CHAIRMAN said that the consensus of the Committee seemed to be that the agenda should be discussed in the following order:

1. Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its eleventh session;

2. Reservations to multilateral conventions: the Convention on the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization;

3. Diplomatic intercourse and immunities;

4. Question of the publication of a United Nations juridical yearbook;

5. Question of initiating a study of the juridical régime of historic waters, including historic bays.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.