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Chairman: Mr. Juliusz KATZ-SUCHY (Poland).

Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fifth session (A/2456, A/C.6/L.311) (concluded)

[Item 53]*

Draft resolution submitted by Cuba (A/C.6/L.311) (concluded)

The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to continue the consideration of the Cuban draft resolution (A/C.6/L.311) in which the Cuban representative had made a few changes at the preceding meeting.

2. Mr. MOROZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that since the last meeting he had ascertained that there had been an error in the Russian translation of the Cuban draft resolution. Yet even in its correct form, the draft had become meaningless and redundant as a result of the changes made therein by the Cuban representative. It now merely asked the International Law Commission to do work which it would do in any case under its work programme.

3. Moreover, if the Committee were to consider the whole work programme of the International Law Commission, it might find other topics to which it might wish to draw attention, but that work programme was not on the Committee's agenda.

4. For those reasons, he could not support the Cuban draft resolution.

5. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Cuban draft resolution (A/C.6/L.311), as orally amended by its author at the preceding meeting.

The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted by 30 votes to none, with 16 abstentions.

Completion of the Committee's work

6. The CHAIRMAN noted that the Committee had completed its agenda.

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

7. Mr. TARAZI (Syria) stated that the Chairman, in the discharge of his duties, had demonstrated profound knowledge of international law and had directed the Committee's debates with exemplary vigour, objectivity and impartiality, while remaining consistent with his ideas in a manner which gave proof of great intellectual integrity. On behalf of the delegations of all the Arab States, he thanked the Chairman for so efficiently guiding the Committee to a rapid and successful conclusion of its work.

8. He congratulated the Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteur on their important contribution to the work and thanked the Secretariat for its devoted service.

9. Mr. CASTAÑEDA (Mexico), Mr. SHAH (India), Mr. MAURTUA (Peru), Mr. PETRZELKA (Czechoslovakia), Mr. SAFDAR (Pakistan), Mr. MOROZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Mr. SALAMANCA (Bolivia), Mr. AMADO (Brazil), Mr. MENDEZ (Philippines) and U KHIN HLA MAUNG (Burma) associated their delegations with the Syrian representative's remarks.

10. Mr. TABIBI (Afghanistan), Vice-Chairman, and Mr. SPIROPOULOS (Greece), Rapporteur, thanked the various representatives who had expressed appreciation of their work.

11. The CHAIRMAN thanked the various members of the Committee for their appreciative remarks.

12. It was the task of the United Nations to develop friendly and harmonious relations between nations, irrespective of their economic, political or social structure. In that task the Sixth Committee had a vital part to play, by helping to establish principles of international law applicable to the legal problems referred to it which arose out of the co-operation, competition and struggle between nations. International law was essentially the law of peace, and to help its development was therefore to strengthen international peace.

13. It was important that the Committee should not allow any group to impose its will upon others, lest it endanger the delicate structure of international co-operation in the United Nations; it had constantly to bear in mind the need to preserve peace, to decrease tensions, to remove the threat of a fresh war and to settle international problems by means of mutual understanding, compromise and negotiation. The Committee could congratulate itself on having dealt with most of the items on its agenda in that spirit.

14. He thanked the Vice-Chairman, the Rapporteur and the Secretariat for their co-operation.

The meeting rose at 12 noon.