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Agenda item 15:

Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs (*continued*):

(a) Election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council

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President: Mr. Rüdiger von WECHMAR
(Federal Republic of Germany).

AGENDA ITEM 15

Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs (*continued*):

(a) Election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council

1. Mr. SINCLAIR (Guyana): The 42nd plenary meeting adjourned yesterday afternoon on the understanding that, in the intervening period, the group of Latin American States would hold consultations regarding the group's candidature for the Latin American seat to be made vacant by Jamaica's departure at the end of 1980.

2. This decision was made after two ballots, at the conclusion of which Guyana received 70 votes in the Assembly although we were not a candidate in these elections. This development came as a great surprise to Guyana, I assure you, Mr. President, and, I am certain, to many others. We had not sought the nomination of the Latin American group. We had not campaigned, nor did we lobby for ourselves. What occurred yesterday represented an expression of the wish of 70 members of the Assembly to see Guyana occupy the vacant Latin American seat in the Security Council.

3. It is true that Guyana was not a candidate, but when 70 members of the Assembly indicate by their votes in an unbidden, unsolicited manner that they would like Guyana to be a candidate, it is clear that an entirely new situation has been created, one which requires of us a particular kind of response. I wish to assure representatives that the suddenness with which this situation developed and the pressures to which we have been subjected through the approaches of various delegations have indeed made the decision-making process a difficult one for us. I must say that my delegation was profoundly touched by the expression of faith in Guyana that was demonstrated in the Assembly yesterday and also by the encouragement of those delegations—and those liberation movements as well—which urged that Guyana should respond by becoming a candidate.

4. Guyana recognizes an obligation to seek to maintain the harmony of the Latin American group at all

times. The voting yesterday pitted two Latin American States against each other. Delegations will remember well the development of a similar situation last year and its effect on the unity of the group and on the work of the Assembly. This year's situation is admittedly somewhat different in that one candidature was announced beforehand while the other arose out of a spontaneous expression of the desire of a significant number of members of the General Assembly.

5. Nevertheless, we recognized that this situation was one which contained a potential for divisiveness and polarization not only within the Latin American group but also within the Assembly itself.

6. There exists within the Latin American group a pluralism which is both cultural and ideological. This pluralism, we feel, has yet to find full expression in the group's representation in the Security Council. The problem which we encountered last year and certainly that which has been developing in relation to the present election might have had their origin in a recognition of this failure by a large number of members of the Assembly. It is essential that steps be taken to face this issue squarely so as to ensure that the realities of our regional group are reflected in such areas as the composition of the Security Council.

7. Guyana does not wish to see disharmony sown in the Latin American group. We do not wish to see the smooth functioning of the Assembly's work impaired. For this reason and in the hope that in future we shall be able to respond to and accommodate the pluralism that is the very essence of this Organization, Guyana has decided—and I wish now to declare—that we are not a candidate for the present elections.

8. I wish to thank very sincerely those 70 delegations which have expressed their confidence in us by giving us their votes. We value this expression of support and earnestly hope that we can rely on this continuing support at the elections to be held during the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly when Guyana will be a candidate for the seat which will become vacant at the end of 1981. This indication was given to the Latin American group as early as 1979.

9. Mr. DíEZ (Chile) (*interpretation from Spanish*): First of all, I wish to thank you, Mr. President, and through you the delegations present, for allowing the Latin American group to hold a meeting so as to find a solution amongst ourselves to the problem with which we were unexpectedly confronted yesterday afternoon. I personally am very happy to tell the General Assembly that the Latin American group held two meetings, one yesterday afternoon and one this morning. In the course of this morning's meeting—and as the Assembly is now aware—the representative of Guyana

announced that, despite the wide support it had received in the voting that took place yesterday, Guyana was not a candidate for the post that falls vacant this year on the Security Council; but that Guyana still hopes that it will become a member of that body as a result of the elections to be held at the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly in 1981.

10. The Latin American countries express their appreciation to the delegation of Cuba for withdrawing its candidacy and to Guyana for saying that it would not stand for election this year, both of which actions were taken to ensure unity in the group.

11. For this reason, I am very happy officially to notify the General Assembly, at the express request of the group, that Latin America at this moment has one candidate, namely, Costa Rica.

12. Mr. KAMANDA wa KAMANDA (Zaire) (*interpretation from French*): I should like to raise a procedural point. I express my appreciation to the representatives of the Latin American States, in particular to the representative of Guyana who has just informed us that during yesterday's elections, his country was not a candidate.

13. The first conclusion that my delegation draws from that statement, for which I thank the delegation of Guyana, is that yesterday when we took two votes in two restricted ballots involving Costa Rica and Guyana, we were voting for a country which was not a candidate.

14. Rule 94 of the rules of procedure states:

“When two or more elective places are to be filled at one time under the same conditions, those candidates obtaining in the first ballot the majority required shall be elected. If the number of candidates obtaining such majority is less than the number of persons or Members to be elected, there shall be additional ballots to fill the remaining places, the voting being restricted to the candidates obtaining the greatest number of votes in the previous ballot, to a number not more than twice the places remaining to be filled...”

15. I note from the statement just made that Guyana was not a candidate yesterday, but Guyana was eligible and so when we proceeded to a vote it came second, after Costa Rica, among the countries that did not obtain the necessary majority during the first vote. We should be able to re-establish the legality of the procedure by cancelling or invalidating the votes taken yesterday during the first and second restricted ballots, because even though Guyana was eligible, in fact it was not a candidate. That would enable us today to resume the legal procedure and vote for the one candidate still on the list, in accordance with what has been said by the representative of Guyana; otherwise I think we would have an extremely dangerous precedent in our files. In order to resume a legal procedure, I think we shall have to invalidate the votes taken in the first and second restricted ballots, because Guyana says it was not a candidate.

16. Mr. LUSAKA (Zambia): I should like to ask for clarification.

17. Yesterday when you, Mr. President, asked us to vote for the third time in a restricted ballot, you said

that the balloting had started because the ballot papers had been distributed to representatives. During that balloting it transpired that the representative of Chile asked to be allowed to speak so as to propose that the meeting be suspended. My question is for the future. When the balloting has started, especially restricted balloting, can a proposal for suspension be entertained? I should like to be guided by you, Mr. President.

18. The PRESIDENT: As representatives may recall, I put the proposal of the Chairman of the Latin American group for a suspension to the Assembly and asked if there were any objections. I heard none. I might also recall to representatives that a similar situation arose during the tenth session of the General Assembly when the Assembly was already in the process of electing non-permanent members of the Security Council. At the request of one representative, a suspension of 15 to 20 minutes was agreed upon and the election was resumed after the suspension. There is therefore a precedent.

19. Mr. SINCLAIR (Guyana): For what it may be worth, I merely wanted to clarify what I meant when I said that Guyana was not a candidate. Whereas Costa Rica had notified the Latin America group of its wish to occupy the Latin American seat in the Security Council which will become vacant at the end of 1980, Guyana had not done so. Whereas the Assembly was seized of a candidature presented by Costa Rica for the elections which began yesterday, the Assembly was not so seized in the case of Guyana. That is what I meant when I said that Guyana was not a candidate.

20. Mr. MISHRA (India): I should like to express the view of my delegation in regard to any future procedure on the suspension of meetings. I think it might be better practice if, once ballot papers have been distributed, the meeting is not suspended. Yesterday my delegation did not raise any objection to the procedure, although we were given the opportunity to object if we found it necessary, because the Chairman of the Latin American group was speaking on behalf of the whole group and, in particular, he had also consulted the delegations of the two countries which were receiving the highest number of votes in the balloting. But I should like to say that for the future it might be better practice not to suspend meetings once the ballot papers have been distributed.

21. On a second point, so far as I remember—and I stand to be corrected—we were on the third restricted ballot yesterday when we suspended the meeting. Unless we are suspending rule 94 of the rules of procedure, which I believe is not permissible, we shall have to proceed with that ballot.

22. Mr. OYONO (United Republic of Cameroon) (*interpretation from French*): Before we go any further, my delegation would like to pay a tribute to the delegation of Guyana, as well as to the delegation of Chile—in particular to its head who is the Chairman of the Latin American group—for their clarification on the subject of the candidature of a State of Latin America, that is, the candidature of Costa Rica, for one of the non-permanent seats in the Security Council.

23. May I, in this connexion, appeal to members of the General Assembly not to become involved in

controversy on the way in which the election procedure was carried out yesterday. Since the position is now clear as far as the candidature of Costa Rica is concerned, it is highly desirable that we be permitted to follow the appropriate procedure. I appeal also to my friend and brother, the representative of Zaire not to involve us in the invalidation procedure he has recommended with regard to Guyana.

24. Mr. KAMANDA wa KAMANDA (Zaire) (*interpretation from French*): My earlier proposal was not intended to complicate the procedure of the General Assembly. On the contrary, as I said, I was trying to get back to the legal procedure. As the representative of the United Republic of Cameroon has pointed out, matters are now clear and I ask the Assembly to bear in mind that the comments I made will remain valid for the future, and agree that in similar cases, in order to avoid finding ourselves in such an embarrassing situation regarding procedure, we should make every effort to follow the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

25. I shall not, therefore, press for any move to invalidate the first and second secret ballots of yesterday, and I support the appeal made by the representative of Cameroon.

26. The PRESIDENT: May I reassure representatives that the record of today's proceedings will duly reflect the views expressed in the last few minutes.

27. I take it that the Assembly now wishes to proceed to the fourth ballot in the election, which is the third restricted ballot, as the representative of India pointed out.

28. I should like to emphasize that special care has been taken to ensure that there can be no confusion arising from the fact that the ballot papers were being distributed yesterday when a motion was made to suspend the meeting. The form to be used for the present ballot is different both in text and in size from the one distributed yesterday.

29. In casting their votes, members will no doubt take into account the statements they have just heard from the representative of Guyana and the Chairman of the Latin American group.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Tinca (Romania), Mr. Jasudasen (Singapore) and Mr. Adeyemi (Nigeria) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

30. The PRESIDENT: I propose now to suspend the meeting while the ballots are counted.

The meeting was suspended at 4.05 p.m. and resumed at 4.20 p.m.

31. The PRESIDENT: I have been advised that while I was explaining the balloting procedure to members of the Assembly, the representative of Syria was asking to be allowed to speak on a point of order. I therefore now call on him under rule 88 of the rules of procedure.

32. Mr. HAYDAR (Syrian Arab Republic): Thank you, Mr. President, for calling on me at last. Actually, when I was attempting to be called on, I wished to speak on a point of order. In that attempt, I was abiding fully by rule 88, with which I am very familiar. Why the President did not call on me at that point I

really do not understand. I regret to say that this is not the first time that this has happened to us here.

33. The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting is as follows:

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	151
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	8
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	143
<i>Abstentions:</i>	6
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	137
<i>Required majority:</i>	92
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Costa Rica	90
Guyana	47

34. The PRESIDENT: The third restricted ballot has also been inconclusive. We must therefore proceed to an unrestricted ballot, in accordance with the rules of procedure.

35. In this unrestricted ballot, any Member State from Group B—the group of Latin American States—may be a candidate, except Jamaica, which is retiring from the Security Council and is therefore not eligible for immediate re-election, and Mexico, whose term as a member of the Council has not yet expired.

36. The ballot papers will now be distributed. I request representatives to write the name of only one country on the ballot paper. Any ballot papers containing the name of more than one State from the Latin American group will be declared invalid.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Tinca (Romania), Mr. Jasudasen (Singapore) and Mr. Adeyemi (Nigeria) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

37. The PRESIDENT: I propose now to suspend the meeting while the ballots are being counted.

The meeting was suspended at 4.30 p.m. and resumed at 4.45 p.m.

38. The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting is as follows:

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	151
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	1
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	150
<i>Abstentions:</i>	1
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	149
<i>Required majority:</i>	100
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Costa Rica	84
Guyana	36
Nicaragua	22
Cuba	4
Barbados	1
Chile	1
Peru	1

39. The PRESIDENT: Since the required majority has not been obtained and the ballot has been inconclusive, we shall proceed to a second unrestricted ballot, in accordance with the rules of procedure.

40. As before, I would request representatives to write on each ballot the name of one country from Group B, the group of Latin American States, other

than Mexico, which is still a member of the Security Council, and Jamaica, which is a retiring member and is therefore not eligible for immediate re-election.

41. The ballot papers will now be distributed. Those bearing more than one name will be declared invalid.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Tinca (Romania), Mr. Jasudasen (Singapore) and Mr. Adeyemi (Nigeria) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

42. The PRESIDENT: I propose now to suspend the meeting while the ballots are being counted.

The meeting was suspended at 4.55 p.m. and resumed at 5.10 p.m.

43. The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting is as follows:

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	151
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	1
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	150
<i>Abstentions:</i>	2
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	148
<i>Required majority:</i>	99
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Costa Rica	87
Nicaragua	30
Guyana	25
Cuba	2
Dominican Republic	2
Panama	1
Peru	1

44. The PRESIDENT: Since the required majority has again not been obtained, we shall now proceed to a third unrestricted ballot. As before, I would request members to write on each ballot the name of one country from Group B, the group of Latin American States, other than Mexico, which is still a member of the Security Council, and Jamaica, which is retiring.

45. The ballot papers are now being distributed. Those bearing more than one name will be declared invalid.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Tinca (Romania), Mr. Jasudasen (Singapore) and Mr. Adeyemi (Nigeria) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

46. The PRESIDENT: I propose now to suspend the meeting while the ballots are being counted.

The meeting was suspended at 5.20 p.m. and resumed at 5.55 p.m.

47. The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting is as follows:

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	151
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	0
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	151
<i>Abstentions:</i>	2
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	149
<i>Required majority:</i>	100

Number of votes obtained:

Costa Rica	86
Nicaragua	40
Guyana	19
Dominican Republic	3
Cuba	1

48. The PRESIDENT: In the first set of restricted ballots we held, we limited the balloting to the two States which had obtained the largest number of votes, even though one of the States concerned had announced it was not a candidate. I have in the meantime consulted with the Office of the Legal Counsel, and I am advised that it has been consistently the practice that votes cast for States which have withdrawn have always been counted and announced.

49. May I therefore propose that, for the purpose of the present balloting, we continue to follow the practice we followed in the first series of restricted ballots, namely, that we would enter into another round of restricted ballots now, restricted to the two States that have received the largest number of votes in the last unrestricted ballot, which would in this case be Costa Rica and Nicaragua. If I hear no objection, we will proceed accordingly.

It was so decided.

50. The PRESIDENT: As the third unrestricted ballot has proved inconclusive, in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure, we shall proceed to a ballot restricted to the two candidates which have obtained the largest numbers of votes. Those two countries are Costa Rica and Nicaragua. Ballot papers will now be distributed.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Tinca (Romania), Mr. Jasudasen (Singapore) and Mr. Adeyemi (Nigeria) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

51. The PRESIDENT: I propose now to suspend the meeting while the ballots are being counted.

The meeting was suspended at 6.10 p.m. and resumed at 6.25 p.m.

52. The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting is as follows:

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	151
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	0
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	151
<i>Abstentions:</i>	5
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	146
<i>Required majority:</i>	98
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Costa Rica	86
Nicaragua	60

53. The PRESIDENT: The results of this ballot still being inconclusive and in view of the late hour, the General Assembly will resume the voting at a later date.

The meeting rose at 6.30 p.m.