

FIRST COMMITTEE

Political and Security Questions (includes Regulation of Armaments)

TWO HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-THIRD MEETING

Held at Flushing Meadow, New York, on Tuesday, 20 September, 1949, at 12.10 p.m.

Election of Chairman

1. Mr. ARCE (Argentina) nominated Mr. Lester Pearson (Canada).

2. Mr. VAN ZEELAND (Belgium) seconded that nomination.

3. Mr. WIERBLOWSKI (Poland) nominated Mr. Hoffmeister (Czechoslovakia).

A vote was taken by secret ballot as follows:

Number of votes cast, 59;

Abstentions, 3;

Invalid votes, 0;

Valid votes, 56;

Simple majority, 29.

Number of votes obtained:

Mr. Pearson (Canada), 49;

Mr. Hoffmeister (Czechoslovakia), 5;

Mr. Bech (Luxembourg), 1.

Mr. Pearson, having obtained the required simple majority of the members present and voting, was elected Chairman of the First Committee.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.

Acting Chairman: General Carlos P. RÓMULO (Philippines).

TWO HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-FOURTH MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York, on Tuesday, 27 September 1949, at 10.45 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Lester B. PEARSON (Canada).

Election of the Vice-Chairman

1. The CHAIRMAN thanked the members of the Committee for the honour they had done him in electing him Chairman of the First Committee. He introduced Mr. Zinchenko, Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Security Council Affairs, and the Secretary of the Committee, Dr. Protitch, Principal Director of the Security Council Affairs Department.

2. Mr. AUSTIN (United States of America) nominated Mr. Sarper (Turkey) as Vice-Chairman.

3. Mr. ENTEZAM (Iran) and Mr. BELAÚNDE (Peru) supported the nomination of Mr. Sarper.

Mr. Sarper (Turkey) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

Election of the Rapporteur

4. Mr. KAUFFMANN (Denmark) nominated Mr. de Diego (Panama) as Rapporteur.

5. Mr. ARCE (Argentina) supported the nomination.

Mr. de Diego (Panama) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

Discussion of the agenda (A/C.1/477 and A/C.1/480)

6. Mr. VAN ZEELAND (Belgium) suggested that the Committee first take up the fifth item mentioned in the letter dated 23 September 1949 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the First Committee (A/C.1/477): "Threats to the political independence and territorial integrity of Greece: report of the United

Nations Special Committee on the Balkans". The documentation on that question was at hand. In addition, if a new conciliation effort proved possible, it should be undertaken as expeditiously as circumstances would permit. The Committee might then take up the question of the disposal of the former Italian colonies, a question which should have been solved at the previous session. The Committee could then take up the Palestine question and the fourth item on the agenda might be the one communicated by the letter dated 26 September 1949 from the President of the General Assembly to the chairman of the First Committee (A/C.1/480), namely: "Condemnation of the preparations for a new war, and conclusion of a five-Power pact for the strengthening of peace". The Committee could then take up the question of Indonesia as its fifth item. It was probable that new elements would have entered into the picture by that time, making it possible for the Committee to deal with the item with a greater chance of reaching favourable results. The sixth and last item would then be the report of the Security Council.

7. Mr. VYSHINSKI (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation, while essentially in agreement with the Belgian proposal, considered the item submitted by the USSR, on the "condemnation of the preparations for a new war, and conclusion of a five-Power pact for the strengthening of peace", to be such an important issue that it should be taken up as early as possible. While taking into account the fact that the item had been submitted later than some of the other items, he suggested that it be placed second or third on the agenda, instead of fourth as proposed by the Belgian representative.