

42. At its meeting in the afternoon of 15 October, the Assembly would hear an introductory statement by the USSR delegation, and would then adjourn, since some delegations would not be ready to take part in a general debate on item 102.

43. Mr. RABETAFIKA (Madagascar) said he had already stated that he had no objection to the Soviet representative introducing the item in question at the meeting of the Assembly in the afternoon of 15 October. However, he was sure that the representative of the Soviet Union would agree to defer his statement if urgent or unforeseen new circumstances arose in connexion with the situation in Guinea (Bissau) or the Middle East.

44. The CHAIRMAN reminded the representative of Madagascar that the Committee's decision would be considered at the meeting of the Assembly in the morning of Monday, 15 October, and that it would be for the Assembly to accept, amend or reject it.

45. Replying to a question put by Mr. VEJVODA (Czechoslovakia), the CHAIRMAN said that the additional item which would be before the General Committee on Monday, 15 October, was the item entitled "Restoration of the lawful rights of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia in the United Nations" (See A/9195).

46. Mr. MALIK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) assured the representatives of Tunisia and Madagascar that his delegation would be prepared to postpone its introductory statement on item 102 if the situation in the Middle East or urgent colonial questions required consideration by the Assembly on Monday, 15 October.

47. With regard to the assertion that the Soviet Union was in a desperate hurry to introduce the item, he assured members that the Soviet people had never been desperate, even at the most crucial times in their history.

The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m.

211th meeting

Monday, 15 October 1973, at 1.05 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Leopoldo BENITES (Ecuador).

A/BUR/SR.211

Request for the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the twenty-eighth session: item proposed by Albania, Algeria, Burundi, the Central African Republic, China, the Congo, Cuba, Dahomey, Democratic Yemen, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, the Gambia, Guinea, Iraq, the Libyan Arab Republic, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger, Romania, Senegal, Somalia, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Upper Volta, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire and Zambia (A/9195)

1. The CHAIRMAN said that, in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure, the representative of Algeria had requested permission to take part in the discussion of the item.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Rahal (Algeria) took a place at the Committee table.

2. Mr. RAHAL (Algeria) said that the request for the inclusion of an additional item entitled "Restoration of the lawful rights of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia in the United Nations" (A/9195) had been motivated by recent events in Cambodia, which had led to an entirely new situation. He recalled that Prince Sihanouk had been deposed by a military coup d'état in 1970 during his absence from Cambodia on official business. The Prince had never recognized the régime which had seized power in that most illegal manner and his position had been supported by large numbers of the Cambodian people and officials. Many countries, particularly third world countries, had continued to recognize the Prince as the sole legitimate and constitutional Head of State of Cambodia. The usurpatory government was highly unpopular because of its obvious incompetence and the widespread corruption among its most senior members. The success of the armed struggle which the Prince had been obliged to

undertake to restore his authority demonstrated that he, on the other hand, enjoyed widespread popular support and that the illegal régime could not survive without substantial assistance from certain foreign sources. The so-called Khmer Republic having been reduced to the city of Phnom Penh, it was time to ask whether its delegation to the United Nations could be considered as being authorized to act in the name of the people of Cambodia. Many countries, including those present at the Fourth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Algiers, from 5 to 9 September 1973, had already answered that question in favour of Prince Sihanouk.

3. The question of the representation of Cambodia in the United Nations was both important and urgent. It was important because a delegation to the United Nations must be truly representative and be formed by a government holding real power within a country. Failure to observe those criteria in the case of China had led to a weakening and loss of prestige from which the United Nations was still trying to recover. The question was urgent both because it concerned the remedying of an injustice and because the situation in Cambodia was currently so clear that a decision could no longer be delayed. The sponsors of the request for the inclusion in the agenda of the additional item believed that a favourable response would be in the best interests of both the Cambodian people and the United Nations.

4. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the General Committee should continue its discussion of the request at its next meeting.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1.25 p.m.