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FORTY-NINTH SESSION

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at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 1st MEETING

Chairman:

Mr. ESSY
(President of the General Assembly)

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ORGANIZATION OF THE FORTY-NINTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ALLOCATION OF ITEMS: MEMORANDUM BY THE SECRETARY-
GENERAL

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The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

ORGANIZATION OF THE FORTY-NINTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ALLOCATION OF ITEMS: MEMORANDUM BY THE SECRETARY-
GENERAL (A/BUR/49/1 and Add.1)

1. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to the fact that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/233, the Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization Committee) should be listed after the First Committee.

Section I. Introduction

2. The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to the provisions reproduced in annexes V, VI, VII and VIII of its rules of procedure. It also took note of paragraph 4 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

Section II. Organization of the session

Paragraph 5 (General Committee)

3. The Committee took note of paragraph 5 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

Paragraphs 6 to 9 (Rationalization of work)

4. The Committee took note of paragraphs 6, 7 and 9, and decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 8 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

Paragraph 10 (Closing date of the session)

5. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the Assembly should recess no later than 20 December 1994 and close on 18 September 1995, and also that all the Main Committees should start their work as soon as possible and make every effort to complete their work by 2 December 1994.

Paragraphs 11 to 13 (Schedule of meetings)

6. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that morning meetings should start at 10 a.m. for all plenary meetings and meetings of the Main Committees. The Committee also decided to recommend to the Assembly that, as a cost-saving measure, every effort should be made to ensure that plenary meetings and meetings of the Main Committees adjourned by 6 p.m.

7. The CHAIRMAN noted that the above measures would not apply to plenary meetings during the general debate.

8. The Committee also decided to recommend that, in order to avoid the late start of meetings, the General Assembly should waive the quorum requirements for plenary meetings and meetings of the Main Committees.

9. The CHAIRMAN strongly endorsed the suggestions made at previous sessions that each delegation should designate someone to be present at the scheduled meeting time. Some progress had been reported in that respect, but there was still considerable room for improvement.

Paragraphs 14 to 16 (General debate)

10. The Committee endorsed the suggestions contained in paragraphs 14 and 15 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

11. The CHAIRMAN urged representatives, in view of the large number of delegations already inscribed on the list of speakers for the general debate in the General Assembly, to speak in the order in which they were listed. Those unable to speak at the scheduled time would be put at the end of the list for the same day.

12. The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to decisions taken by the Assembly at previous sessions, prohibiting the practice of expressing congratulations inside the Assembly Hall itself. In that connection, the Committee also decided to recommend to the Assembly that speakers in the general debate should be asked to exit the Assembly Hall through room GA-200, located behind the podium, before returning to their seats.

Paragraphs 17 to 19 (Explanations of vote, right of reply, points of order and lengthy of statements)

13. The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 of its decision 34/401 and to rules 72 and 114 of the rules of procedure and paragraph 22 of annex VI thereto, for appropriate action to be taken by the Assembly in plenary meetings and by the Main Committees. It further decided to recommend to the Assembly that points of order should be limited to 5 minutes.

Paragraph 20 (Records of meetings)

14. The Committee decided to take note of paragraph 20 of the Secretary-General's memorandum and, in that connection, decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the practice of not reproducing in extenso statements made in a Main Committee should be maintained for the forty-ninth session.

Paragraph 22 (Concluding statements)

15. The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to the need for full implementation of paragraph 17 of General Assembly decision 34/401.

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Paragraphs 23 to 26 (Resolutions)

16. The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 32 of its decision 34/401, to recommendation 3 (f) of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts, to paragraph 5 of its resolution 48/264 and to paragraphs 1 and 10 of the annex to its resolution 45/45.

Paragraphs 27 to 29 (Documentation)

17. The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 28 of its decision 34/401 and to paragraph 6 of its resolution 48/264. The Committee also decided to take note of the recommendations contained in paragraph 29 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

Paragraphs 30 to 33 (Questions related to the programme budget)

18. The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to the provisions reproduced in paragraphs 30 and 31 and the observations contained in paragraphs 32 and 33 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

Paragraphs 34 and 35 (Observances and commemorative meetings)

19. The Committee endorsed the suggestions contained in paragraphs 34 and 35 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

Paragraphs 36 and 37 (Special conferences)

20. The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to the recommendations referred to in paragraphs 36 and 37 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

Paragraph 38 (Meetings of subsidiary organs)

21. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to a letter dated 31 August 1994 from the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences to the President of the General Assembly (A/49/351) informing him that the Committee had recommended, on the strict understanding that meetings would have to be accommodated within available facilities and services, that a number of subsidiary organs should be authorized to meet during the forty-ninth session.

22. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should authorize the subsidiary organs of the Assembly referred to in paragraph 38 of the Secretary-General's memorandum to meet during the forty-ninth session.

Section III. Observations and proposals on the organization of future sessions of the General Assembly

Paragraphs 39 to 41

23. The Committee took note of paragraphs 39 and 40 and endorsed the suggestion contained in paragraph 41 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

Section IV. Adoption of the agenda

24. The CHAIRMAN said that, in accordance with rule 40 of the rules of procedure, the Committee would not consider the substance of any item except in so far as it bore on the question of whether or not to recommend the inclusion of that item in the agenda.

25. He also drew the Committee's attention to the suggestions in paragraph 43 of the Secretary-General's memorandum, and in particular the suggestion that in accordance with paragraphs 4 and 5 (a) and (c) of annex I to General Assembly resolution 48/264, the agenda of the General Assembly should be reviewed periodically in order to ascertain whether it was possible to delete any item on which no resolution or decision had been adopted for a period of time.

26. The Committee decided to take note of paragraph 43 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

27. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to paragraph 44 of the memorandum, in which the Secretary-General suggested that the wording of item 115 of the draft agenda (Personnel questions) should be changed to reflect the breadth of the issues involved under that item.

28. The Committee endorsed the suggestion in paragraph 44 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

Inclusion of items

Items 1 to 6

29. The CHAIRMAN said that items 1 to 6 had already been dealt with; he would therefore take it that there were no comments on their inclusion in the agenda.

Items 7 to 25

30. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include items 7 to 25 in the agenda.

Item 26

31. Mr. SIDOROV (Russian Federation) said that his delegation did not consider it advisable to retain the item in the Assembly's agenda. It should be noted that an agreement on the orderly and complete withdrawal of Russian troops from the territories of the Baltic States had not only been concluded, as called for in General Assembly resolution 48/18, but fully carried out by his country. Bilateral agreements had been concluded with Estonia, concerning the shutdown of the submarine training site in Paldiski, and with Latvia, concerning the legal status of the Skrunda anti-ballistic missile early warning station during the period of its functioning and dismantling. Several days earlier, at a meeting of senior officials of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), it had been noted with satisfaction that the Russian Federation had complied with its obligation in withdrawing its troops from the Baltic States,

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(Mr. Sidorov, Russian Federation)

and the relevant item had been deleted from the agenda of CSCE. His delegation believed that it would be logical for the Committee to adopt a similar approach.

32. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Slokenbergs (Latvia) took a place at the Committee table.

33. Mr. SLOKENBERGS (Latvia), speaking on behalf of the Baltic States, said that the delegations on whose behalf he spoke were concerned at the initiative taken by the Russian Federation to raise the issue of the inclusion of the item in the Assembly's agenda. The Baltic States welcomed the recent withdrawal of Russian Federation troops from the territories of Estonia and Latvia. General Assembly resolutions 47/21 and 48/18, which called for the conclusion of agreements between Estonia, Latvia and the Russian Federation on the matter, had made a significant contribution to the achievement of that goal and had also constituted an example of successful preventive diplomacy. Bearing in mind the significance of the withdrawal, not only for the countries concerned but for European security as a whole, the Baltic States strongly felt that the event should be noted in a proper manner by the General Assembly. Moreover, a report by the Secretary-General on the issue was awaited pursuant to General Assembly resolution 48/18.

34. Mr. ORDZHONIKIDZE (Russian Federation) said that his delegation did not intend the matter to be put to a vote.

35. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 26 in the agenda.

36. Mr. Slokenbergs (Latvia) withdrew.

Items 27 to 35

37. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include items 27 to 35 in the agenda.

Item 36

38. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 36 in the agenda.

Items 37 to 44

39. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include items 37 to 44 in the agenda.

Item 45

40. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 45 in the agenda.

Item 46

41. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 46 in the agenda.

Item 47

42. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 47 in the agenda.

Item 48

43. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 48 in the agenda.

Item 49

44. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 49 in the agenda.

Item 50

45. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 50 in the agenda.

Item 51

46. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 51 in the agenda.

Item 52

47. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 52 in the agenda.

Items 53 to 64

48. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include items 53 to 64 in the agenda.

Item 65

49. Mr. ABDELLAH (Tunisia), speaking on behalf of the Arab States, said that they were currently conducting a review of the text of the draft resolution on Israeli nuclear armament and had begun consultation in that respect with interested groups and countries.

50. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 65 in the agenda.

Items 66 to 73

51. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include items 66 to 73 in the agenda.

Items 74 to 84

52. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include items 74 to 84 in the agenda.

Item 85

53. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 85 in the agenda.

54. Mr. ABDELLAH (Tunisia), supported by Mr. TEIRLINCK (Belgium), said that, after consultation with the representatives of France and Madagascar, his delegation wished to recommend that consideration of item 85, the question of the Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India, should be deferred until the fiftieth session of the General Assembly, without prejudice to the position of the two countries on that question.

55. The Committee decided to recommend that consideration of the item should be deferred to the fiftieth session of the General Assembly and included in the provisional agenda of that session.

Item 86

56. Mr. LEGAL (France) drew attention to the Secretary-General's progress report on the question of East Timor (A/49/391), in which he expressed the view that an improved atmosphere had been achieved in the dialogue between the Governments of Portugal and Indonesia and that the parties had agreed on a number of confidence-building measures. In view of the fact that the Secretary-General intended to assist the two Governments in identifying a series of issues for consideration by them in advance of the next round of talks, scheduled to be held at Geneva in January 1995, his delegation proposed that the General Committee should recommend to the General Assembly deferment of item 86 until its fiftieth session.

57. Mr. ABDELLAH (Tunisia), supporting their proposal, said that the considerable progress achieved in the current negotiations being held under the auspices of the Secretary-General gave hope that a just, global and internationally acceptable solution to the problem would be found.

58. The Committee decided to recommend that the consideration of item 86 should be deferred to the fiftieth session of the General Assembly and included in the provisional agenda of that session.

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Item 87

59. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 87 in the agenda.

Item 88

60. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 88 in the agenda.

Item 89

61. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 89 in the agenda.

Item 90

62. Mr. MARKER (Pakistan) said that in view of the importance of the International Conference on Population and Development and in keeping with General Assembly resolution 48/186, his delegation was proposing that sub-item 90 (c) on the report of the International Conference on Population and Development should become a separate agenda item. That report deserves the same consideration as the report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development had received. Like the latter report, the report of the International Conference on Population and Development should be debated in plenary and action thereon should be taken in the Second Committee.

63. Mr. DELACROIX (France), speaking on behalf of the European Union, agreed that the report of the International Conference on Population and Development should become a separate item.

64. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that sub-item (c) of agenda item 90 should become a separate agenda item and that agenda item 90 and former item 90 (c) should be included in the agenda of the forty-ninth session.

Items 91 to 94

65. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include items 91 to 94 in the agenda.

Items 95 to 102

66. Mr. YASSIN (Sudan) said that his delegation was opposed to the inclusion of item 102 (c), "Human rights situations and reports of Special Rapporteurs and representatives", as it was an item which in appearance dealt with human rights, but in reality had political designs aimed at intervening in the internal affairs of certain States. It was a political issue that pitted certain States against others and should therefore be removed from the agenda of the current session of the General Assembly.

67. Mr. SUCHARIPA (Austria) said that as that sub-item had traditionally been on the agenda of the Assembly and reflected progress which had been made in the field of human rights over the past few years, his delegation would not be in a position to agree to its deletion.

68. Mr. ORDZHONIKIDZE (Russian Federation) said that his delegation also believed that the sub-item, which was an important component of the United Nations activities in defence of human rights, should be kept on the agenda.

69. Mr. MWAUNGULU (Malawi) said that his country, which had just emerged from a situation of extreme violation of human rights, believed that the issue of human rights was fundamental. Malawi's struggle to transform itself into a democracy had benefited considerably from the work of the United Nations and the Centre for Human Rights in that field. His Government, which was committed to the upholding of human rights, was therefore strongly opposed to the deletion of that sub-item from the agenda of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

70. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include items 95 to 102 in the agenda.

Item 103

71. Ms. FLORES (Uruguay) said that her delegation wished to propose that the title of item 103 should be changed to "Promotion and protection of the rights of children". The situation of children in difficult circumstances, especially children affected by armed conflict, had been the subject of an initiative by the President of Uruguay at the forty-eighth session which had been supported by a broad group of countries. The new title of the item would help refocus consideration of the main aspects of the subject in a global manner within the Third Committee.

72. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of Germany had asked to participate in the discussion of the item. Rule 43 of the rules of procedure did not apply. He took it that the Committee wished to accede to the request.

73. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Hellbeck (Germany) took a place at the Committee table.

74. Mr. HELLBECK (Germany), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the European Union strongly supported the Uruguayan initiative for the same reasons as those given by the representative of Uruguay.

75. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 103 in the agenda.

76. Mr. Hellbeck (Germany) withdrew.

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Items 104 to 109

77. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include items 104 to 109 in the agenda.

Item 110

78. Mr. TEIRLINK (Belgium), speaking as Chairman of the Fifth Committee, recalled that the Committee for Programme and Coordination, at its thirty-fourth session in August-September 1994, had requested the Chairmen of the Main Committees to ensure that the review of the medium-term plan took place before the item was taken up by the Fifth Committee at the end of October. He intended to send a letter to that effect to the Chairmen of all the Main Committees before the end of the week.

79. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 110 in the agenda.

Items 111 to 148

80. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include items 111 to 148 in the agenda.

Item 149

81. The CHAIRMAN said that the inclusion of item 149 had been proposed by the Secretary-General in document A/49/141.

82. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 149 in the agenda.

Item 150

83. The CHAIRMAN said that the inclusion of item 150 had been proposed by Croatia in document A/49/142. The representative of Croatia had asked to participate in the discussion of item 150 in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

84. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Nobile (Croatia) took a place at the Committee table.

85. Mr. NOBILO (Croatia) said that Croatia considered that the urgent and peaceful resolution of the crisis in the territory of the former Yugoslavia was of the utmost priority. For the Republic of Croatia, further prolongation of the status quo meant de facto occupation of one third of its sovereign territory, which made it impossible to stabilize the country and pursue development. That occupation also violated the basic principle on which the world order was established, namely, that no country could by force change the

(Mr. Nobile, Croatia)

internationally recognized borders of another sovereign country. Territorial gains achieved by force could not be accepted and approved by the international community since they violated the founding principles embodied in the Charter and set a very dangerous precedent for the future.

86. In that context, his Government had submitted to the General Assembly a proposal to discuss extensively the situation in Croatia's occupied territories; it hoped that the discussion would lay a broader political foundation for the peaceful solution of the problem. The explanatory memorandum (A/49/142) gave the factual background of the situation. His Government respected the full complexity of the crisis in the territory of the former Yugoslavia and greatly appreciated the efforts that the international community had made to find viable solutions. In submitting the proposal, it was seeking broad political support from the international community in search of a lasting and just political solution compatible with the existing efforts of the international community.

87. The submission of the document had been approved by the member States of the Central European Initiative at the annual summit of their heads of Government held at Trieste in July 1994, and had the support of a very large majority of United Nations Member States.

88. Mr. DELACROIX (France) said that his delegation was not opposed to the recommendation to include the new item because it understood the legitimate concerns of the Government of the Republic of Croatia. However, it noted that the item was currently being considered by the Security Council and that therefore, in accordance with Article 12 of the Charter, the General Assembly had no role to play in the matter. If the Croatian delegation had agreed to change the wording of the item, as requested by the European Union, the objection would not have had to be made. In referring to areas under Serb control as "occupied territories", the Croatian delegation was not serving its cause or that of the proper functioning of institutions of the United Nations.

89. Ms. WILMSHURST (United Kingdom) said that her delegation was in favour of the inclusion of item 150 in the agenda but felt that the wording of the title was inappropriate.

90. Mr. BIEGMAN (Netherlands) said that his delegation was in favour of including item 150 in the agenda. The exact wording might not have been the preference of all delegations, but his delegation felt that it was up to Croatia to judge the situation in its own territory, and would not ask for a change in the wording of the title.

91. Mr. SUCHARIPA (Austria) said that his delegation supported the inclusion of item 150 in the agenda. He pointed out that at the latest meeting of the Central European Initiative at Trieste, the necessary support had been given to the Croatian initiative.

92. Mr. VILCHEZ ASHER (Nicaragua), Mr. YASSIN (Sudan) and Mr. ABDELLAH (Tunisia) said that they supported the inclusion of item 150 in the agenda.

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93. Mr. SIDOROV (Russian Federation) said that, in his delegation's view, the title of the item proposed by the representative of Croatia did not correctly reflect the situation in Croatia, and the word "occupied territories" was not applicable to the problem. The question of the situation of United Nations protected areas, including the so-called "pink zones", was under consideration by the Security Council. It would therefore be contrary to Article 12 of the Charter for the question to be taken up by the General Assembly.

94. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 150, as orally amended, in the agenda.

Item 151

95. The CHAIRMAN said that item 151 had been included pursuant to resolution 827 (1993) of the Security Council.

96. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 151 in the agenda.

Item 152

97. The CHAIRMAN said that item 152 had been proposed by the Russian Federation in document A/49/143.

98. Mr. SIDOROV (Russian Federation) said that his delegation proposed the inclusion of item 152, for the reasons set forth in document A/49/143: all States Members of the United Nations should observe broadly and solemnly the fiftieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War and that in memory of the millions of people who had perished, 1995 should be proclaimed the "World Year of Remembrance by Peoples of the Victims of the Second World War".

99. One of the main lessons of the great victory achieved through the joint efforts of peoples of different countries was that united, concerted and energetic action on the part of all peace-loving forces and the prevention and settlement of disputes, by exclusively peaceful means were necessary in order to preserve and maintain international peace and security. That was particularly important at the current time when civil, inter-ethnic and local conflicts were continuing and the danger of the spread of weapons of mass destruction was increasing. The Russian Federation believed that the States Members of the United Nations must make every possible effort to put an end to current armed conflicts and prevent the emergence of such conflicts in the future.

100. Mr. LI ZHAOXING (China) said that the fiftieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War, as well as the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations, were of enormous significance. The commemoration of the end of the Second World War would help people remember the suffering caused and attach greater value to peace. His delegation was therefore in favour of including the item in the agenda.

101. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 152 in the agenda.

Item 153

102. The CHAIRMAN said that the inclusion of item 153 had been proposed by a number of countries in document A/49/144 and Addenda 1, 2 and 3.

103. Mr. BLANDINO CANTO (Dominican Republic), speaking on behalf of the co-sponsors of the proposal to include item 153, entitled "Consideration of the exceptional situation of the Republic of China in Taiwan in the international context, based on the principle of universality and in accordance with the established model of parallel representation of divided countries at the United Nations", said that the proposal was aimed at carrying out a study of the situation geared towards the search for an equitable, rational and practical solution that would allow many millions of people to have full representation in the United Nations and to be able to contribute to the promotion of the economic, social and political development of the international community. The study would reaffirm the fundamental principles of the United Nations, e.g. the sovereign equality of all Member States, the peaceful settlement of disputes, and the non-use of force or the threat of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State. Equitable and just formulas might also emerge that would allow the communities concerned to find solutions that would strengthen harmonious coexistence and peace.

104. Mr. LI Zhaoxing (China) expressed his delegation's strong indignation at the resubmission by a small number of countries of the request concerning Taiwan's so-called "representation" in the United Nations, and its firm opposition to the inclusion of item 153 in the agenda. Its inclusion would not only contravene the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) of 25 October 1971, but would also constitute a serious infringement of China's sovereignty and a gross interference in its internal affairs. The proposal was therefore absolutely unacceptable.

105. Resolution 2758 (XXVI) adopted by an overwhelming majority, stated unequivocally that "the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China are the only legitimate representatives of China to the United Nations" and that "the People's Republic of China is one of the five permanent members of the Security Council". The resolution had restored all of the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations and all its agencies, and expelled the Taiwan authorities from those United Nations bodies, thus settling once and for all the question of China's representation in the United Nations politically, legally and procedurally in a just manner. The proposal in question, made by a few countries, defied the will of the overwhelming majority of member States and ran directly counter to resolution 2758 (XXVI); such an attempt could not be tolerated and was doomed to failure.

106. Article 4 of the Charter explicitly stipulated that only sovereign States were entitled to membership in the United Nations. There was only one China, which was the People's Republic of China, and Taiwan was an inalienable part of Chinese territory, as had long been recognized and affirmed by 159 countries and

(Mr. LI Zhaoxing, China)

such international organizations as the United Nations. In their recently issued "White Paper on Cross-Strait Relations", the Taiwan authorities themselves had firmly supported the concept of "one China" as opposed to "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan". As a province of China, Taiwan clearly had no right whatsoever to membership in the United Nations. The attempt to use the principle of "universality of membership", applicable only to sovereign States, as an argument for Taiwan joining the United Nations, was a distortion and violation of the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter as well as of its relevant provisions.

107. At the same time, the Taiwan question was different in nature from that of Germany and Korea, which had been divided after the end of the Second World War in accordance with international agreements. Although each had become two States against their own will, their components had been widely recognized by the international community as sovereign States. Taiwan, however, had been freed from Japanese occupation and returned to the motherland after the end of World War II. Both the Cairo Declaration and the Potsdam Proclamation reaffirmed China's sovereignty over Taiwan. As a province of China, Taiwan had no sovereign status internationally, a fact widely recognized by the international community. It was absurd to cite the model of "parallel representation" in the United Nations by the former German Democratic Republic and Federal Republic of Germany, and by the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea, as an argument for Taiwan "joining the United Nations".

108. Taiwan's participation in regional economic organizations was a result of special arrangements made between the Chinese Government and the relevant authorities which stated explicitly that the People's Republic of China had joined those organizations as a sovereign State, while Taiwan had joined as a region of China. The so-called "arguments" used by the co-sponsors in the memorandum concerning their request thus ran counter to both historical facts and objective realities, and had no legal basis.

109. The question of Taiwan was purely an internal affair of China, and no country had the right to interfere. Raising the question of Taiwan's so-called "representation" in the United Nations under whatever pretext or in whatever manner constituted an illegal act which seriously infringed China's sovereignty and wantonly interfered in its internal affairs, an act which was naturally rejected by the Chinese Government and the entire 1.2 billion Chinese people, including their compatriots in Taiwan. China never interfered in the internal affairs of other countries and was firmly opposed to other countries interfering in its own internal affairs, including the question of Taiwan. The Chinese Government and people were capable of accomplishing their national reunification in accordance with the basic policy of "one country, two systems". Despite the attempts of the Taiwan authorities to win over a small number of countries with "dollar diplomacy", the Chinese Government and people were following the developments with serious concern, and would not sit idly by in the face of any attempts to split China or block and undermine the great cause of China's reunification.

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(Mr. LI Zhaoxing, China)

110. His delegation believed that the request for the inclusion of the question of Taiwan's so-called "representation" in the agenda of the General Assembly was not a simple procedural issue. Its real intention was to split China and create "two Chinas", "one China, one Taiwan" and "one China, two Governments". A similar unreasonable request by a few countries had been categorically rejected by the General Committee at the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, reflecting the determination of the overwhelming majority of Member States to uphold the sanctity of the United Nations Charter and the relevant resolution. His delegation was convinced that the Committee would continue to observe the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, support China's position and firmly oppose the inclusion of item 153 of the draft agenda in the agenda of the General Assembly, thus making once again a just and clear-cut decision on that question.

111. Mr. KHAN (Pakistan) said that his delegation remained strongly opposed to the inclusion of item 153, and firmly supported the Chinese position. The proposed agenda item clearly constituted a flagrant violation and open interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign State and member of the United Nations. China's representation had long been settled by resolution 2758 (XXVI) which had clearly pronounced that "the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China are the only lawful representatives of China", and that "the People's Republic of China is one of the five permanent members of the Security Council". Only then had the People's Republic of China assumed its rightful membership in the United Nations, and Taiwan had been expelled. His delegation firmly believed that Taiwan was an integral part of the People's Republic of China; the "principle of universality" and the "model of parallel representation of divided countries" cited by the sponsors of the proposal were therefore irrelevant. Taiwan clearly was not in the category of sovereign States and therefore was ineligible for membership in the United Nations. Inclusion of the request in the agenda would be an infringement upon China's sovereignty and would gravely undermine the purposes and principles of the Charter. His delegation urged the Committee to continue its rejection of the item and further proposed that it be excluded from the agendas of the current and all subsequent sessions of the General Assembly.

112. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic had asked to participate in the discussion of item 153. Rule 43 of the rules of procedure did not apply. He took it that the Committee wished to accede to the request.

113. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Khany (Syrian Arab Republic), took a place at the Committee table.

114. Mr. KHANY (Syrian Arab Republic) said that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) provided for the People's Republic of China to assume the China seat as the just and reasonable solution to the question of the representation of the Chinese people at the United Nations. The recognition of the People's Republic of China by the United Nations was consistent with the principle of universality and with the United Nations Charter. His delegation opposed the inclusion of

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(Mr. Khany, Syrian Arab Republic)

item 153 in the agenda, and supported the statement made by the Chinese delegation.

115. Mr. ABDELLAH (Tunisia) said that China had recovered its rightful seat in the United Nations in 1971 by means of resolution 2758 (XXVI), in which the General Assembly had also recognized China's status as a permanent member of the Security Council. Raising the issue again or otherwise introducing controversy in a situation susceptible to a single interpretation were therefore out of the question. That being said, his delegation noted with satisfaction the opening of dialogue between continental China and Taiwan, as well as the establishment of a trade organization that had led to fruitful relations between them. The participation of Taiwan in China's development also augured well for relations between the two parties. The end of the Cold War had opened promising prospects even for the reunification of divided countries. It was therefore not unreasonable to anticipate that Beijing and Taipei might at last find the path of understanding and unity.

116. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of Grenada had asked to participate in the discussion of item 153 in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

117. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Pursoo (Grenada) took a place at the Committee table.

118. Mr. PURSOO (Grenada) said that the representative of the Dominican Republic had explained that for several reasons, the Republic of China on Taiwan remained an exceptional situation. The sponsoring nations of item 153 believed that the Republic of China had established itself on the island of Taiwan in 1949 as a result of having lost a major portion of its territory. They also believed that according to the "principle of state continuance" in international law, the status of a State as an international person was not affected by the gain or loss of population or territory, and that the Republic of China had existed on Taiwan since 1949 in satisfaction of all the characteristics of a State as defined by the Montevideo Convention of 1933 on the rights and duties of States. His delegation believed that it could not be reasonably denied that Taiwan constituted an exceptional situation. The People's Republic of China had worked diligently in the United Nations to further the cause of developing countries and of a better world; as a member of the Group of 77, Grenada viewed most appreciatively the admission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations in 1971. However, his delegation believed that the geopolitical and historic circumstances leading to the expulsion of Taiwan from the United Nations at that time had indeed created an exceptional situation.

119. Because Taiwan was a major industrial country, its presumed contribution to global environmental pollution also warranted consideration by the international community. His delegation believed that the exclusion of Taiwan from treaty obligations governing the safety of the planet's environment constituted an exceptional situation deserving serious consideration. The item in question sought only the study of Taiwan's situation, and was in no way intended to affect any future course of action between the peoples of the Republic of China

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(Mr. Pursoo, Grenada)

on Taiwan and the People's Republic of China. In the context of the post-cold-war world, consideration of Taiwan's exceptional situation would be consonant with the objectives of justice embodied in the United Nations Charter. The decision-makers of Member States occasionally erred, giving rise to exceptional situations; Taiwan was one such case, and the time had come to study it.

120. Ms. ARYSTANBEKOVA (Kazakhstan) said that in her delegation's view, the Government of the People's Republic of China was the only lawful representative of all of China, and that Taiwan was an integral part of its territory. On that basis, her delegation supported the position of the Chinese delegation and the exclusion of item 153 from the agenda.

121. Mr. ANSARI (India) said that India recognized the Government of the People's Republic of China as the only Government of China, occupying its legitimate place in the United Nations; his delegation therefore opposed the inclusion of item 153 in the agenda.

122. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had asked to participate in the discussion of item 153. Rule 43 of the rules of procedure did not apply. He took it that the Committee wished to accede to the request.

123. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Muntasser (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) took a place at the Committee table.

124. Mr. MUNTASSER (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that his delegation fully agreed with the position, affirmed the previous year, that the representation of China had been settled once and for all by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). The Committee had therefore correctly decided to exclude the item under discussion from the agenda of the previous session. His delegation supported the rejection of item 153 at the present session as well, and reaffirmed its commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter regarding non-interference in the internal affairs of any Member State.

125. Mr. YASSIN (Sudan) said that his delegation was in full accord with the position expressed by the Chinese delegation, and could find no reason to abrogate resolution 2758 (XXVI) or the Committee's rejection of the previous year's proposal on the same topic. Taiwan had no standing as an international subject, nor as a State, so there was no legal justification for including the item in the present session's agenda. Furthermore, the principle of universality and the model of parallel representation of divided countries, as cited by the sponsoring States, were irrelevant to the question of Taiwan. His delegation viewed any attempt along such lines as a flagrant violation of the sovereignty of China.

126. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of Burkina Faso had asked to participate in discussion of item 153 in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

127. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Ouedraogo (Burkina Faso) took a place at the Committee table.

128. Mr. OUEDRAOGO (Burkina Faso) said the explanatory memorandum A/C/49/144 dated 19 July 1994 established the reasons why the item's inclusion was necessary, and his delegation joined that of the Dominican Republic in supporting the proposal.

129. Mr. GUDYMA (Ukraine) said that his delegation would vote against the inclusion of item 153 in the agenda, because the item was far more than a mere procedural matter, touching upon the fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter: respect for the sovereignty of member States, their territorial integrity, and non-interference in their internal affairs. Inclusion of the item would be contrary to resolution 2758 (XXVI). As Article 4 of the Charter clearly provided, only sovereign States were entitled to United Nations membership; the principle of "universality of membership" applied only to sovereign States, and not to Taiwan.

130. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of the Solomon Islands had asked to participate in the discussion of item 153 in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

131. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Horoi (Solomon Islands) took a place at the Committee table.

132. Mr. HOROI (Solomon Islands) said that there were a number of new realities in the world which could not simply be ignored. The Republic of China in Taiwan existed, with 21 million people, and had one of the world's largest economies. It was a strong democracy with an elected parliament, political parties and a lively and free opposition. Its democratic Government was fully committed to the protection and promotion of human rights for its people.

133. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) reflected the geopolitical situation of the time; the circumstances had changed since then, and the continued exclusion of the Republic of China in Taiwan was detrimental to the United Nations. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had provided for international representation of the Chinese people inhabiting the mainland but had deprived the 21 million people of the Republic of China in Taiwan of representation in the international community. It therefore violated the principle of universality which was one of the foundations of the United Nations Charter and did not constitute a comprehensive, reasonable and just solution to the question of the representation of the Chinese people in the United Nations. There were precedents for parallel representation of divided peoples in the United Nations; the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic, as well as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea, had been admitted simultaneously. The recognition by the United Nations of the rights of the Republic of China in Taiwan would be consistent with the principle of universality. The full and formal participation of that country in the United Nations and its multilateral agencies and programmes of humanitarian aid and assistance and economic development would help promote international prosperity.

(Mr. Horoi, Solomon Islands)

134. The Republic of China in Taiwan was too important a country to ignore. It must be allowed to assume its rightful place in the community of nations. His delegation therefore supported the inclusion of item 153 in the agenda.

135. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of Niger had asked to participate in the discussion of item 153 in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

136. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Abdellah (Niger) took a place at the Committee table.

137. Mr. ABDELLAH (Niger) said that Niger had resumed diplomatic relations with the Republic of China in Taiwan two years previously; in so doing, the authorities of Niger had taken into account the exceptional international situation, especially the end of the cold war and the intensification of relations of cooperation among all States. It had acted out of a desire to develop political, economic and trade relations with all countries that valued peace and freedom.

138. His delegation supported the proposal to include item 153 in the agenda in order to take into account those aspects and especially the exceptional situation of the Republic of China in Taiwan. It was time for the General Assembly to consider the situation, which had been inherited from the cold war, and help resolve it.

139. Mr. SIDOROV (Russian Federation) said that his delegation felt that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), the question of the representation of China in the United Nations had been resolved; the proposal to include item 153 in the agenda therefore contradicted a decision already adopted by the General Assembly. The question of Taiwan was an internal affair of China and the inclusion of the proposed item would constitute interference in the internal affairs of sovereign China.

140. Mr. VILCHEZ ASHER (Nicaragua) said that, as a sponsor of the proposal to include item 153 in the agenda, his delegation wished to reiterate that with the end of the ideological confrontation which had characterized the international relations of the post-war era, the international community must explore new ways of finding peaceful solutions to disputes so as to resolve all the unjust situations which still persisted as a result of the cold war. Nicaragua sought effective protection of the fundamental human rights of the 21 million people who lived in the Republic of China in Taiwan; so far those rights had not been recognized by the United Nations, and that had prevented the participation of that important country in many international conventions on human rights, the protection of the environment and humanitarian matters.

141. The proposal accorded with established procedure of the United Nations and with international law and in no way infringed on the sovereignty of any State or violated the principle of non-interference laid down in article 2 of the Charter.

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(Mr. Vilchez Asher, Nicaragua)

142. Nicaragua, like many other countries, had mutually advantageous diplomatic relations with the Republic of China in Taiwan and recognized that country as a sovereign State which satisfied the specific characteristics of a State as defined in the 1933 Montevideo Convention on the Rights and Duties of States. Under the proposed item, the United Nations would merely be asked to consider the question of setting up an ad hoc committee to study the issue. The United Nations, as a universal forum committed to building an international order, should be able to include the proposal in its agenda and should not fear a balanced debate on the subject. In the new international scheme, it was essential for the United Nations to have a new vision; it must recognize and protect the rights of the Republic of China in Taiwan within the framework of the principles of universality and respect for human rights. The full participation of that nation in the United Nations and its multilateral programmes of humanitarian systems and economic and social development would help the United Nations and promote prosperity at the global level.

143. Mrs. POK (Cambodia) said that there was only one China; her delegation firmly supported the position of the People's Republic of China as the sole and legitimate Government; it therefore recommended the exclusion of item 153 from the agenda.

144. Mr. LAMPTEY (Ghana) said that, as a matter of principle, Ghana had always supported China over the decades and had supported the decision to allow the People's Republic of China to take its rightful place in the United Nations. The proposed item, which was couched as a simple procedural item was in reality very dangerous. As both Taiwan and the People's Republic of China recognized, there was only one China; the questions of parallel representation and universality were therefore completely irrelevant. The United Nations had decided overwhelmingly that the People's Republic of China was the rightful State to occupy China's seat. At a time when the two authorities were entering into dialogue, it was very strange that the item should be suggested for inclusion in the agenda. His delegation urged that it should be deleted.

The meeting rose at 1.30 p.m.