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CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Second report of the Credentials Committee

Acting Chairman: Mrs. Orietta Moya de FRAENKEL (Costa Rica)

1. At the 102nd plenary meeting of the General Assembly, on 2 March 1981, the presence of the delegation of South Africa in the Assembly was challenged and the matter was referred immediately to the Credentials Committee. Accordingly, the Credentials Committee held its 3rd meeting of the current session on 2 March 1981. As decided by the General Assembly at its 1st plenary meeting, on 16 September 1980, the Committee consists of the following Member States: Angola, China, Costa Rica, Haiti, Kenya, Singapore, Spain, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and United States of America (decision 35/301).
2. In the absence of its Chairman, the Committee elected as its Acting Chairman Mrs. Orietta Moya de Fraenkel, Minister Counsellor, Alternate Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations.
3. The Legal Counsel orally reported on the credentials received on 2 March 1981 from the Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations. These credentials were issued on 20 November 1980 and signed at Pretoria by His Excellency R. F. Botha, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Africa.
4. The Acting Chairman announced that a letter had been received from the representative of South Africa requesting that he be permitted to present his delegation's position on its credentials to the Chairman personally or to the Committee. The Acting Chairman noted that it was not the practice of the Committee to give the floor to States not members of the Committee and that therefore this request could not be acted upon. The Acting Chairman thereupon invited members of the Committee to take the floor.
5. The representative of Singapore stated that the issue of South Africa's credentials was not a novel one and that there were precedents. His Government

had pronounced itself clearly with regard to the racist policies of the South African Government and to its illegal occupation of Namibia. The Government of Singapore did not recognize the competence of the South African Government to issue credentials for participating in the General Assembly and if the question were put to a vote his delegation would reject the credentials of the South African delegation.

6. The representative of the United States of America stated that the position of his Government was well known. The issue before the Committee was, however, the credentials of the South African delegation. These credentials were described by the representative of the Secretary-General and in the view of the United States delegation they conformed to the provisions of the rules of procedure and were therefore in order. The United States delegation would vote to accept the credentials of the South African delegation if the matter were put to a vote.

7. The representative of Kenya stated that the question of South Africa's credentials had arisen before in the General Assembly. The position of the Kenyan delegation was very clear and was consistent with the position of many of the African delegations. The credentials of the South African delegation were not acceptable and his delegation would vote to reject them. The representative of Kenya expressed the hope that in view of South Africa's policies internally and with regard to Namibia other members of the Committee would follow the position of the Kenyan delegation.

8. The representative of China stated that the credentials had been issued by a minority racist régime imposed on the people of South Africa and that his delegation could not accept the right of such a régime to represent the people of South Africa. Consequently, the credentials were not acceptable and he urged the Committee to decide accordingly.

9. The representative of the Soviet Union stated that his Government had consistently and resolutely condemned the apartheid policies of the South African Government as well as its continued illegal occupation of Namibia. It supported the demand of the African States that the credentials of the representative of the Pretoria régime should not be recognized and, if the matter were put to the vote, it would vote against acceptance of the credentials in question.

10. The representative of Haiti stated that his Government's position with regard to the policies of the South African régime was clear. Those policies had been consistently condemned by the Haitian Government. To accept the credentials would call into question the clear position already taken by the international community. His delegation would vote to reject the credentials of the South African delegation if the question were put to a vote.

11. The representative of Spain stated that his Government had consistently expressed its total repudiation of the policies of the South African Government both with regard to apartheid and in respect of Namibia. He stated that although it would appear that the credentials submitted by South Africa were technically in order, it was not possible for his delegation to ignore the position adopted by the General Assembly with regard to the representation of South Africa in the Assembly. His delegation would abstain if the question were to be put to the vote.

12. The representative of Angola stated that his Government had consistently condemned the apartheid policies of the racist régime in South Africa and its illegal presence in Namibia. The Angolan delegation could not accept the credentials of the South African delegation to the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly and would vote to reject those credentials.
13. The Acting Chairman said that it was clear from the discussion that there was no consensus on the question before the Committee and that a vote was therefore necessary on whether the communication before the Committee constituted valid credentials for South Africa for the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly.
14. The Committee, by 6 votes to 1, with 2 abstentions, decided to reject the credentials of the delegation of South Africa for the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly.
15. The Credentials Committee decided that, in view of the urgency involved, the Chairman should make an oral report to the General Assembly and that the written report would be issued later as an official document of the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly.
16. The Acting Chairman proposed that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution (see para. 18). The proposal was approved by the Committee.
17. In the light of the foregoing, the present report is submitted to the General Assembly.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

18. The Credentials Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Credentials of representatives to the thirty-fifth session
of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Approves the third report of the Credentials Committee.
