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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND
ON THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF THE ORGANIZATION

1981 session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 58th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Saturday, 14 March 1981, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. GONZALEZ GALVEZ (Mexico)

CONTENTS

Adoption of the report (continued)

Closure of the session

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The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT (continued) (A/AC.182/L.26 and Add.1 and 2)

1. Mr. ELARABY (Egypt) said that, following informal consultations, it had been agreed that draft recommendation A/AC.182/L.29 should be reflected in the report by adding the following statement: "The delegation of Egypt presented document A/AC.182/L.29. In presenting that document, the representative of Egypt stated that he was doing so on behalf of non-aligned countries of the Special Committee as a basis for future work of the Special Committee on a priority basis."
2. Mr. KOROMA (Sierra Leone) said that the recommendation contained in document A/AC.182/L.29 constituted a minimum. Had there been more time, his delegation would have liked to see more recommendations of a more fundamental nature.
3. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the proposal read out by the representative of Egypt was adopted.
4. It was so decided.
5. Replying to a question from Mr. ROSENSTOCK (United States of America), Mr. KOROMA (Sierra Leone) said that the text read out by the representative of Egypt referred simply to "non-aligned countries of the Special Committee" and that the omission of the word "members" following "countries" had been intentional.
6. Mr. ŠILOVIĆ (Yugoslavia) pointed out that the sponsors of the recommendation were merely expressing the wish that it should be considered on a priority basis. It in no way altered the contents of General Assembly resolution 35/164.
7. Mr. ROSENSTOCK (United States of America) said that he too interpreted the statement by the representative of Egypt as a suggestion for the future. When the Committee came to consider the suggestion it would decide, within the context of the Committee's mandate, which proposals qualified for priority consideration.
8. Mr. ECONOMIDES (Greece) said no one had suggested that the recommendation in document A/AC.182/L.29 should be given special priority. Any other draft recommendation on the maintenance of international peace and security that might be formulated would have the same priority as the one presented by the representative of Egypt.
9. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said it was his understanding that the statement by the representative of Egypt regarding the priority to be given to the document at the Committee's next session was simply the expression of a wish.
10. Mr. DIACONU (Romania) pointed out that the second sentence of paragraph 17 of the draft report (A/AC.182/L.26) should be reworded in the light of the agreement which the Committee had reached at its 57th meeting or be deleted.

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11. The CHAIRMAN said that note had been taken of that comment.
12. Replying to a question from Mr. ROSENSTOCK (United States of America), the CHAIRMAN said that the word "open-ended" at the end of the first sentence of paragraph 16 of the draft report (A/AC.182/L.26) was incorrect and would be changed in accordance with the account contained in the summary record of the 53rd meeting.
13. Mr. KOROMA (Sierra Leone) said that his delegation had reservations on that part of the draft report which had been read out by the Rapporteur at the preceding meeting, as it had not had time to study the text.
14. Mr. CHATURVEDI (India) proposed that the contents of two informal documents containing concrete proposals made by various delegations and indicating the dates on which each proposal had been submitted to the Committee and by whom should also be reflected in the report. He drew attention to the essential role of the Office of Legal Affairs in co-ordinating the Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs.
15. The CHAIRMAN replied that all the proposals which were still relevant had been included in the report. It would, however, be useful to mention when the various proposals had been submitted, so as to give an idea of how long they had been before the Committee. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee agreed that such information should be included in the report.
16. It was so decided.
17. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), referring to paragraph 16 of the draft report (A/AC.182/L.26), which reflected the ruling made by the Chairman at the 53rd meeting on the question of the participation of observers, said that, with all due respect to the Chair, such questions should, as a matter of principle, be resolved by the Committee.
18. Mr. KOROMA (Sierra Leone) proposed that mention should be made in the report of the concern expressed by some delegations at the amount of time it was taking to prepare the Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs.
19. Mr. ROSENSTOCK (United States of America) proposed the following wording: "It was widely noted that, in view of the importance of the timely issuance of the Repertory, it was necessary to retain the post of co-ordinator of the Repertory and that that should be done within the existing number of posts available to the Office of Legal Affairs."
20. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to include that sentence in its report.
21. It was so decided.
22. Replying to questions from Mr. PAIVA (Brazil) and Mr. ROSENSTOCK (United States of America), the CHAIRMAN suggested that the two representatives should

(The Chairman)

speak to the Rapporteur concerning paragraphs 15 and 16 to ensure that their contents were balanced.

23. The draft report (A/AC.182/L.26 and Add.1 and 2), as amended, was adopted.

24. Mrs. RAMIRO-LOPEZ (Philippines), Rapporteur, referring to a comment made at a previous meeting, said the fact that it had not been possible to make certain statements and documents available in all languages could be attributed to several factors which were not directly related to the issue of whether or not the Special Committee was provided with summary records - for instance, the heavy schedule of meetings and the fact that consultations regarding the format of the report had ended only recently. Although the Committee was one of the subsidiary organs of the General Assembly which had been granted an exception, under resolution 35/10 B, from the rule contained in resolution 34/50 discontinuing summary records, the matter was subject to review at the thirty-sixth session of the Assembly. It was her strong belief that the Committee should continue to be given summary records, as they enabled the Rapporteur to seek assistance from the competent services in the preparation of the report. Such assistance had proved essential.

25. Mr. MARDAN (Iraq), commenting on draft recommendation A/AC.182/L.29, said that his delegation believed strongly in the principles of the non-aligned countries and supported the idea of the Special Committee's making recommendations to the General Assembly. However, it had some difficulty in accepting the formulation of some of the paragraphs contained in the draft recommendation.

26. Mr. ELARABY (Egypt) said that the Committee had not achieved all that it had hoped to achieve, owing to the lack of will on the part of certain delegations. The Committee should take stock of what it had accomplished in the past six years and determine whether it had, in fact, done anything to strengthen the role of the Organization.

27. Mr. DIACONU (Romania) said that, although the Committee had made some progress, it could hardly claim to have carried out the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly. Its failure to do so could not be explained simply by citing the complexity of the issues. There were other reasons, one of them being the attitude of some delegations. The Committee could make a far more effective contribution to strengthening the role of the Organization and must be thought of as a negotiating and not simply a deliberative body.

28. Mr. FEDOROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, while it was too early to take stock of the session, it could be said that some positive results had been achieved. For instance, the Committee had had serious negotiations and discussions on the provisions of the draft declaration on the peaceful settlement of international disputes. Work on the draft declaration should be continued. Concerning other matters on the agenda, he said that every proposal should be studied seriously so that negotiations did not give way to a situation in which delegations submitting proposals insisted on their being adopted without sufficient study. In view of the importance of its task and the complexity of the issues, the Committee should not be expected to hurry. Finally, he pointed out that considerable time had been lost at the current session because meetings had not started on time.

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29. Mr. MOUSSAOUI (Algeria) said that without political unity the Committee would become simply a forum for academic discussion. He hoped that delegations would demonstrate the necessary political will.

30. Mr. KOROMA (Sierra Leone) observed that the Committee had not done much at its current session to strengthen the role of the United Nations because the political will had been lacking.

31. Mr. RUGWIZANGOGA (Rwanda) said that it was time for the Committee to carry out its mandate properly by making specific recommendations to the Assembly on how to strengthen the role of the United Nations.

32. Mr. TEKAIA (Tunisia) expressed disappointment at the little progress made at the current session.

33. Mr. OUYANG Chuping (China) agreed that the Committee had not made as much progress as had been hoped.

34. Mr. ŠILOVIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that the results of the session left much to be desired. He had not been given a satisfactory reply to the question he had asked at the preceding meeting, namely, by what authority the interpreters were entitled to tell representatives of sovereign States how long they could work.

35. Mr. ROMANOV (Secretary of the Committee) drew attention to General Assembly decision 34/401 on the rationalization of the procedures and organization of the General Assembly, paragraph 3 of which stressed the need for meetings to begin promptly at the scheduled time, and to a memorandum from the Chief of the Planning and Meetings Servicing Station of the Department of Conference Services which pointed out, *inter alia*, that the scheduled hours of meetings should be observed strictly and that extensions of meetings should be requested solely in extraordinary circumstances and could be granted only after a review of the situation. Despite earlier assurances that one meeting would suffice on the last day of the session it had proved necessary, in the end, to schedule three meetings. In addition to the two regularly scheduled meetings, facilities had been granted - not without difficulty because of quite a number of other bodies being in session - for a night meeting on the clear understanding that the meeting would start promptly and conclude on time. When it had become clear that the Committee could not complete its work on schedule an extension of the night meeting had been requested. As priority was being given to the Conference on the Law of the Sea, it had not been possible to obtain that extension. However, the Department of Conference Services, and in particular the Interpretation and Meetings Division, had been very co-operative in arranging a meeting - the present meeting - at very short notice. The message from the leader of the interpreters which he had read out the previous evening was entirely consistent with the schedule approved by the General Assembly as implemented by the Department of Conference Services.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

36. After an exchange of courtesies, the CHAIRMAN declared the 1981 session of the Special Committee closed.

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.