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

Second report of the Credentials Committee

Chairman: Mr. Idé OUMAROU (Niger)

1. The Credentials Committee held its 2nd meeting on 9 December 1981.
2. The Committee had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General dated 8 December 1981 concerning the status of credentials of representatives of Member States participating in the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly. The memorandum contained information regarding the credentials of Member States not considered by the Committee at its 1st meeting, on 16 September 1981, at which time the Committee had considered and accepted formal credentials submitted in respect of the representatives of 40 Member States (see A/36/517).
3. It was indicated in the memorandum, which was based on information received up to 8 December 1981, that, as at that date and since the 1st meeting of the Committee, additional formal credentials, in the form required by rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, had been submitted by the following 90 Member States: Afghanistan, Albania, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United States of America, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia, Zaire and Zimbabwe. In addition, the appointment of the representatives of two Member

States - Congo and United Republic of Cameroon - had been communicated to the Secretary-General by means of a cable from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs concerned. The appointment of the representatives of 23 Member States - Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Botswana, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Grenada, Iran, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritius, Peru, Samoa, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Uganda and United Arab Emirates - had been communicated to the Secretary-General by means of a letter or note verbale from the permanent representative or permanent mission concerned. Of the 25 Member States that had not yet submitted formal credentials as provided for in rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the representatives of 20 Member States - Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Botswana, Congo, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Grenada, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mauritius, Samoa, Senegal, Somalia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates and United Republic of Cameroon - had been empowered to represent their Governments without limitation as to session in all organs of the United Nations. The Secretary-General's memorandum further indicated that one Member State, Dominica, was represented at the thirty-sixth session only by its Head of Government, for whom credentials were not required.

4. Statements were made by the representatives of China, the United States of America, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Papua New Guinea.

5. The representative of China stated that his delegation wished to reiterate that the fact that the representatives of Afghanistan were allowed to participate in the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly should in no way be interpreted as acquiescence in the situation brought about by the Soviet armed intervention in Afghanistan.

6. The representative of the United States of America stated that his delegation also wished to reiterate that the fact that it had not raised objections to the credentials of the representatives of Afghanistan did not imply acceptance of the régime in that country nor acquiescence in the installation of Soviet-directed authorities as a result of the Soviet Union's military invasion and continuing occupation of Afghanistan.

7. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that his delegation considered the remarks of the representatives of China and the United States of America to be entirely inappropriate. Those remarks were based on a false interpretation of events in Afghanistan itself and a distorted interpretation of the situation in the region as a whole. The Government of Afghanistan had been established as a result of a popular revolution and was based on the will of the people, who were resolved to put an end once and for all to centuries of backwardness and to assert democratic rights and freedoms. As was well known, the delegation of Afghanistan was taking an active part in the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly and was making constructive contributions to the discussion of issues regarding the strengthening of international peace and security and disarmament which were being considered by the Assembly. It had joined in sponsoring a large number of important resolutions which had received the widest support. The same representative added that the remarks made in the Committee by the representatives of China and the United States of America about the credentials

of the delegation of Afghanistan were at variance with the basic provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, the norms of international law and all existing United Nations practice inasmuch as they constituted interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign Member State.

8. The representative of Papua New Guinea stated that his delegation had supported all United Nations resolutions on Afghanistan calling for the withdrawal of foreign forces from that country and upholding the right of its people to determine their own future. It had done so because it objected to the way in which the current régime in Afghanistan had been brought into office and had been imposed upon the people of that country by a powerful outside Power without their own participation in the process. His delegation therefore wished to place on record its reservations with regard to the credentials of the representatives of Afghanistan.

9. The Chairman then proposed that the Committee decide to accept the credentials of the representatives of all the Member States referred to in the Secretary-General's memorandum of 8 December, on the understanding that those Member States that had not yet submitted formal credentials as required by rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly should communicate them to the Secretary-General as soon as possible. Accordingly, he proposed the following draft resolution for adoption by the Committee:

"The Credentials Committee,

"Having examined the credentials of the representatives to the thirty-sixth session of the Member States referred to in paragraphs 3 to 6 of the memorandum by the Secretary-General dated 8 December 1981,

"Accepts the credentials of all these representatives."

The draft resolution was adopted without a vote.

10. Subsequently, the Chairman proposed that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution (see para. 12). The proposal was approved by the Committee without a vote.

11. In the light of the foregoing, the present report is submitted to the General Assembly.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

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

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

The General Assembly,

Approves the second report of the Credentials Committee.