

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION
*Official Records**

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FIRST COMMITTEE
1st meeting
held on
Tuesday, 21 September 1982
at 3.55 p.m.
New York

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 1ST MEETING

Temporary Chairman: Mr. HOLLAI (President of the General Assembly)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.55 p.m.

ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Rule 103 of the rules of procedure provides that each Main Committee shall elect a Chairman, two Vice Chairmen and a Rapporteur. These officers shall be elected on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, experience and personal competence.

The elections shall be held by secret ballot unless the Committee decides otherwise in an election where only one candidate is standing. The nomination of each candidate shall be limited to one speaker, after which the Committee shall immediately proceed to the election.

Furthermore, rule 110 of the rules of procedure provides that congratulations to the officers of a Main Committee shall not be expressed except by the Chairman of the previous session -- or, in his absence, by a member of his delegation.

This meeting has been convened for the election of the Chairman of the First Committee. Are there any nominations?

Mr. GOLOB (Yugoslavia): At the outset, Sir, I should like to convey our congratulations to you, the representative of a friendly and neighbouring country, on your election to the presidency of the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly. The head of my delegation will soon be able to offer his congratulations to you on behalf of the people and Government of Yugoslavia, but I should like to add that it is our firm belief that your experience and great diplomatic expertise will contribute in a most decisive manner to the successful guidance of the proceedings of this session.

I should like to express our warmest appreciation to your distinguished predecessor, Mr. Kittani, during whose presidency I had the honour to serve as Chairman of the First Committee, for his outstanding and most able and active guidance throughout the deliberations of the thirty-sixth session, with its exceptionally heavy agenda, and 12 months during which there was a most difficult and constantly worsening international political and economic situation.

(Mr. Golob, Yugoslavia)

The First Committee has an agenda that grows heavier every year and covers the most immediate priorities in the field of disarmament and international security. This year the members of the First Committee are going to deliberate in the aftermath of the sad failure of the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, and in the absence of any results from the far too few negotiations on arms control.

Times are difficult, and they call for a particularly able personality to guide the work of the First Committee. I am glad to report to this meeting that the Government of Ghana, a founding member of the Non-Aligned Movement and a country with a distinguished record in the field of the strengthening of peace and international co-operation, has presented the candidature of a competent and well-known person, His Excellency Mr. James Victor Gbeho, the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations, a renowned diplomat and a colleague whom we all hold in high esteem.

In accordance with tradition, I wish to nominate Mr. James Victor Gbeho as Chairman of the First Committee at the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly, and I should like at the same time to underline some of his accomplishments.

His long diplomatic experience and his political wisdom are well known among his colleagues. He served most recently as Ghana's Permanent Representative to the European office of the United Nations in Geneva, with concurrent accreditation to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in Vienna.

Because of his experience, he contributed greatly to the success of various international meetings, at some of which he served in responsible positions. He headed, in a distinguished and efficient manner, the Committee on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries at the fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in Manila in 1979. He has held important posts in the foreign service of his country -- in China, India, Nigeria, Federal Republic of Germany, United Kingdom and a couple of years ago, at the permanent mission of Ghana to the United Nations in New York.

I am confident that with his outstanding diplomatic skills and talents His Excellency Mr. Gbeho will be able to guide the work of the First Committee so as to achieve positive and significant results in keeping with the distinctive role played by his great country in promoting the cause of genuine and complete disarmament.

(Mr. Golob, Yugoslavia)

I wish to pay my personal tribute to his competence, virtues and qualities. I take special pleasure in nominating His Excellency Mr. Gbeho, and upon his election wish him every success in the heavy responsibilities of his new assignment.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: His Excellency Mr. James Victor Gbeho of Ghana has been nominated by the representative of Yugoslavia. Since only one candidate has been presented, I propose that under rule 103 the Committee decide not to hold a secret ballot.

It was so decided.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: I therefore declare His Excellency Mr. James Victor Gbeho of Ghana elected Chairman of the First Committee by acclamation.

The meeting rose at 4.05 p.m.