



Friday, 24 September 1982,  
at 10.55 a.m.

*President:* Mr. Imre HOLLAI (Hungary).

**AGENDA ITEM 8**

**Adoption of the agenda and organization of work:**

**(a) Report of the General Committee**

**FIRST REPORT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE  
(A/37/250)**

1. The PRESIDENT: We shall examine first section 11 of the first report of the General Committee [A/37/250], which deals with the organization of the session.

2. Members are aware that by its decision 34/401, which has been reproduced as annex VI of the rules of procedure, the General Assembly adopted a number of provisions aimed at rationalizing its procedures and organization. Many of these provisions had already been implemented at the thirty-fourth, thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions, but some have not yet been or have been only partially implemented. It is hoped that at the thirty-seventh session the Assembly will endeavour to advance this process of rationalization.

3. The provisions of General Assembly decision 34/401, to which I have just referred, that directly affect the organization of the work of the General Committee are reproduced in paragraph 2 of document A/37/250. May I consider that the General Assembly takes note of the action taken by the General Committee on that paragraph?

*It was so decided.*

4. The PRESIDENT: Regarding the schedule of meetings referred to in paragraph 3, the General Committee draws the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 3 of its decision 34/401. In this connection I should like to remind the Assembly that rules 67 and 108 of the rules of procedure provide that the President of the General Assembly may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when at least one third of the members are present, and the Chairman of a Main Committee may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when at least one quarter of the members are present.

5. I should like to assure the Assembly that, as I have already indicated in the General Committee, I shall be in the Chair punctually at the scheduled time and I urge the Chairmen of the Main Committees to do the same. It is essential that at least one member of each delegation be present at the scheduled time in order to avoid the problem of a quorum. I sincerely hope that all delegations will make a special effort to co-operate in this regard.

6. We turn now to paragraph 4 of the report, concerning the general debate. May I consider that the General Assembly approves the recommendations in paragraph 4 (a) and (b)?

*It was so decided.*

7. The PRESIDENT: Regarding the explanations of vote referred to in paragraph 5 of the report, the General Committee draws the Assembly's attention to paragraph 7 of its decision 34/401. Paragraph 6 deals with the closing date of the session and paragraph 7 with the records of the Main Committees. I take it that those recommendations are approved by the General Assembly.

*It was so decided.*

8. The PRESIDENT: In paragraph 8 the General Committee draws the Assembly's attention to paragraphs 18 and 19 of its decision 34/401 concerning the election of the Chairmen of the Main Committees. I express the hope that these provisions will be fully implemented to facilitate the organization of work of future sessions of the General Assembly.

9. The General Committee also draws the Assembly's attention to paragraph 17 of its decision 34/401, which is reproduced in paragraph 9 of the report, concerning concluding statements in the General Assembly and its Main Committees.

10. Paragraph 10 refers to budgetary and financial questions under rule 153 of the rules of procedure. In this connection, the General Committee draws the Assembly's attention to paragraphs 12 and 13 of its decision 34/401. As members are aware, this has been a serious problem, especially towards the end of the session; this year Friday, 10 December, is the target date for the conclusion of the work of the Main Committees, except for the Fifth Committee.

11. Paragraphs 11 and 12 of the report refer to documentation. In paragraph 11 the General Committee draws the Assembly's attention to paragraph 28 of its decision 34/401.

12. Regarding paragraph 12, may I consider that the General Assembly approves the recommendation of the General Committee regarding the need for maximum restraint in requests by Member States and subsidiary organs for circulation of material as official documents of the General Assembly?

*It was so decided.*

13. The PRESIDENT: We turn now to paragraph 13 of the report. The General Committee draws the Assembly's attention to paragraph 32 of its decision 34/401 concerning resolutions.

14. I trust that the Assembly will take duly into account the provisions of decision 34/401 which the

General Committee has drawn to its attention, namely, paragraphs 3, 7, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, 28 and 32.

*It was so decided.*

15. The PRESIDENT: In paragraph 14, relating to special conferences, the General Committee draws the General Assembly's attention to recommendation 6 of the Committee on Conferences, adopted by the Assembly in paragraph (b) of its decision 34/405.

*The recommendations of the General Committee concerning the organization of the session (A/37/250, paras. 2-14) were adopted (decision 37/401).*

16. The PRESIDENT: In paragraph 15 the General Committee, in the light of recommendations submitted by the Committee on Conferences, recommends to the General Assembly that the following subsidiary organs of the Assembly should be authorized to hold meetings during the thirty-seventh session:

(a) *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Indian Ocean;

(b) Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People;

(c) Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on the Question of Palestine;

(d) Special Committee against *Apartheid*;

(e) Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

(f) United Nations Council for Namibia.

17. May I consider that it is the wish of the General Assembly to approve that recommendation?

*It was so decided (see decision 37/403).*

18. The PRESIDENT: We turn now to section III of the report, relating to the adoption of the agenda.

19. May I remind members of rule 23 of the rules of procedure, which provides that:

“Debate on the inclusion of an item in the agenda, when that item has been recommended for inclusion by the General Committee, shall be limited to three speakers in favour of, and three against, the inclusion.”

I should like to stress that at this time we are not discussing the substance of any item. I should also like to remind delegations that statements will have to be made from their seats, in keeping with paragraph 11 of annex VI to the rules of procedure.

20. In paragraphs 17 to 20 of the report the General Committee gives an account of the action it has taken regarding items 54, 135, 136 and 137 of the draft agenda. That action is duly reflected in paragraph 22 of the report.

21. Mr. ROA KOURÍ (Cuba) (*interpretation from Spanish*): In accordance with rule 23 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, my delegation proposes that we vote against paragraph 20 on agenda item 137 and that therefore the agenda for this session should include as a separate item the question of Puerto Rico.

22. For 10 years, since 1972, the colonial case of Puerto Rico has been the subject of analysis by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting

of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. All resolutions adopted by the Committee have recognized the inalienable right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and have called for the complete application of that resolution to Puerto Rico.

23. The statements made in the Special Committee by the representatives of all the political parties of Puerto Rico, without exception, as well as by the most important organizations, groupings and institutions—social, professional and cultural—and eminent personalities in the political, religious, social and cultural life of the country prove unequivocally the dissatisfaction of the people of Puerto Rico with their present political status, which hampers the achievement of their legitimate aspirations.

24. The historical background of the case of Puerto Rico since the signing of the Paris Treaty of 1898 is well known. There is abundant information in the records of the Special Committee, which has been considering the case since 1967.

25. The Government of the United States of America, in objecting year after year to the consideration of the case of Puerto Rico by the Special Committee and by any other United Nations body, argues that such consideration would violate paragraph 7 of Article 2 of the Charter, since the people of Puerto Rico in 1952 freely agreed to its present association with the United States, by the establishment of the so-called Free Associated State.

26. The fact is that, in the light of resolution 1514 (XV), for a Non-Self-Governing Territory to be able freely to exercise its right to self-determination a prerequisite is that the administering Power transfer all powers to the people of the Territory. That not only was not done in 1952, but has never been done, and it is precisely one of the demands of the Special Committee.

27. Furthermore, as can easily be corroborated, Public Law 600 of the United States in no way altered the powers of sovereignty acquired when the Paris Treaty was signed and still maintained by the United States Congress over Puerto Rico. Neither, of course, did it alter the powers retained by that Congress when it adopted the Foraker law in 1900 and the Jones law in 1917.

28. The General Assembly's adoption of its resolution 748 (VIII) of 1953, which the United States Government brandishes today to prevent discussion of the colonial status of Puerto Rico, was the result of a mechanical majority which that Government then enjoyed in the General Assembly with the support of the eight colonial Powers and of recognized Latin American tyrannies of that time.

29. Anyone who casts even a cursory glance at the records of the debates held then in the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories and the Fourth Committee will note the irregularities committed by the representatives of the United States, who were protected by that spurious majority. First, there was no analysis of the status of Puerto Rico in the light of factors contained in the report of the

*Ad Hoc* Committee on Factors (Non-Self-Governing Territories) of 1953,<sup>1</sup> in which it was proved that that status was not in full compliance with any of the elements which characterized independent or fully self-governing States; secondly, even before the General Assembly adopted resolution 748 (VIII)—that is to say, even before the United States succeeded in getting approval for the political status which they manufactured to cover their colonial relationship with Puerto Rico, which was formally considered by the United Nations to be a Non-Self-Governing Territory—the Fourth Committee declined to hear petitioners from the Partido Independentista Puertorriqueño on 25 September 1953 and of the Partido Nacionalista de Puerto Rico on 15 October 1953. This was a gross violation of the policy laid down by the Fourth Committee to grant oral hearings to the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories on any matters concerning their vital interests.

30. Article IV, section 3, of the United States Constitution grants Congress exclusive power to dispose of territories and other property belonging to the United States. Under that clause, the details and terms of any specific proposal to alter the relationship with Puerto Rico have to be the subject of congressional approval. In other words, the United States Congress alone has competence to decide on the destiny of Puerto Rico. Despite what North American representatives may allege to the contrary, this means that Puerto Rico's status is that of a United States possession and proves the falseness of any assertion that the people of Puerto Rico can achieve their legitimate aspirations within the context of the present political status.

31. Cuba expresses its specific gratitude to all those who in the General Committee voted in favour of the inclusion of the item on Puerto Rico, and also expresses its gratitude to those who, showing their independent and sovereign attitude, abstained. Both—and they are clearly in the majority—have demonstrated their lack of satisfaction with the present situation. We have always thought that the battle for the inalienable rights of the people of Puerto Rico—given the historical complexity of the subject and the fact that it involves a frontal attack against the most powerful imperialism of our times—is a question which will only be won in the long term by a process of persuading States Members of the United Nations and, above all, by the decisive and irreplaceable action of the people of Puerto Rico itself. Today we are merely witnessing a skirmish which may be lost; the final battle, which will no doubt be of historic dimensions, is inextricably linked to the will for freedom of the people of Puerto Rico and the political maturity of the consciousness of the international community.

32. It is the profound conviction of Cuba that sooner rather than later the people of Puerto Rico will occupy the seat that is due to them in the concert of independent nations in the Organization.

33. Mr. PADILLA (United States of America) (*interpretation from Spanish*): I am a representative of the United States delegation to the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly of the United Nations. I have the honour to be the Mayor of the capital city of Puerto Rico, the largest city on the island. I have been an advocate and active participant in the political

processes of Puerto Rico for the last 15 years. Even though my profession is that of doctor of medicine, I was elected to the Chamber of Representatives of Puerto Rico in 1968 and in 1972, and I was elected Mayor of San Juan in 1976 and re-elected in 1980.

34. Puerto Rico has lived under a constitutional government since 1952, but we recognize that political changes are a continuous process and that political parties in Puerto Rico seek support from the people to attain their aims, depending on their party's views or ideology of government.

35. The island has developed in various stages within the relationship which has joined us to the United States during this entire century.

36. In 1917, United States citizenship was extended to Puerto Ricans, and since then anyone born in Puerto Rico is an American citizen with the right to the protection of its laws and the enjoyment of its rights.

37. In 1952, Puerto Rico organized an internal government, ruled by a constitution and endorsed by the international community in 1953.

38. It is relevant to point out that, during the last 30 years, the political and ideological forces have undergone fundamental changes. The parties which advocate separation have lost electoral support, from 19 per cent in 1952 to less than 6 per cent in 1980, and the party which supports the status of a free associated State has declined from 65 per cent to 47 per cent. Nevertheless it is only—and I emphasize, only—the parties which defend the right of Puerto Rico to statehood which have progressively gained in every electoral battle: from 13 per cent in 1952 to 47.2 per cent in 1980. In the latest elections, the Independentist Party won so little electoral support that it was not able to elect a single legislator or a single mayor.

39. The Puerto Rican people are firm believers in the democratic process. We hold elections every four years and more than 80 per cent of the electorate casts its vote. The result is thus truly representative of the will of the people. It is precisely that people which recognizes that the United States maintains a clear policy of self-determination and that it will accept, defend and apply any Puerto Rican decision on the question of its status.

40. The last four United States Administrations, the Presidency and the Congress, have reaffirmed their commitment to respect and defend the right of the Puerto Rican people to determine its political future by means of a peaceful, open and democratic process. Recently, President Reagan said that although he was in favour of statehood for Puerto Rico if that were to be the choice of the Puerto Ricans, his Administration would accept the decision of the majority of the people of Puerto Rico. I recognize that the Congress and the Presidency of the United States defend the right of our people to decide what is to be our political relationship with the United States.

41. Our political evolution continues. In the future there will be a new consultation with the people to amend our Constitution or to change our political relationship with the United States, but it should be quite clear that the decision is ours, ours alone.



42. The position stated by the United States and Puerto Rican leaders in the past is that the political relationship between Puerto Rico and the United States lies within the competence of Puerto Rico and the United States.

43. That was stated also by the former Governor of Puerto Rico, Luis Ferré, as recently as 2 September 1982. It was also stated by Carlos Romero Barceló, the present Governor of Puerto Rico, in 1978 in his testimony at the 1125th meeting of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Both are true leaders, elected leaders, and authentic representatives of the majority party in Puerto Rico.

44. I, with the strength conferred upon me by the electoral support of the people, maintain that it is we, the Puerto Ricans, who have the right and the historic responsibility to decide our system of government and our political relationship with the United States. International intervention and interference affect that right and introduce a factor which is alien to our historic process in Puerto Rico.

45. Puerto Rico is not an international problem and does not wish to be one. We have the ability, the democratic experience and the legal and legislative mechanisms for consulting our people. The international community has in the past recognized those facts and should recognize them at present.

46. Puerto Rico adopted its own Constitution at the beginning of the 1950s. It was endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 748 (VIII) of 1953, which confirmed that Puerto Rico had exercised the right to self-determination by a democratic process and that the resolutions on Non-Self-Governing Territories were not applicable to Puerto Rico. The same resolution maintains that any change in the relationship between Puerto Rico and the United States should take into account the will of the people of Puerto Rico and of the United States.

47. In 1959 the General Assembly adopted resolution 1469 (XIV), which recognized that Alaska and Hawaii had achieved self-government on being admitted as states of the Union and gave real *de jure* and *de facto* validity to their political integration as an acceptable form for the international community.

48. In the same historical process, the General Assembly adopted resolution 1541 (XV) of 1960, which lists and defines that a Territory has achieved complete self-government when, either, it becomes an independent State, establishes an association or; is integrated into an independent State.

49. I deem it appropriate to have referred to these General Assembly resolutions because they all have a bearing on Puerto Rico, since they establish the alternatives available to the Puerto Rican people. Nevertheless, in recent years there have been continuous efforts to make the General Assembly revoke those resolutions, interfere with the right of the people of Puerto Rico to genuine self-determination, and limit our options to resolve our political status.

50. There can be no selection without alternatives; the issue cannot be determined without options; the right to choose a political form cannot be exercised if there are no choices; there can be no talk of self-

determination if Puerto Rico is obliged to pursue the course that has been rejected by 95 per cent of the Puerto Rican electorate.

51. We, the Puerto Rican people, have the constitutional right under our current political relationship with the United States, supported in its own Constitution, to change or amend our Constitution in accordance with our own needs, political convictions or ideologies. The United Nations, in principle VII of Assembly resolution 1541 (XV), defends that right. To refuse us that right would be tantamount to interfering in our destiny and against our Constitution.

52. It is in the light of this legal and historical analysis that the international community should adopt an objective position with regard to Puerto Rico. As I have indicated, Puerto Rico has evolved in the political arena during recent decades and we are proud of our economic, technological and industrial development. The gross national product now exceeds \$12 billion, per capita income is more than \$4,000 and family income is more than \$11,000 per household. Undoubtedly the recession and world economic problems affect us, but we look forward to the future with faith in our capacity to sustain and continue the progress to which Puerto Rico aspires.

53. We are a people devoted to our culture, history, language and traditions. We are active defenders of the promotion of our arts and culture. We are dedicating resources and efforts to guaranteeing a good education for our children. Today more than 900,000 Puerto Ricans are studying at various educational levels, which means more than one out of every four Puerto Ricans. We support diverse facilities for theatre, music and other forms of art. The Latin American peoples and all those of Hispanic descent can be assured that our political relationship with the United States in no way changes our cultural feelings and identification. Our political status will continue to be a matter of primary importance on the agenda of Puerto Rico in the present and for the future.

54. The process for bringing about a change will be one that proves our advanced political development and ensures the continuance of our democratic process.

55. We respectfully request the General Assembly to join us in supporting and defending the decision of the General Committee to reject the inclusion of the question of Puerto Rico in the agenda of the Assembly. Our democratic system does not need the intervention of the international community. We, the Puerto Ricans, and we alone, will decide how and when our political status should be altered. It is our responsibility. It is our right. It is our destiny.

56. The PRESIDENT: I shall now call on delegations that wish to explain their vote before the voting. I remind representatives that explanations of vote should be restricted to 10 minutes and I hope they will co-operate with me in this respect.

57. Mr. TRUCCO (Chile) (*interpretation from Spanish*): The delegation of Chile supports the recommendation of the General Committee. In our opinion we should not include in the agenda of the present session the item on the question of Puerto Rico, for the following reasons.

58. Under resolution 748 (VIII) the General Assembly expressly recognized that the people of Puerto Rico had effectively exercised its right to self-determination when, in 1952, in a free and democratic manner it decided to become a Free Associated State. Thus, the name of Puerto Rico was deleted from the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories because it was considered that it had been invested with the attributes of political sovereignty.

59. During the twenty-sixth session, in 1971, the General Assembly rejected the attempt to include the question of Puerto Rico in the agenda and in this respect approved the recommendation of the General Committee by the wide majority of 57 votes to 26, with 38 abstentions.

60. An attempt is now being made to alter the sovereign decision which the General Assembly has already adopted, first in 1953 and then in 1971, on the pretext that the people of Puerto Rico has not exercised its right to self-determination. This contention is baseless, in our opinion, since it is a matter of public record that the people of Puerto Rico has on several occasions, the last being only two years ago, in November 1980, had an opportunity freely to pronounce itself on the political status it wishes to have. In those most recent elections the formula put forward by the Partido Independentista won only approximately 6 per cent of the vote.

61. In those circumstances, it is wrong to try to bring the item on Puerto Rico to the General Assembly since, apart from constituting an undue interference in the affairs of Puerto Rico and the United States, it also implies an inadmissible attempt, by a body that has no authority to do so, to thwart the aspirations expressed by a majority of the people of Puerto Rico in the exercise of their right to self-determination.

62. Chile is a member of the Special Committee on decolonization and there it has invariably supported the noble cause of decolonization. Therefore, we cannot now, for political motives which have nothing to do with the genuine spirit that inspires this transcendental process, try to replace the expressed will of the people of Puerto Rico by a political decision of the General Assembly.

63. Finally, the delegation of Chile believes that the people of Puerto Rico will itself, as so eloquently stated by the Mayor of San Juan, Mr. Hernán Padilla, a few minutes ago, without the aid of extraneous political forces, be able to determine its institutional future, maintaining its Latin American identity and feelings. To that brother people we extend once again our friendship in the certainty that the Puerto Ricans do not wish their internal matters to become a permanent problem involving international confrontation, to the obvious detriment of their true interests.

64. Mr. ALBORNOZ (Ecuador) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Only a year ago when this question was discussed, a statement was made by the President of the Assembly [79th meeting, para. 9] on his understanding of the consensus of the Assembly, which it accepted and which constitutes a very recent precedent. Our delegation, without prejudice to the traditional position of Ecuador being in favour of the inclusion of any item without prejudging the substance

of the matter, in this case feels that it should not participate in the vote the Assembly is about to take.

65. Mr. BLANCO (Uruguay) (*interpretation from Spanish*): The report of the General Committee on the agenda of the General Assembly does not include the item on the question of Puerto Rico. It is appropriate to emphasize the sensitive nature of this subject, and, as is fitting, the delegation of Uruguay wishes to consider it with serenity, and with absolute respect for all opinions. Furthermore, as far as Latin America is concerned, we have very much in mind the special links that exist, the strengthening of which is an objective of my Government. It would be regrettable if any discrepancy in criteria, which is possible and natural among sovereign States, were in any way to affect the longstanding feeling of solidarity, which has been strengthened by recent tragic events. It is in that spirit that I shall refer to the question under discussion.

66. In theory we might differentiate between the inclusion of the item and discussion on it; between the procedural and the substantive aspects. However, both aspects are indissolubly linked. The propriety of the inclusion depends on the existence of a colonial situation; on the absence of self-determination. It is to that central aspect that I shall address my comments.

67. First, in resolution 748 (VIII) the Assembly recognized, in paragraphs 2 and 4, that the people of Puerto Rico have effectively exercised their right to self-determination in establishing a Constitution and an agreement on association with the United States.

68. Secondly, in paragraph 5 of that resolution the Assembly also recognized that those acts "clearly identify the status of self-government attained by the Puerto Rican people as that of an autonomous political entity"

69. Thirdly, resolution 1514 (XV) is not in contradiction of the resolution adopted concerning Puerto Rico. On the contrary, they complement and add to one another, because where resolution 1514 (XV) establishes general rules on the exercise of the right to self-determination, resolution 748 (VIII) declares that that right was effectively exercised in the case of Puerto Rico. Therefore, resolution 1514 (XV), although subsequent to resolution 748 (VIII), leaves the latter intact, without derogation or modification.

70. Fourthly, the right to self-determination, recognized by Article 1, paragraph 2, of the Charter, means that peoples "freely determine their political status", as defined in resolution 1514 (XV), paragraph 2. That political condition or status could undoubtedly be independence, and usually it is. However, it is not the only possible solution. What is essential for the concept of self-determination is the possibility freely to choose the legal and political system that the people desire.

71. Fifthly, the principles annexed to resolution 1541 (XV) confirm that interpretation beyond doubt. Principle VI states:

"A Non-Self-Governing Territory can be said to have reached a full measure of self-government by:

"(a) Emergence as a sovereign independent State;

"(b) Free association with an independent State;

or

"(c) Integration with an independent State."



72. Thus, it is clearly established that the exercise of the right to self-determination can lead to a political status such as that adopted by Puerto Rico.

73. Sixthly, a review of the factual elements available confirms the conclusions derived from a juridical analysis. First, in the 1952 referendum the majority of the population of Puerto Rico approved a Constitution and accepted association with the United States. Secondly, during the 30 subsequent years elections have been held every four years; the Partido Independentista Puertorriqueño has represented a minority percentage and to date—and I emphasize to date—this has continuously declined. In 1980 it was only 5.7 per cent of the electorate. The 1977 referendum confirmed the decision of 1952: only 0.6 per cent of the electorate pronounced themselves in favour of independence. These data can be found in document A/AC.109/L.976. The parties that advocate statehood, association and independence receive financing from the Government of Puerto Rico on an equal basis with regard to expenses and in proportion to their votes to defray electoral campaign costs. The political parties of Puerto Rico have, within existing conditions, the legal and political means to express their possible dissatisfaction and to bring about a change of such conditions.

74. Seventhly, the present status of Puerto Rico can in fact be revealed and changed at any time on an initiative of the Congress of Puerto Rico by organizing another referendum. The executive and legislative branches of the Government of the United States have declared on various occasions that that country will accept any solution which Puerto Rico might adopt. And the possibility of a change in the present political status is expressly recognized in paragraph 9 of resolution 748 (VIII).

75. Consequently, it is fitting to conclude that, as stated in resolution 748 (VIII), the people of Puerto Rico have already exercised their right to self-determination. It is also fitting to conclude that there is no legal or political impediment to the people of Puerto Rico promoting a change in their current status, including a change in the status of independence if they so wish. We know of no initiative to this respect having been set in motion. It is also fitting to conclude, finally, that the people of Puerto Rico have the power to exercise that right in accordance with paragraph 9 of resolution 748 (VIII).

76. In the light of those facts, my delegation considers that this item should not be included in the agenda of the Assembly. We shall accordingly vote in favour of the report of the Committee.

77. It is clear from what has been said, though deserving of emphasis, that Uruguay in no way objects to the independence of Puerto Rico or to any other solution which that people might choose. The position my country wishes to restate is that it is for the people of Puerto Rico alone to decide. In the exercise of that right, it will be for the people alone to evaluate the consequences of various possible political solutions in their cultural and material heritage.

78. The PRESIDENT: With due respect, may I remind representatives that we are discussing procedural matters—that is, whether or not this item should be included in the agenda. I would ask repre-

sentatives to remain within a procedural, rather than a substantive, framework.

79. Mr. BUENO (Brazil): The Brazilian Government has always followed developments in Puerto Rico with great interest. The Puerto Rican people have had several opportunities freely to express themselves on the subject of their political status, and we understand that in the near future they will once again be able to voice their preferences through an island-wide plebiscite. We therefore believe that involvement of the General Assembly in the affairs of Puerto Rico would have little to add at the present stage. Brazil shall therefore vote in favour of the decision taken by the General Committee as appears in paragraph 20 of the document now under consideration.

80. Mr. NISIBORI (Japan): Mr. President, in the interest of time I shall defer to a later date the expression of my delegation's congratulations on your assumption of the high office of the presidency.

81. My delegation supports the first report of the General Committee on the organization of the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items contained in document A/37/250. With regard to the Assembly's task of deciding whether to include the question of Puerto Rico as an item of the agenda, the real issue is whether the people of Puerto Rico have exercised their right to self-determination. And it is a widely known fact that the people of Puerto Rico have indeed exercised their right to self-determination. This was recognized by the General Assembly in its resolution 748 (VIII), in which it specifically recognized that "the people of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, by expressing their will in a free and democratic way, have achieved a new constitutional status", and that "when choosing their constitutional . . . status, the people of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico have effectively exercised their right to self-determination."

82. It should also be noted that elections held regularly since 1952 have demonstrated that an overwhelming majority of the people of Puerto Rico support continued association with the United States, with the status of Commonwealth or statehood.

83. In view of those facts, it was appropriate that the General Committee, at its 2nd meeting on 22 September 1982, decided not to recommend the inclusion of this item in the agenda, thus demonstrating the consistency of the United Nations position.

84. For these reasons, my delegation supports the decision of the General Committee not to recommend the inclusion of this item in the agenda.

85. Mr. ABADA (Algeria) (*interpretation from French*): Mr. President, the head of the Algerian delegation to the General Assembly will soon have an opportunity to pay due tribute to you and to your country. Allow me, however, to say how glad I am that you, Sir, are guiding the work of the current session.

86. The full exercise of its inalienable right to self-determination is a legitimate aspiration of the people of Puerto Rico. The numerous declarations made in recent years in the Special Committee by representatives of all the political parties, trade union organizations and religious, professional and social groups of

Puerto Rico bear witness to the existence in Puerto Rico of a will on the part of the people of the territory to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination in accordance with the principles and purposes of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV). The debates that have taken place over many years on the question of Puerto Rico in the Special Committee on the basis of resolution 1514 (XV) have pointed to principles which should guide the action of the Organization concerning the case of Puerto Rico. That is why the Special Committee has been examining this question since 1967 and has adopted various resolutions reaffirming the inalienable right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and to independence.

87. For their part, the countries of the non-aligned movement, in pursuing the basic objective, which is the elimination of colonialism in all its forms, have constantly supported the inalienable right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and to independence.

88. For these reasons, and on the basis of the resolutions adopted by the Special Committee, in particular those of 20 August 1981<sup>2</sup> and of 4 August 1982 [see A/37/23/Rev.1, chap. I, para. 84], which recommend to the General Assembly that the question of Puerto Rico be considered as a separate item at the thirty-seventh session, the Algerian delegation supports the inclusion of this item in the agenda.

89. Mr. CINEAS (Haiti) (*interpretation from French*): My delegation reaffirms the position it took in the General Committee, that we should not recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of the question of Puerto Rico in the agenda of the present session, for the following reasons. First, it has not been established that the inclusion of that item is in keeping with the desires of the majority of the Puerto Rican people. The most recent referendums, the results of which are known to all, leave no doubt on this subject. Secondly, my delegation would like also to warn the General Assembly against any attempt to make Puerto Rico a pawn serving antagonisms and rivalries between States. Any initiative affecting the Puerto Rican people and its future must first and foremost be taken by the Puerto Ricans themselves without any interference. Thirdly, we think it timely on this occasion to recall the position of principle of the Republic of Haiti, which is always to support any political choice which peoples may freely make and judge to be in accordance with their legitimate aspirations and interests.

90. That is why my delegation favours the rejection of the request for the inclusion of this item, the aim of which is to bring about long debates on a question which concerns the Puerto Rican people alone. My delegation will vote against the inclusion of this item in the agenda.

91. Mr. MARTINI URDANETA (Venezuela) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Since joining the Organization in 1945 Venezuela has consistently maintained a clear policy in favour of decolonization processes and the strengthening in practice of the principle of the self-determination of peoples.

92. Our profound and indestructible links with the Latin American people of Puerto Rico have their

roots in history, culture and geography. They are also a reflection of the thinking and will of the Liberator, Simón Bolívar, who considered Puerto Rico to be an inseparable part of the family of Latin American nations.

93. It is less than a year since the bicentenary of the birth of our Father and Liberator and we have in mind his work of liberating and building free republics, which he was unable, owing to his untimely passing, to extend as he wished to certain areas of the Caribbean.

94. In its consideration of the matter before us the Venezuelan delegation is aware that democratic freedoms exist in Puerto Rico, thanks to which we have been able to follow very closely the continuing debate on that island regarding the characteristics of its present legal constitutional status. It is thanks to the undeniable existence of a democratic climate in Puerto Rico that we are able to note the agreement among the main political forces regarding the diagnosis of the present situation. We must beware of fostering any action which might be considered to be United Nations interference in the internal policy of any given country, for that should take place only when there has been a violation of, or failure to comply with, the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular when there has been a violation of the principle of the self-determination of peoples.

95. Venezuela's past experience as far as decolonization is concerned suggests to my delegation that it should vote in favour of the consideration of the question of Puerto Rico as a separate item on the agenda of the General Assembly, but firmly believing that the people of Puerto Rico, alone and exclusively, can decide on its sovereign future by exercising the right of self-determination of peoples.

96. Finally, I must say that Venezuela, as a country of the Caribbean region, has made every necessary effort—as it is now doing and will continue to do—to maintain the Caribbean as a zone of peace, free from confrontations among Powers of any political beliefs and of any region, and, of course, free from the tensions to which such confrontations give rise. It is in that context that Venezuela's position regarding the present issue must be viewed.

97. Mr. AL-ASHTAL (Democratic Yemen): In the General Committee my delegation voted for the inclusion of the item entitled "Question of Puerto Rico" in the agenda of this session. We shall vote in the same way at this meeting because, first, we believe that it is within the competence of the General Assembly to discuss the question of Puerto Rico as a question of decolonization. Indeed, if the Special Committee has dealt with the question of Puerto Rico for so long we do not see why the General Assembly should not do so, given the importance of this question. The fact that the Mayor of San Juan came here to address this Assembly is in itself enough evidence of how important this question has become. Secondly, the inclusion of the question of Puerto Rico in the agenda is a procedural matter which should not necessarily prejudice the outcome of the debate. It is only fair that the international community should be allowed to pro-



nounce itself on such an important issue, even if it seems to the United States Government to be too sensitive—which, in any event, professes to advocate free debate. Thirdly, my delegation does not accept the argument that the question of Puerto Rico is an internal matter for the United States. It is, in our opinion, an internal matter for the people of Puerto Rico, whose genuine representatives should be invited to address the General Assembly.

98. Mr. TROYANOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (*interpretation from Russian*): The head of the delegation of the Soviet Union will have an opportunity to congratulate you, Sir, on your election to the high post of President of the General Assembly. I should like, however, to express our feelings of profound satisfaction on this occasion and to wish you success in the fulfilment of the tasks which lie ahead of you.

99. The delegation of the Soviet Union would like to reaffirm its position in favour of including the question of Puerto Rico in the agenda of this session. For many years constant attention has been devoted in the United Nations to the situation in Puerto Rico. The Special Committee on decolonization has many times adopted decisions reaffirming the inalienable right of the Puerto Rican people to self-determination and independence in accordance with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. At that Committee's meetings many representatives of various Puerto Rican social organizations have expressed the protests of the population of that island against the colonial régime established by the United States, which hampers the economic, political and social development of the Puerto Rican people.

100. In accordance with the desires of the representatives of Puerto Rico, the Special Committee in 1981 recommended the consideration of the question of Puerto Rico as a separate agenda item at the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly. That recommendation, which is contained in the Committee's report submitted at the thirty-sixth session of the Assembly,<sup>2</sup> was adopted by the Assembly. In August of this year the Special Committee adopted the recommendation again [*ibid.*]. The growing concern about the situation in Puerto Rico felt by some Members of the Organization has been expressed in decisions adopted in a number of forums of the non-aligned movement aimed at ensuring the Puerto Rican people's legitimate rights to self-determination and independence. We fully understand and sympathize with that position of the non-aligned countries. The Soviet Union has consistently favoured the speedy elimination once and for all of the vestiges of the colonial system and the full implementation of the Declaration on decolonization.

101. The Soviet delegation therefore favours the inclusion of the question of Puerto Rico in the agenda of the current session of the General Assembly and will vote against the decision taken in the General Committee contained in paragraph 20 of its report.

102. Mr. TAYLOR (Grenada): I would in the first instance like to congratulate you, Sir, on your election to the presidency of the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly. I am certain that when the Foreign Minister of my country addresses the United Nations

in the coming weeks, he will convey the expressions of good will of the Government and people of Grenada.

103. We should like to make a very detailed presentation on the question before us, because, in the first instance, we believe it is in many ways a very complex issue and it is certainly a matter with a very long history. In the interests of time, however, and in keeping with the President's admonition a few minutes ago, I shall merely reaffirm the position of the Government of Grenada on the issue, namely, that the Government and delegation of Grenada will vote in favour of the inclusion of the item on the question of Puerto Rico in the agenda of the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

104. Mr. WOOLCOTT (Australia): Mr. President, the Australian delegation will have the opportunity in the course of the general debate formally to express its congratulations to you on your election.

105. As to the matter before us now, the Australian delegation, like most of the delegations that have already spoken, opposes inclusion of the question of Puerto Rico in the agenda of the General Assembly. We believe that the decision taken earlier this week by the General Committee was the appropriate one. No convincing reason was brought forward by the delegation of Cuba for reversing earlier decisions taken by the General Assembly.

106. On three occasions, the Assembly or one of its principal organs has rejected proposals by the Government of Cuba to have the question of Puerto Rico debated in the General Assembly. The Cuban delegation, however, persists in a politically motivated campaign against the United States rather than in seeking to promote any legitimate interest of the Puerto Rican people. The Puerto Rican people have freely pronounced themselves some half dozen times on what they want for the island, and they clearly do not want the option prescribed for them by the Government of Cuba. In 1953, by virtue of its resolution 748 (VIII), the General Assembly determined that Puerto Rico was no longer a Non-Self-Governing Territory in terms of the Charter and that the former administering Power, the United States, was no longer required to transmit information on Puerto Rico under Article 73 *e*.

107. The Australian Government accepted at that time, and has accepted since, that the people of Puerto Rico exercised a valid act of self-determination. In 1971, when Cuba first brought the question before the General Assembly, the Assembly decided by a convincing majority that Puerto Rico should not be included as an item in the agenda of the Assembly. A similar decision was reached in 1978, when an attempt was again made to inject the question of Puerto Rico into the Fourth Committee. Earlier this week, the General Committee voted by 11 to 7 to disavow this latest attempt to include the item.

108. My delegation sees nothing in developments in recent years which could lead us to change the view Australia reached in 1953, in 1971 and in 1978. We would therefore urge the Assembly again to reject the attempt to include the item in its agenda and to support the recommendation of the General Committee.

109. Mr. SUJA (Czechoslovakia): The Czechoslovak Minister for Foreign Affairs will have an opportunity



in his statement in the general debate to express to you, Comrade President, our Government's congratulations on your election to preside over this thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly, but I too would like to take this opportunity to express our feelings of profound satisfaction in connection with your election to your most responsible and demanding office.

110. The proposal not to include the question of Puerto Rico in the agenda of the current session of the Assembly that was pushed through in the General Committee is based on positions that reject the responsibility of the Organization for the fate of all colonial Territories and peoples and on positions that deliberately ignore the status of Puerto Rico and thus stand directly in the way of eliminating the remnants of colonialism. They are positions that do not respect the recommendations of the body competent above all others, the Special Committee on decolonization, and the highly qualified findings and conclusions reached in that Committee.

111. My country has always been and continues to be an advocate of speedy, complete and consistent decolonization. It fully supports an all-around and uncompromising implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. That is why the continuing efforts to maintain the current status of Puerto Rico are a subject of concern to us. We are convinced that the consideration of the question of Puerto Rico in the Organization would decisively contribute to the search for and the finding of ways to implement the right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence. That is why Czechoslovakia has actively advocated the consideration of the question of Puerto Rico by the United Nations and has maintained this position in its capacity as Vice-Chairman of the Special Committee as well.

112. For these reasons, we also now support the proposal to include this question in the agenda of the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly and, on this issue, we shall vote against the recommendation of the General Committee.

113. Mr. TSVETKOV (Bulgaria) (*interpretation from French*): The Minister for Foreign Affairs of my country will have an opportunity to extend to you, Sir, the congratulations and good wishes of the Bulgarian delegation on your election as President of the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly. Nevertheless, since this is the first time that I have spoken at this session, I take great pleasure in congratulating you most sincerely on your accession to that responsible post, all the more so since you are a representative and eminent diplomat of the Hungarian People's Republic, with which my country has the closest relations.

114. For many years now the Special Committee on decolonization has taken up this question and reaffirmed the right of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV). At its 1981 and 1982 sessions the Special Committee on decolonization adopted two specific resolutions pointing out the need for a discussion of the question in the General Assembly as a separate item.

These resolutions were adopted on the basis of the opinions voiced by representatives of all the most important political parties and popular organizations of the people of Puerto Rico, which unambiguously demanded that Puerto Rico be allowed to attain its right to self-determination and independence in accordance with resolution 1514 (XV).

115. This vast movement in Puerto Rico enjoys the staunch support of many States Members of the United Nations. The Co-ordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Countries at its Ministerial Meeting held in May/June in Havana, once again reaffirmed the need to eliminate all forms and manifestations of colonialism and expressed its support for the people of Puerto Rico in its just struggle for self-determination and independence [*see A/37/333*].

116. As a member of the Special Committee, the People's Republic of Bulgaria, guided by its consistent policy of principle in supporting the just struggle of all colonial countries and peoples, has for years taken an active part in the process of the attainment of the inalienable rights to self-determination and independence of all colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories, and has done all it could to ensure the implementation without delay of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

117. Those are the reasons why my delegation will vote in favour of the proposal to include the question of Puerto Rico in the agenda of this session.

118. Mr. BENZEITUN (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) (*interpretation from Arabic*): On the basis of my country's consistent position of support for the cause of freedom and the cause of the attainment of self-determination and independence by colonial peoples, my delegation voted in the General Committee in favour of the inclusion of the question of Puerto Rico in the agenda of the current session as a separate item. We shall cast a similar vote here because we believe that the people of Puerto Rico is still subjected to colonial domination and because the Special Committee's two resolutions of 20 August 1981 and 4 August 1982 must be implemented, for that Committee has been entrusted with the mandate to consider questions of decolonization. My country's support for the struggle of colonial peoples for self-determination and independence requires it to take this position.

119. Mr. MONTENI (Argentina) (*interpretation from Spanish*): The delegation of Argentina will vote against paragraph 20 of document A/37/250, containing the first report of the General Committee to the General Assembly, because we believe that any item relating to the problem of decolonization, when its inclusion is requested by a Member State and recommended by the Special Committee on decolonization, deserves consideration by the General Assembly. That should not be interpreted as prejudging the substance of the question or as interference with the right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination. In this way the General Assembly could comply fully with the role assigned to it by the will of the majority of Member States, especially since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and in accordance with the decisions of the Special Committee on decolonization.

120. Mr. CHAMORRO MORA (Nicaragua) (*interpretation from Spanish*): My delegation set out its position clearly at the meeting of the General Committee when it discussed the request to include the item on Puerto Rico in the General Assembly's agenda. We said that the people of Puerto Rico had the right to be heard in the General Assembly, although this did not imply any attempt to usurp the right to self-determination of the people of Puerto Rico, which only that people can and should exercise.

121. We believe that in this case there has not been true implementation of resolution 1514 (XV), and our Government is in principle against any form of colonialism in our American hemisphere and in any other part of the world. We respect and shall continue to respect the principles established in the Charter and General Assembly resolutions. But all too often over the past 30 years or more we ourselves have suffered interventions by the United States of America. As a consequence of these interventions, we know, too, what it means to have elections and referenda at a time when a people is subjected to total political, cultural and economic domination.

122. In 1856 we had a President from the United States named William Walker. As a result of his presidency, there was a national war in Central America, waged by the Central American countries, to expel the invader. We also had the so-called elections of 1928, the immediate consequence of which was the Somosa dynasty of such black memory for our people and for the world.

123. Therefore, without prejudging the substance of the problem, my delegation, in the light of the decisions of the Special Committee and of the movement of non-aligned countries, will vote for the inclusion of the item on Puerto Rico.

124. Mr. SARRÉ (Senegal) (*interpretation from French*): Senegal, faithful to the purposes and principles of the Charter, has always supported the inalienable right of peoples to self-determination. Therefore, since our accession to independence we have always supported any initiative to implement the relevant provisions of the Charter and in particular resolution 1514 (XV).

125. With regard to the question before us, the General Committee has, with its traditional wisdom, taken the appropriate decision. Better than that, the people of Puerto Rico, on the basis of its constitutional system, has expressed itself, and continues to do so freely, on its future.

126. For all those reasons, my delegation believes that the Assembly should confirm the General Committee's decision. Accordingly, my delegation will vote in favour of the General Committee's decision.

127. Mr. VO ANH TUAN (Viet Nam) (*interpretation from French*): The Viet Nam delegation will have the opportunity to congratulate you officially, Mr. President, on your election to the high responsibilities of President of the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly. I shall confine myself to extending to you my warmest congratulations.

128. With regard to the question before us, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, faithful to its constant policy of supporting peoples struggling against

colonialism and imperialism, unreservedly supports the just struggle of the Puerto Rican people for self-determination and independence.

129. The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, has recommended in two successive resolutions that the General Assembly debate the case of Puerto Rico as a separate item on the agenda of the current session. My delegation sees no reason why the General Assembly should not endorse that recommendation. In so doing, it would act in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter.

130. For those reasons, my delegation will vote in favour of the inclusion of this item in the agenda for the current session.

131. Mr. KAMANDA wa KAMANDA (Zaire) (*interpretation from French*): The Commissioner of State for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of my country will have an opportunity in due course to extend to you, Mr. President, its congratulations on your accession to the presidency of the General Assembly. Allow me to say, nevertheless, that at this particularly troubled time in the history of the world we are convinced that your vast experience and your eminent qualities as a diplomat and statesman together with your lucid view of major international problems, will greatly assist us in ensuring the successful outcome of our work.

132. The present status of Puerto Rico is that of a State associated with the United States of America, following the referendum that took place in 1953. At its eighth session the General Assembly, in resolution 748 (VIII), took note of that development and of the wishes expressed by the people of Puerto Rico, and since then the question has no longer been on the agenda, since Chapter XI of the Charter no longer applies to that territory. The General Assembly has repeatedly confirmed that position.

133. Principle VI of the annex to General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) states:

“A Non-Self-Governing Territory can be said to have reached a full measure of self-government by:

“(a) Emergence as a sovereign independent State;

“(b) Free association with an independent State;

or

“(c) Integration with an independent State.”

We do not at present have proof that the situation and present status of Puerto Rico do not come under principle VI of the annex to that resolution. Therefore, any development in Puerto Rico must be brought about by the people of Puerto Rico themselves. We still support the choices freely made, in accordance with its own aspirations, by such people.

134. Moreover, the procedure used to attempt to include this item in the agenda does not seem to us to be right and proper, since we have no proof that all the political parties in Puerto Rico support this proposal, on the one hand, or, on the other hand, that if they do support it, they could not use other means to proclaim their aspirations.

135. For all these reasons, my delegation will support the General Committee's recommendation and



will not take part in an exercise calling on the General Assembly to go back on a previous decision.

136. The PRESIDENT: We shall now proceed to the vote.

137. In his statement the representative of Cuba proposed the inclusion in the agenda of the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly of an item entitled "Question of Puerto Rico", which appeared originally as item 137 of the draft agenda, and was not recommended by the General Committee for inclusion in the agenda.

138. The Assembly will take a decision on the proposal of the representative of Cuba in accordance with rule 90 of the rules of procedure. Those in favour of the Cuban proposal will say "Yes". Those who are against it will say "No". Those who abstain will say "Abstention". A roll-call vote has been requested.

*A vote was taken by roll-call.*

*Paraguay, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.*

*In favour:* Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Benin, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Congo, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Grenada, Hungary, Iran, (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Poland, Sao Tome and Principe, Syrian Arab Republic, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Venezuela, Viet Nam.

*Against:* Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Democratic Kampuchea, Denmark, Egypt, El Salvador, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Portugal, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Zaire.

*Abstaining:* Bahrain, Bhutan, Botswana, Burma, Burundi, Cape Verde, Comoros, Cyprus, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, India, Kenya, Kuwait, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Niger, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Qatar, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Spain, Suriname, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*The proposal was rejected by 70 votes to 30, with 43 abstentions.*

139. The PRESIDENT: I shall now call on those representatives who have asked to be allowed to explain their vote after the voting.

140. Mr. de PINIÉS (Spain) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Mr. President, in due course the head of my delegation will congratulate you on your election and express his respects to you.

141. My delegation abstained in the vote which has just been taken. Nevertheless we wish to state for the record that Spain, which is united by so many historic, cultural and linguistic links with that dearly beloved land, is not indifferent to its future.

142. Mr. SUBRAMANIAM (Malaysia): Mr. President, the head of our delegation will at the appropriate time formally congratulate you on your election to your high office.

143. My delegation voted against the inclusion in the agenda of this item, as recommended by the General Committee. Based strictly on the question of procedure, we believe it would create a bad precedent for the Assembly to reject such a recommendation. It could lead to the possibility of endless debate on a number of controversial issues and defeat the very objective of the creation of a general committee to assist the General Assembly in organizing its work.

144. Mr. IBRAHIM (Indonesia): Without prejudice to the substance of the matter, my delegation voted against the proposal to include the item, solely for procedural reasons, since the General Committee has recommended to the Assembly not to include this item in the agenda.

145. Mr. RUPIA (United Republic of Tanzania): Tanzania's vote on this question should be understood in its proper perspective. Our abstention is consistent with the position we have taken on this issue in the Special Committee. I should like, however, to emphasize that Tanzania supports the right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence. In that regard, when the issue is taken up in the appropriate bodies of the United Nations, Tanzania will continue to fight for the people of Puerto Rico to achieve genuine independence.

146. The PRESIDENT: I call upon the representative of the Soviet Union who wishes to raise a point of order.

147. Mr. LOZINSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (*interpretation from Russian*): The Soviet delegation would like to raise a point of order.

148. We have noted that in the roll-call vote which has just taken place the representative of the Secretariat did not call the name of the Central African Republic. The Soviet delegation would like to state that such arbitrary actions by members of the Secretariat are contrary to the Charter, under which only the General Assembly is competent to decide upon matters relating to the right to vote of a State Member of the United Nations in the General Assembly.

149. The PRESIDENT: The point of order raised by the Soviet delegation will be duly recorded in the proceedings of this meeting.

150. We now proceed to paragraph 21 of the report of the General Committee in which it merely informs the General Assembly that it took note of the suggestions made by the Secretary-General regarding the grouping of related items under a single heading and the staggering of more items over two or more years.

151. We turn now to the agenda which the General Committee recommends for adoption by the General Assembly. In accordance with past practice, we shall follow the numbering given in paragraph 22 of the report and consider together several items in groups, where that seems appropriate. I should like to remind representatives once again that at present we are not discussing the substance of any item, except where such discussion could assist the Assembly in deciding whether or not to include an item in the agenda.

152. Items 1 to 6 have already been acted upon in the three preceding plenary meetings; therefore their inclusion has been approved.

153. We come now to items 7 to 19. I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to include those items in the agenda?

*It was so decided.*

154. The PRESIDENT: Item 20 is entitled "The situation in Kampuchea: report of the Secretary-General". May I take it that the Assembly agrees to its inclusion in the agenda?

*It was so decided.*

155. The PRESIDENT: We now turn to items 21 to 24. May I take it that the Assembly decides to include them in the agenda?

*It was so decided.*

156. The PRESIDENT: We turn next to item 25, entitled "The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security: report of the Secretary-General".

157. Mr. ZARIF (Afghanistan): Mr. President, the head of my delegation will have occasion during the general debate to express his and our delegation's congratulations to you on your unanimous election to the high office of President of the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

158. It will be recalled that the delegation of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, in a statement delivered before the General Committee on 22 September, explained its position of principle on the inclusion of item 25 in the agenda of the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly. I merely wish to reaffirm that position and place it on record.

159. Mr. TROYANOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (*interpretation from Russian*): The delegation of the Soviet Union supports the objection of the representative of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan to the inclusion in the agenda of this session of the General Assembly of the so-called question of Afghanistan, and reaffirms its position in this connection as stated in the General Committee.

160. Mr. KHAN (Pakistan): We have heard certain objections to the recommendation of the General Committee that the item on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security should be included in the agenda of the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly. Such objections have no bearing on either the procedural or the substantive aspects of the question before us or the circumstances of the situation in Afghanistan which demand its consideration by the General Assembly. The item on the situation in Afghanistan was included

in the provisional agenda of this session in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 36/34, adopted last year with the support of 116 Member States. In that resolution and in resolutions ES-6/2 and 35/37 the General Assembly addressed itself repeatedly to a grave violation of the principles of the Charter resulting from the situation in Afghanistan, which continues to pose a serious threat not only to the region's stability but also to international peace and security.

161. The political gravity of the situation is compounded by a vast and growing humanitarian problem in the shape of millions of Afghan refugees, which remains a matter of constant concern for the United Nations and its various subsidiary organs. It is imperative that the General Assembly consider this grave situation until it is resolved in accordance with the decisions of the General Assembly, decisions which require first and foremost the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan, respect for sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and the non-aligned status of the country and the voluntary return of the Afghan refugees to their homes.

162. My delegation therefore strongly supports the inclusion of the item in the agenda of the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

163. Mr. LING Qing (China) (*translation from Chinese*): The head of the Chinese delegation will on a later occasion formally express his congratulations to you, Sir, but allow me now to congratulate you on your unanimous election to the presidency of the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

164. The General Assembly, at its sixth emergency special session, as well as at its thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions, adopted resolutions calling for the immediate withdrawal of foreign troops, the maintenance of the independent, sovereign and non-aligned status of Afghanistan and respect for the Afghan people's right to self-determination. Over the past three years, however, the resolutions of the United Nations have not been implemented and the foreign troops in Afghanistan have refused to withdraw.

165. The Chinese delegation supports the statement by the representative of Pakistan. In order to defend the basic principles of the Charter and preserve international peace and security, the Chinese delegation is strongly in favour of the inclusion in the agenda of the item on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security.

166. The PRESIDENT: May I consider that items 25 to 29 are included in the agenda?

*It was so decided.*

167. The PRESIDENT: We come now to item 30. Taking into account the report of the General Committee and the statement made in that Committee, may I take it that item 30 is included in the agenda?

*It was so decided.*

168. The PRESIDENT: We come now to the question of the inclusion of items 31 to 68. May I take it that those items are included in the agenda?

*It was so decided.*

169. The PRESIDENT: We now turn to the question of the inclusion of item 69, entitled "Question of the



Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India". Taking into account the report of the General Committee and the statements made in that Committee, may I take it that item 69 is included in the agenda?

*It was so decided.*

170. The PRESIDENT: We turn now to items 70 to 96. May I take it those items are included in the agenda?

*It was so decided.*

171. The PRESIDENT: We now come to item 97, on the question of East Timor.

172. Mr. MAUNA (Indonesia): My delegation wishes to remind the Assembly that East Timor became an integral part of the Republic of Indonesia in 1976, when the process of the decolonization of that Territory was completed following the free and democratic exercise of the right of its people to self-determination and independence through integration with the Republic of Indonesia.

173. As we stated in the General Committee meeting on 22 September 1982, my delegation strongly opposes the inclusion of item 97, entitled "Question of East Timor" in the agenda of the General Assembly, since such inclusion would constitute unwarranted interference in Indonesia's internal affairs and is contrary to Article 2, paragraph 7, of the Charter of the United Nations.

174. Mr. NATUMAN (Vanuatu): First of all, Sir, I should like to extend to you our warmest congratulations on your election to the very important post of President of the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly. When the chairman of our delegation arrives he will elaborate on our congratulations to you.

175. The delegation of Vanuatu requested to speak today concerning the question of East Timor on instructions from its Government to underscore our firm commitment to the principle of self-determination and independence for all colonized peoples.

176. Vanuatu is a country of the South Pacific region and we have strong bonds of friendship and solidarity with our brothers and sisters of East Timor. When the Portuguese colonial Government was withdrawn in 1974 and East Timor was promised independence we, the people of the then New Hebrides, were looking forward to the birth of a new Melanesian State of East Timor. The people of East Timor are Melanesians, as are we, and we follow their struggle for independence with great admiration and respect.

177. Indonesia invaded East Timor on 7 December 1975 and colonized the Territory by force of arms. The people of East Timor were therefore denied their right of self-determination and independence. No valid act of self-determination under United Nations supervision took place there. Indonesia is incapable of producing any evidence to show that the so-called People's Assembly was freely elected; on the contrary, it was imposed by Indonesia by force of arms. Therefore, we firmly reject the argument that the people of East Timor have already exercised their right to self-determination and independence, and fully

support the inclusion of item 97 in the agenda of the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

178. Mr. MASHINGAIDZE (Zimbabwe): I should like to take this opportunity of congratulating you, Sir, on your election to the presidency of the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

179. The delegation of Zimbabwe asked to speak on this item because we are appalled by the attempts by the Government of Indonesia, with the support of certain countries, to delete the question of East Timor from the agenda.

180. In May 1976 a puppet assembly of hand-picked people met for three hours and had only one item on the agenda, the integration of East Timor with Indonesia. Was the United Nations, it may be asked, involved in this farce? Fortunately, it was not. The then Chairman of the Special Committee, Mr. Salim A. Salim of the United Republic of Tanzania, rightly rejected Indonesia's invitation to get the Special Committee to rubber-stamp the so-called People's Assembly.

181. Indonesia claims that the people of East Timor voted recently in Indonesia's general elections and managed to get four representatives into the Indonesian Parliament. Elections in Indonesia, free and democratic though they may be, are not the concern of the people of East Timor and cannot be a substitute for the right of self-determination and independence of the people of East Timor.

182. The Zimbabwean delegation wishes to make its position very clear. We fully support the inclusion of the question of East Timor in the agenda of the current session because East Timor remains a question of decolonization, and it is the responsibility of the international community to see to it that acts of aggression are not rewarded.

183. Mr. MURARGY (Mozambique): Our Foreign Minister and head of our delegation will have the opportunity to congratulate you, Sir, on your election to the presidency of the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

184. The People's Republic of Mozambique has been consistent in its position on the question of East Timor. We fully support the inclusion of item 97 in the current agenda.

185. The PRESIDENT: May I take it that item 97 is included in the agenda?

*It was so decided.*

186. Mr. MEDINA (Portugal) (*interpretation from French*): Allow me first, Sir, to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election to the presidency of the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly. Our good wishes will be expressed officially by the Prime Minister of Portugal when he speaks in the general debate.

187. The decision taken by the Assembly concerning the inclusion of item 97 shows that the Organization is committed to pursue tirelessly the implementation of the principle of the self-determination of peoples. This gives us ground for hope that the situation of the people of East Timor will not fail to be examined in the light of the criteria which have been the basis of

the independence and full sovereignty of so many Members of the Organization.

188. Furthermore, the decision of the Assembly is in accordance with the position which my Government has so often reaffirmed in this body, because the situation in East Timor is a cause of just concern to the international community. It is incumbent upon the supreme organs of the Organization to tackle the problem and to find a valid solution based on the rights of the peoples and the principles of the Charter.

189. Portugal, as the administering Power in East Timor recognized by the Organization, will spare no effort to co-operate with it to protect the national rights and the integrity of East Timor, in accordance with the spirit of the Charter and with the resolutions of the Assembly.

190. Mr. SREENIVASAN (India): As in previous years, my delegation would like to record its reservation on the inclusion of item 97, the question of East Timor, in the agenda of this session of the General Assembly.

191. The PRESIDENT: We come now to items 98 to 134 inclusive. May I take it that those items are included in the agenda?

*It was so decided.*

192. The PRESIDENT: We now turn to item 135, entitled "Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)" or, in Spanish, "Cuestión de las Islas Malvinas (Falkland)". May I take it that item 135 is included in the agenda?

*It was so decided.*

193. The PRESIDENT: May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to include items 136 and 137 in the agenda?

*It was so decided.*

194. The PRESIDENT: We now turn to the question of the allocation of items, dealt with in section IV of the report. In this connection the General Committee, in paragraph 23, draws the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 4 of its decision 34/401, which states that:

"Substantive items should normally be discussed initially in a Main Committee and, therefore, items previously allocated to plenary meetings should henceforth be referred to a Main Committee unless there are compelling circumstances requiring their continued consideration in plenary meeting."

195. The modifications indicated in paragraph 24 are reflected in the proposed allocation. We shall therefore consider them when we come to the relevant items under paragraph 25.

196. I invite members to turn to the list of items recommended for consideration in plenary meetings. May I take it that that allocation is approved by the General Assembly?

197. I call on the representative of the United Kingdom, who wishes to make a statement in connection with the allocation of agenda item 135.

198. Sir John THOMSON (United Kingdom): Mr. President, on my own behalf and on behalf of my delegation, may I offer you sincere congratulations on

your election to high office—congratulations which I know my head of delegation will also wish to express when he speaks later, in the general debate.

199. It is my understanding that in the case of agenda items considered directly in plenary meetings, the normal practice, in accordance with precedent, is for bodies and individuals having an interest in an item to be heard in the appropriate Committee in conjunction with the consideration of the item in plenary meeting.

200. In the case of item 135, on the Falkland Islands, the appropriate Committee is the Fourth Committee. I accordingly propose the addition of the following words to the paragraph on agenda item 135—paragraph 24, sub-paragraph (vii):

"...on the understanding that bodies and individuals having an interest in the question would be heard in the Fourth Committee in conjunction with the consideration of the item in plenary meeting."

201. The PRESIDENT: I understand that the representative of Venezuela would also like to speak in this connection. I now call on her.

202. Mrs. RODRIGUEZ (Venezuela) (*interpretation from Spanish*): The Venezuelan delegation has read the report of the General Committee attentively. The recommendation to include the question of the Malvinas Islands in the agenda of the present session of the General Assembly was adopted without any additions such as the one now suggested by the representative of the United Kingdom.

203. Therefore, and so as not to reopen the debate, which would lead us into a lengthy exchange of views, the delegation of Venezuela considers that the inclusion of the item on the question of the Malvinas Islands should be approved in the form in which it was presented in the General Committee's report. That form very clearly reflects the desires of 20 countries of the Latin American region, as expressed in the letter dated 16 August 1982 addressed to the Secretary-General [*see A/37/193*] and signed by the Foreign Ministers of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

204. Mr. ALBORNOZ (Ecuador) (*interpretation from Spanish*): I support what the representative of Venezuela has just said. We have seen this morning the complex procedures, the numerous statements and the votes required to modify an item approved and submitted by the General Committee; these would only be magnified in the case of an item approved in plenary meeting. Therefore, as it has been approved in plenary meeting in the form requested by 20 Latin American Member States through their Foreign Ministers, this item should remain as it appears in document A/37/250.

205. Mr. GONZÁLEZ CÉSAR (Mexico) (*interpretation from Spanish*): My delegation had the honour and the privilege of requesting the inclusion in the agenda of the item on the question of the Malvinas Islands on behalf of a group of 20 Latin American Foreign Ministers; this has now been decided on, and my delegation considers that any change at this time could give rise to unnecessary debate on the substance



of the question. For that reason we consider that it should appear on the agenda in the form recommended by the General Committee.

206. Mrs. CASTRO de BARISH (Costa Rica) (*interpretation from Spanish*): I wish cordially to congratulate you, Sir, on your election as President of the General Assembly at this thirty-seventh session; in due course, my Foreign Minister will do this more fully.

207. At this time I should like to add my voice to those of my colleagues who spoke before me, the representatives of Venezuela, Ecuador and Mexico. Costa Rica is one of the signatories of the request for the inclusion of this item in the agenda, and we therefore wish it to remain in its present form.

208. Mr. ORTEZ COLÍNDRES (Honduras) (*interpretation from Spanish*): It is a matter of great satisfaction for my delegation, Mr. President, to congratulate you most warmly on your election by this forum, which is unique in the world.

209. I am new to the Assembly and my brief statements are almost always motivated by good will. However, the representative of the United Kingdom has requested a change in agenda item 135 on the question of the Malvinas Islands, which is included in the report before us. It seems to me that to make such a change would be stirring up a hornets' nest; we—20 Latin American countries—specifically requested on the ministerial level that this question be considered in depth, and the change would relegate this important item to secondary committees. Therefore, with all due respect, the delegation of Honduras agrees with the four Latin American representatives who have just expressed their view that this item should remain precisely as worded in the document before us.

210. Mr. BAYONA (Peru) (*interpretation from Spanish*): In due course, Mr. President, the head of the Peruvian delegation will congratulate you on your election to your lofty post.

211. The delegation of Peru considers that the proposal made by the representative of Venezuela, supported by other delegations which have spoken, is the most appropriate one. Since the General Committee decided without difficulty to recommend the inclusion of the item on the Malvinas Islands as it appears in document A/37/250, we feel that it is unnecessary to reopen a debate on the subject.

212. Sir John THOMSON (United Kingdom): I think perhaps it would be useful if I clarified what my proposal was. I have heard several representatives say that we should not reopen a proposal, a decision, on an item. I am not proposing to alter the item. The title of the item remains, in the belief of my delegation, what it was at the end of the discussion in the General Committee, namely, as set out in document A/37/250, "Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)" in English, and otherwise in Spanish.

213. What I am proposing is no amendment to the title. It is only an amendment to accord with normal United Nations practice regarding the way in which the item is considered under the heading of allocation of items. I repeat that my proposal is that it should be considered directly in plenary meeting, with the addition of the words:

"... on the understanding that bodies and individuals having an interest in the question would be heard in the Fourth Committee in conjunction with the consideration of the item in plenary meeting."

214. That is in complete accord with the General Assembly's consistent practice in the past. It is also in accord with what the General Assembly, I believe, has just been deciding in connection with agenda item 32, on the question of Namibia, where virtually identical wording appears; agenda item 33, on the policies of *apartheid* of the Government of South Africa, where, again, virtually identical wording appears; and agenda item 37, on the question of Cyprus, where, once again, virtually identical wording appears.

215. Thus, my delegation takes its stand on the simple grounds of justice and fair dealing as embodied in the consistent practice of the General Assembly itself. I hope that it is clearly understood that we are not, as one or two delegations seem to have thought, trying to reopen a question. We are simply taking up the idea which the representative of Honduras mentioned a few moments ago, namely, that the item should be considered in depth or, in other words, that it should, as originally agreed, be considered in plenary meeting and that those representatives of bodies and, indeed, those individuals, with an interest should be heard in the Fourth Committee in conjunction with the discussion in plenary meeting.

216. Mr. MARTÍNEZ (Panama) (*interpretation from Spanish*): I speak solely and exclusively to state, on behalf of my delegation, that we are in accord with what our Latin American colleagues have said, in particular with what was said by our colleague from Venezuela, namely, that agenda item 135, on the question of the Malvinas, should remain as approved in the first report of the General Committee.

217. Mr. MONTENI (Argentina) (*interpretation from Spanish*): My delegation wishes to express its gratitude to the Latin American delegations who have spoken out on this question, and we support their point of view. We believe that the British delegation, rather than clarifying matters, has attempted to confuse the debate.

218. For example, we note that under agenda items 32 and 33, the General Committee expressly decided and proposed—and the Assembly approved—to grant an opportunity for petitioners representing the organizations concerned to come before the Fourth Committee or before the Special Political Committee. However, the General Committee took no similar decision with regard to the Malvinas Islands.

219. The question, which is being treated as something rather simple, has in fact an important content. The British delegation is attempting to confuse matters before the General Assembly. The situation of the victims of *apartheid*, for example, or the victims of the situation in Namibia, cannot be compared with the situation prevailing on the Malvinas Islands. There is a whole complex of background factors present in the case of agenda items 32 and 33.

220. The United Kingdom is a member of the General Committee and he had an opportunity to present this matter in that Committee. However, the representa-

tive of the United Kingdom did not do so. The hour is late, and my delegation does not believe that we should now amend the decision adopted by the General Committee.

221. Mr. JOSEPH (Australia): I guess it is fair to say that my delegation did not want to get into this debate, but frankly, we think that in the interests of fairness and equity we must. I hope that I am not striking a jarring note; such is certainly not my intention. We know very well what a sensitive issue this agenda item is for the Latin American delegations and the Latin American Foreign Ministers who promoted it in the General Committee and, of course, are now promoting it in the General Assembly.

222. As I understand it, no one is denying the inclusion of the item on the Falklands (Malvinas). I also understand that no one is denying that it should be considered in plenary meeting. There is a problem, however, and that is the problem that petitioners and individuals are, by practice or convention, not able to appear here in plenary meeting. It is for that reason that the General Assembly has in the past devised the practice whereby petitioners and individuals who wish to have their views taken into account may appear before the relevant General Assembly committee. It seems to me that that is precisely what the British delegation is proposing today, and we support it. We support it because it is normal practice. It does, if you will, bear on the question of freedom of speech, and we frankly think it would be untoward to deny in regard to this item and on this occasion what has been an essential position adopted in the Assembly in the past.

223. We do, therefore, support the British amendment. We think that the amendment is procedural, and we hope that the Assembly agrees to it.

224. Mrs. GUELMAN (Uruguay) (*interpretation from Spanish*): The delegation of Uruguay wishes to support the delegations of Venezuela, Ecuador, Costa Rica and Honduras in their position that this paragraph of the report of the General Committee remain unaltered.

225. The PRESIDENT: The Assembly is faced with the following situation: the report of the General Committee does not contain what the representative of the United Kingdom has suggested at this particular juncture with regard to discussion of this issue. At the same time, the representative of the United Kingdom has asked for a vote on his proposed amendment. We must now vote on the amendment proposed by the United Kingdom, and in order to clarify the matter, I shall read out the text that has been proposed.

226. The text, as amended, would read as follows:

“The General Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item should be considered directly in plenary meeting.”

The representative of the United Kingdom has proposed adding the following:

“... on the understanding that bodies and individuals having an interest in the question would be heard in the Fourth Committee in conjunction with consideration of the item in plenary meeting.”

I think I am interpreting correctly the intention of the proposed amendment and the desire of delegations present.

227. A recorded vote has been requested.

*A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:* Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Bhutan, Botswana, Canada, Denmark, Fiji, France, Gambia, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Liberia, Luxembourg, Maldives, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Portugal, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, United States of America, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against:* Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Grenada, Honduras, Hungary, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Poland, Spain, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam.

*Abstaining:* Bangladesh, Burma, Congo, Cyprus, Gabon, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Philippines, Swaziland, Thailand, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Vanuatu, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

*The amendment proposed by the United Kingdom was adopted by 41 votes to 33, with 24 abstentions.<sup>3</sup>*

228. The PRESIDENT: The proposal of the United Kingdom has been adopted and the understanding formulated by the United Kingdom delegation in its proposal will therefore be reflected in the record.

229. With regard to item 8 of the agenda, I call the Assembly's attention to the recommendation of the General Committee in paragraph 24 (a) (i) that sub-item (b), “Subsidiary organs of the General Assembly”, should be allocated to the Fifth Committee with the suggestion that it be considered within the framework of agenda item 108, on the pattern of conferences. May I take it that the General Assembly approves that recommendation?

*It was so decided.*

230. The PRESIDENT: Regarding agenda item 18, the General Committee recommends in paragraph 24 (a) (ii) that the Assembly should refer to the Fourth Committee all the chapters of the report of the Special Committee relating to specific Territories so that the General Assembly may deal in plenary meeting with the question of the implementation of the Declaration as a whole. May I take it that the General Assembly approves that recommendation?

*It was so decided.*

231. The PRESIDENT: We turn now to the recommendation of the General Committee on the allocation of agenda item 32, on the question of Namibia. The recommendation appears in paragraph 24 (a) (iii).



May I take it that the General Assembly approves that recommendation?

*It was so decided.*

232. The PRESIDENT: I now invite members to turn their attention to agenda item 33, on the policies of *apartheid* of the Government of South Africa. In this connection, as stated in paragraph 24 (a) (iv), the General Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item should be considered directly in plenary meeting on the understanding that the representatives of the Organization of African Unity and of national liberation movements recognized by that organization would be permitted to participate in the discussion in plenary meeting and that organizations and individuals having a special interest in the question would be permitted to be heard by the Special Political Committee; and also to recommend that the General Assembly should devote a special meeting, on 5 November 1982, to the International Year of Mobilization for Sanctions against South Africa. May I take it that the General Assembly takes note of that decision and approves the recommendation of the General Committee?

*It was so decided.*

233. The PRESIDENT: I now invite the Assembly to turn its attention to paragraph 24 (a) (v) regarding the question of Cyprus, in which the General Committee recommends that the General Assembly should defer a decision on the allocation of the item to an appropriate time in the future. May I take it that the General Assembly approves that recommendation?

*It was so decided.*

234. The PRESIDENT: May I now take it that the General Assembly approves the allocation of the other items listed for consideration directly in plenary meeting?

*It was so decided.*

235. The PRESIDENT: We turn now to the list of items which the General Committee has recommended for allocation to the First Committee.

236. Regarding item 17 on the list, concerning general and complete disarmament, the General Committee recommends in paragraph 24 (b) (i) that the relevant paragraphs of the annual report of IAEA, which is to be considered directly in plenary meeting under agenda item 14, should be drawn to the attention of the First Committee in connection with its consideration of agenda item 55. May I take it that the Assembly approves that recommendation?

*It was so decided.*

237. The PRESIDENT: Regarding item 23 on the list, on the relationship between disarmament and development, the General Committee, in paragraph 24 (b) (ii), recommends that the item should be allocated to the First Committee on the understanding that the development aspects of the question would be brought to the attention of the Second Committee in connection with its consideration of item 71, on development and international economic co-operation. May I take it that the Assembly approves this recommendation?

*It was so decided.*

238. The PRESIDENT: May I consider that the General Assembly approves the recommendation concerning the other items proposed for allocation to the First Committee?

*It was so decided.*

239. The PRESIDENT: We come now to the items which the General Committee recommended for allocation to the Special Political Committee. May I consider that the General Assembly approves the proposed allocation of items to the Special Political Committee?

*It was so decided.*

240. The PRESIDENT: We turn now to the list of items the General Committee has recommended for allocation to the Second Committee.

241. Regarding agenda item 71 (k), "Effective mobilization and integration of women in development: report of the Secretary-General", the General Committee recommends in paragraph 24 (d) (i) that documents concerning the integration of women in development should be made available to the Third Committee under item 91. May I take it that the Assembly approves that recommendation?

*It was so decided.*

242. The PRESIDENT: May I take it that the General Assembly approves the recommendation concerning the other items proposed for allocation to the Second Committee?

*It was so decided.*

243. The PRESIDENT: We come now to the items proposed for allocation to the Third Committee. May I take it that the General Assembly approves that proposed allocation?

*It was so decided.*

244. The PRESIDENT: Are there any comments on the proposed allocation of items to the Fourth Committee? I take it that the Assembly approves that proposed allocation.

*It was so decided.*

245. The PRESIDENT: We turn now to the list of items recommended for allocation to the Fifth Committee.

246. With regard to item 3 on the list, concerning programme planning, the General Committee, in paragraph 24 (e) (i), recommends that each chapter of the proposed medium-term plan should be submitted to the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly before the plan as a whole is adopted by the Assembly in plenary meeting. May I take it that the General Assembly adopts that recommendation?

*It was so decided.*

247. The PRESIDENT: Regarding item 6 on the list, entitled "Joint Inspection Unit: reports of the Joint Inspection Unit", the General Committee recommends in paragraph 24 (e) (ii) that the item should be allocated to the Fifth Committee with the understanding that the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit dealing with subject matters assigned to other Main Committees would also be referred to those Committees. May I take it that the General Assembly adopts that recommendation and approves the recommendation

concerning the other items proposed for allocation to the Fifth Committee?

*It was so decided.*

248. The PRESIDENT: We come now to the list of items proposed for allocation to the Sixth Committee. May I take it that the General Assembly approves that proposed allocation?

*It was so decided.*

249. The PRESIDENT: The General Assembly has thus adopted the agenda and the allocation of agenda items for the thirty-seventh session (*decision 37/402*).

250. I wish to thank the members of the Assembly for their co-operation, which has made it possible for us to complete our task, which was not easy. I very much appreciate their co-operation.

251. Each Main Committee will receive promptly the list of agenda items allocated to it so that it may begin its work as soon as possible, in accordance with rule 99 of the rules of procedure.

*The meeting rose at 2.05 p.m.*

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NOTES

<sup>1</sup> See A/2428.

<sup>2</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23*, chap. I, para. 87.

<sup>3</sup> The delegations of Italy and Samoa subsequently informed the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour of the amendment; the delegation of Colombia that it had intended to vote against it.