

**WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE****ROME, 5-16 November 1974**Distr.  
GENERALE/CONF.65/17  
14 November 1974

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Item 6 (b) of the Agenda

CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE CONFERENCE  
REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

1. At its First plenary meeting, held on 5 November 1974, the Conference, in accordance with Rule 4 of the Rules of Procedure, appointed a Credentials Committee composed of the following states: Belgium, Costa Rica, Philippines, Senegal, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Venezuela and Zambia.
2. The Credentials Committee met on 9, 12, 13 and 14 November 1974. In connection with the election of its Chairman, the Committee noted that Rule 4 of the Rules of Procedure provided that its composition "shall be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session". At the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly, the Philippines had been elected Chairman of the Credentials Committee and the question arose as to whether the Chairmanship of the Credentials Committee of the World Food Conference should be the same as that of the General Assembly, or whether this was a matter to be decided at the Conference itself. In this connection the representative of Senegal regretted that Rule 4 was open to different interpretations and expressed the view that at future United Nations conferences the corresponding rule should be more clearly drafted.
3. The representatives of Senegal and the United Republic of Tanzania stressed that the election of a chairman different from the chairman of the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly could under no circumstances, as far as the African group was concerned, be interpreted as reflecting dissatisfaction with the way in which the Philippines chaired the Credentials Committee of the current General Assembly. On the contrary, the African states deeply appreciated the efforts of the Philippines in the struggle against colonialism and apartheid.

4. The representative of the Philippines stated that the principal reason for which he had not withdrawn the availability of the Philippines as a possible chairman of the Credentials Committee of the Conference was that he feared that to do so might reflect adversely on the chairmanship of the Philippines at the General Assembly. However, the statements made by the representatives of Senegal and the United Republic of Tanzania had dispelled his fears, and his support of the chairmanship of Zambia was motivated by his country's solidarity with the African countries in their efforts to combat colonialism and apartheid.

5. Having been nominated by the representative of the Philippines, The Hon. P.J.F. Lusaka M.P., Minister for Rural Development of the Republic of Zambia, was unanimously elected chairman.

6. The representative of Zambia expressed his appreciation of the understanding shown by the representative of the Philippines and associated himself with the statements made by the representatives of Senegal and the United Republic of Tanzania.

7. The Committee was informed that as of 14 November 1974 credentials issued by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs had been submitted, as provided for in Rule 3, of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, by all participating States except 16. Of those 16 States:

- a) the representatives of one State were designated in a note verbale from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs;
- b) the representatives of three States were designated by their government authorities other than the authorities specified in Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure;
- c) the representatives of five States were designated in letters or notes verbales from their Embassies in Rome;
- d) the representatives of two States were communicated in the form of cables;

- e) five States which were present at the Conference had not submitted credentials to the Secretary-General of the Conference.

8. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics expressed the view that the unilateral invitation of the representative of the Saigon administration to participate in the Conference is inconsistent with the Paris agreements, which demonstrates a discrimination against the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam and is contrary to the spirit of the Conference. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics emphasised that the fact that the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam had not been invited to the Conference has prevented the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam from participating in the Conference which inflicts damage on the universal character of this important forum.

The Committee was informed that the Democratic Republic of Vietnam had been invited to participate in the Conference.

9. The representative of the United Republic of Tanzania noted that the Khmer people were represented by the government of Lon Nol. He considered that it was The Royal Government of Prince Sihanouk which should speak on behalf of the Khmer people. In this connection the Committee was informed that the question of the representation of the Khmer people was before the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly which was the competent United Nations organ to consider such matters.

10. The representative of the United Republic of Tanzania also noted with regret that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea did not appear to be represented at the Conference. He was informed that that Government had been invited to participate in the Conference but had not sent representatives.

11. The representatives of Senegal and Zambia stated that, in view of its humanitarian objectives, political consideration should not come into play when determining who should be invited to participate in the Conference. They

regretted that many peoples who were struggling for their independence were inadequately represented at the Conference.

12. The representative of the United States of America stated that political considerations had not been taken into account when the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations adopted Resolution 1840 (LVI) specifying who was to be invited to the Conference. In fact this Resolution contained the "all states" clause which was to be interpreted in the light of General Assembly practice regarding representation and if any doubts arose the Secretary-General of the United Nations had been instructed to seek guidance from the General Assembly.

13. The Committee noted that all but seventeen States participating in the Conference had submitted credentials that were in conformity with Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure. In view of the short duration of the Conference and the difficulties which some delegations had had in communicating with their governments, the Committee decided to recommend that the Conference accept provisionally the communications referred to in paragraph 7, sub-paragraphs a, b, c and d, on the understanding that the States concerned would submit credentials in the proper form as soon as possible. As to the representatives of the States referred to in paragraph 7, sub-paragraph e, the Committee proposed that they participate provisionally in the Conference in accordance with Rule 5 of the Rules of Procedure. The Committee noted that in most instances assurances had been given that full credentials would be transmitted as soon as possible.

14. In the light of its discussions the Committee adopted the following resolution, it being understood that the views expressed during the Committee's debate would be included in the report.

The Credentials Committee

Having examined the credentials of the representatives of all States participating in the World Food Conference,

Noting the views expressed during its debate,

Recommends that the Conference:

- (i) accept the credentials of representatives submitted in accordance with Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure; and
- (ii) accept provisionally the credentials of representatives which are not in the form prescribed in Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure on the understanding that credentials in due form will be submitted as soon as possible by the State concerned.

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics reserved his Government's position with respect to the Resolution.

15. The Conference may wish to consider the recommendations submitted to it by the Committee in the Resolution which appears in paragraph 14 above.