

United Nations

Nations Unies

MASTER FILE

GENERAL
ASSEMBLY

ASSEMBLEE
GENERALE

RESTRICTED

A/C.3/SC.2/SR.1
3 November 1948

ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

Dual Distribution

Third Session

THIRD COMMITTEE

SUB-COMMITTEE 2

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIRST MEETING

Held at the Palais de Chaillot, Paris,
on Tuesday, 2 November 1948, at 10.30 a.m.

CONTENTS:

1. Election of Officers;
2. Palestinian Refugees: Part III of the Progress Report of the
United Nations Mediator for Palestine: Assistance to Refugees
(A/648, A/689, A/689/Add.1, A/689/Corr.1, A/C.3/315, A/C.3/316,
A/C.3/317, A/C.3/318).

<u>Acting Chairman:</u>	Mr. Charles MALIK	Lebanon
<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. de BEAUMONT	France
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. PEREZ CISNEROS	Cuba

Any corrections of this record should be submitted in writing in either of the working languages (English or French), and within two working days, to Mr. E. Delavenay, Director, Official Records Division, Room 3015, Palais de Chaillot. Corrections should be accompanied by or incorporated in a letter, on headed notepaper, bearing the appropriate symbol number and enclosed in an envelope marked "Urgent". Corrections can be dealt with more speedily by the services concerned if delegations will be good enough also to incorporate them in a mimeographed copy of the record.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. WARREN (United States of America) proposed the representative of France as Chairman of the Sub-Committee. His delegation had shown a very lively interest in those problems, and the French representative had taken the lead in suggesting the setting-up of the Sub-Committee.

Mr. DEHOUSSE (Belgium) seconded the United States proposal.

Mr. GRUMBACH (France) thanked the United States representative. He wished to make it clear that, having regard to his numerous duties, it would unfortunately be impossible, if he were elected Chairman, to be present at all meetings, and he asked the Sub-Committee to be good enough to consider Mr. de Beaumont as de facto Chairman.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN declared the French representative unanimously elected Chairman.

Mr. PLAZA (Venezuela) proposed the representative of Cuba as Rapporteur.

Mr. DEHOUSSE (Belgium) regretted that the practice had not been followed, which seemed to be customary in sub-committees; the practice by which the Chairman also undertook the duties of Rapporteur.

ANDRAUS Bey (Egypt) and Mr. ANZE-MATIENZO (Bolivia) supported the candidature of the Cuban representative.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN declared the Cuban representative unanimously elected Rapporteur.

The CHAIRMAN thanked the Members of the Sub-Committee for the honour done to his country.

PALESTINIAN REFUGEES: PART III OF THE PROGRESS REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS MEDIATOR FOR PALESTINE: ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES (A/648, A/689, A/689/Add.1, A/689/Corr.1, A/C.3/315, A/C.3/316, A/C.3/317, A/C.3/318)

The CHAIRMAN recalled that the Third Committee had reached unanimity on the substance of the matter, namely, the need for sending help quickly to the Palestine refugees. There had only been divergences of

/view on

view on questions of procedure and the organization of relief; and the main concern of the Sub-Committee should be to obtain practical results quickly.

The terms of reference of the Sub-Committee already offered a rough working plan: the proposals which had been submitted might first be examined, after which the views of the Secretary-General on the administrative aspects of the matter might be heard. It was not, however, essential to follow the terms of reference, and the members of the Sub-Committee were quite at liberty to suggest another procedure.

Mr. ANZE-MATIENZO (Bolivia) thought that, although it was more usual to follow the order indicated in terms of reference, it would nevertheless be interesting first to hear the Secretary-General's views. That would enable concrete results to be obtained more quickly, because all were agreed on the substance of the matter and it was, in short, only a question of settling the details for carrying out operations.

Mr. WARREN (United States of America) supported the Bolivian representative's suggestion.

The CHAIRMAN considered that method of procedure to be preferable, because it would enable the question of the practical application of the relief programme to be broached immediately. There being no opposition, he declared that procedure adopted.

Mr. HILL (Secretariat) expressed his regret to the members of the Sub-Committee that the summary records of the Third Committee's meetings, held on 29 and 30 October, were not yet available, because of the holiday on 1 November. The summary records in both languages would be at their disposal that evening.

Mr. Hill recalled the position taken up by the Secretary-General at the Third Committee's meeting the previous Saturday. He was fully aware of the extremely urgent necessity to send help to the Palestinian refugees, whose situation was becoming desperate, and he was fully prepared to collaborate in relief work to the best of his ability. On the other hand, he was of the opinion that the Secretariat should not be asked to undertake responsibilities, which it was not in a position to assume, such as the distribution of relief. The Secretary-General had expressed the opinion that the work of implementation in connexion with all important practical tasks undertaken by the United Nations should

/be entrusted

be entrusted to the specialized agencies or international organizations. As regards responsibility for the relief of Palestinian refugees, the Secretary-General had twice begun conversations with the International Refugee Organization; but those approaches had brought only negative results. The IRO agreed to assist in carrying out the proposed operations, but refused to undertake their direction. He had therefore approached two important non-governmental organizations, which had a long experience of that kind of activity. The conversations, which had been undertaken on his behalf by Mr. Katzin, had produced very encouraging results, and appeared to provide the basis for an acceptable plan of action.

Mr. WARREN (United States of America) had understood that the Secretary-General had certain misgivings about the duties of implementation generally. It now seemed, according to Mr. Hill's statement, that he had misgivings above all about the distribution of relief. Those were two different things, in the sense that the distribution of relief was only one aspect, it might be the most important, of the duties of implementation. He wished it could be stated more clearly what activities the Secretary-General did not consider himself in a position to undertake.

ANDRAUS Bey (Egypt) thought it was advisable first to settle the duties the Secretary-General was agreeable to undertake and those which he did not wish to be assigned to him.

Mr. GRUMBACH (France) asked the members of the Sub-Committee not to engage in a preliminary discussion. It had been decided to hear the representative of the Secretary-General. The question raised by the United States representative was fundamental: if the Secretary-General's representative did not answer it in his statement, it would still be possible to ask him questions.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that, in the first place, the statement of the Secretary-General's representative should be heard. If that statement did not clarify all aspects of the problem, the members of the Sub-Committee would still be able to ask questions.

Mr. KATZIN (Secretariat) wished, in the first place, to acquaint the Sub-Committee with the broad outlines of the plan prepared by the Secretariat, which, he expected, would be communicated to the Sub-Committee the following day.

Mr. Katzin then told the Sub-Committee of the approaches made by the Secretariat to the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies. Mr. Katzin had had conversations with those two organizations on 29 October, in order to find out whether the United Nations could count on their co-operation in the event of the Third Committee and the General Assembly approving the Secretariat's plan. The Secretariat had taken that step in order to avoid any delay. The negotiations had been carried out in accordance with General Assembly resolution 55 (I), of 19 November 1946.

The negotiations had made it possible to arrive at a draft agreement which of course would have to be submitted to the General Assembly on one hand, and to the executive bodies of the two organizations concerned, on the other. The latter had been invited to submit the terms of agreement for the approval of their executive bodies at the earliest possible moment. If the proposed plan was accepted, it might be possible to begin implementation within three or four weeks. The Secretariat had approached other organizations which perhaps might take part in the relief work.

Mr. ANZE-MATIGNO (Bolivia) thanked the Secretariat for the information given. Having been presented with the main outline of the

/relief plan,

relief plan, the Sub-Committee could now proceed to an examination of the technical details. The representative of Bolivia thought that, in view of the general agreement of the members of the Sub-Committee regarding the need to solve the problem as soon as possible, the Sub-Committee might begin by setting up the organ for the administration of relief measures, even before determining the technical details of the system.

If the proposal (A/C.3/316) presented by the representative of Bolivia to the Third Committee was accepted, that first task would be facilitated by the subsequent creation of a relief committee which would seek to obtain the advance of \$5,000,000 from the Working Capital Fund, build up resources so as to arrive at the total sum of \$29,500,000 provided in the joint draft resolution (A/C.3/315), and finally plan further means of collecting additional funds as provided in the Bolivian proposal.

Mr. Anze-Matienzo therefore suggested that the Sub-Committee should first consider the creation of that special body, and then study its terms of reference, considering, as it did so, all methods of application. The statement by the representative of the Secretary-General had in fact shown the need first to determine the organs for the distribution of relief, and then to decide the order of settling the different problems.

Mr. GRUMBACH (France) now saw a considerable difference between the joint draft resolution and the Secretary-General's draft. It would be better to wait for the document explaining the Secretary-General's draft and then open a serious debate on the fundamental considerations which might present themselves.

According to the joint draft resolution, the Secretary-General would in fact have full responsibility in the matter; Mr. Katzin, on the other hand, had repeated several times that the General Assembly would appoint the director of relief services. That statement gave rise to a number of questions with regard to the relationship between the director and the States Members, the director's responsibility to the General Assembly and the Secretary-General, and the system of control to be adopted. There were also the questions whether the proposed council would assist the director of the relief services or the Secretary-General, and whether it would act in an advisory or executive capacity. The first decision to be taken should be with regard to the creation of the council itself: without such a decision it would be impossible to determine the responsibilities of either body. If it was decided to create that body, it would also

/be necessary

be necessary to determine its composition. Would it be an inter-governmental council and would it include representatives of specialized agencies and philanthropic societies? What would be its terms of reference, and to what extent would it deal with the distribution of funds and supervise the relief administration? The representative of France hoped to find the answers to those questions in the memorandum to be submitted by the Secretariat.

Furthermore, the Third Committee had transmitted to the Fifth Committee paragraphs 2 and 9 of the joint draft resolution; those paragraphs raised major financial problems. On the basis of the Fifth Committee's report it would be possible to get a clearer idea of the organization of relief and come to a decision. The Fifth Committee would study in detail the purchase and the prices of food-stuffs and various supplies, and would decide what credits were necessary. Only then would it be possible to come to a decision on the different amendments which had been proposed to the joint draft resolution.

In conclusion, Mr. Grumbach thought that it might be possible to begin at once the discussion of the fundamental problems raised by the representative of Bolivia, although it would be useful to have the documents promised by the Secretariat. It would be desirable at once to begin discussion of the question of a relief director, and of the creation of a council.

Mr. DEHOUSSE (Belgium) thought that the Sub-Committee might profitably deal with some general problems before receiving the Secretariat's suggestions in writing. He therefore supported the suggestion made by the representative of Bolivia for a study of the question of the creation of an administrative council to supervise the organization of relief. It was a point separate from the Secretariat plan, and could therefore be decided immediately.

It should also be remembered that the Mediator had stressed the need for the first relief supply to be delivered at latest by 1 December. The Sub-Committee's deliberations would necessarily take some time; the question would still have to be discussed in the Third Committee and then in the plenary meeting of the General Assembly. It was therefore important not to lose time.

In conclusion, the representative of Belgium remarked that, as the Sub-Committee was the first to have been charged with positive and constructive work, it would be well, contrary to usual practice, to have summary records of its proceedings.

/Mr. HILL

Mr. HILL (Secretariat) noted that, in spite of its intensive work during the last few days, the Secretariat had been unable to obtain the Secretary-General's agreement, especially on the details of the plan it was proposing. Consequently, if the Sub-Committee were immediately to begin the discussion of the details of the question, the Secretariat would be unable to give its opinion.

Furthermore, the Secretary-General was not of the opinion that the substance of his proposal went counter to the provisions of the joint draft resolution. The Secretary-General thought that his proposals were entirely compatible with paragraph 7 of the draft resolution. The proposals aimed at a clarification of the respective responsibilities and duties of the various bodies.

Mr. PEREZ CISNEROS (Cuba) agreed with the representative of Belgium regarding the need for summary records of all meetings of the Sub-Committee. Moreover, it was necessary to know what other organizations the Secretary-General had approached, besides those already mentioned.

Mr. DEHOUSSE (Belgium) and Mr. ANZE-MATIENZO (Bolivia) proposed that the Sub-Committee should proceed to a discussion of the general aspects of the problem without waiting for the Secretary-General's memorandum.

The CHAIRMAN understood that, if the proposal was adopted, it would mean that the Sub-Committee would have a meeting in the afternoon of 2 November.

It was so decided by 9 votes to none.

The meeting rose at 1.30 p.m.