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Eighth emergency special session  
Item 3 of the provisional agenda\*

CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE EIGHTH EMERGENCY  
SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

First report of the Credentials Committee

Chairman: Mr. Rodolfo PIZA ESCALANTE (Costa Rica)

1. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 3 September 1981, the General Assembly, in accordance with rule 28 of its rules of procedure, appointed a Credentials Committee for its eighth emergency special session with the same composition as that of the Credentials Committee at the thirty-fifth regular session, namely: Angola, China, Costa Rica, Haiti, Kenya, Singapore, Spain, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and United States of America.
2. The Credentials Committee held its 1st meeting on 3 September 1981.
3. In opening the meeting, the Legal Counsel referred to rule 63 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, according to which the President and Vice-Presidents for emergency special sessions shall be, respectively, the chairmen of those delegations from which were elected the President and the Vice-Presidents of the previous session and suggested that, in accordance with past practice, the said rule could equally be applied to the Chairman of the Credentials Committee.
4. There having been no objection to the above-mentioned suggestion, Mr. Rodolfo Piza Escalante (Costa Rica) took the chair.
5. The Legal Counsel informed the Committee that, as at the time of the meeting, credentials for the eighth emergency special session had been received for the representatives of Guinea, South Africa and Yemen.
6. Statements relating to the credentials of the representatives of South Africa were made by the following members of the Committee: Singapore, United States of

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America, Kenya, China, Spain, Costa Rica, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Haiti.

7. The representative of Singapore stated that it was well known that the members of the Afro-Asian community did not recognize the representative character of the Government of Pretoria. It had been a consistent policy for these States to reject the credentials issued by the South African régime. The Pretoria régime was a unique phenomenon because it had by law systematically excluded its own coloured citizens from participation in the government. The representative of Singapore therefore proposed that the Committee decide to reject the credentials of South Africa.

8. The representative of the United States of America stated that, in the view of his delegation, the question of the nature raised by the representative of Singapore was not properly before the Committee. The credentials of South Africa were submitted in accordance with rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and were in order. There was no basis in fact or in law for denying the validity of the credentials and doing so would be a violation not only of the Committee's mandate but also of the Charter of the United Nations. The United States would vote for the acceptance of the credentials of South Africa.

9. The representative of Kenya stated that he concurred entirely with the statement of the representative of Singapore and that he seconded his proposal. There was no régime in South Africa that could issue acceptable credentials and he would therefore vote to reject the South African credentials.

10. The representative of China stated that he supported the proposal made by Singapore. The credentials of the representatives of South Africa were issued by a racist minority régime which had no right to represent the South African people. Those credentials were therefore not acceptable.

11. The representative of Spain referred to his statement made in the Committee during the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly and reiterated that his Government had consistently expressed its total repudiation of the policies of the South African Government both with regard to apartheid and in respect of Namibia. He stated that, although it would appear that the credentials submitted by South Africa were technically in order, it was not possible for his delegation to ignore the position adopted by the General Assembly with regard to the representation of South Africa in the Assembly. His delegation would abstain if the question were to be put to the vote.

12. The representative of Costa Rica stated that his delegation would abstain in a vote on the credentials of South Africa. Without prejudice to the well-known firm attitude of Costa Rica against the policies of South Africa, his delegation was of the opinion that it was advisable to have the opportunity to hear the accused party and it would also be good for South Africa itself to hear the condemnations by the General Assembly.

13. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that his Government had consistently and firmly condemned the policy of apartheid of the

South African Government as well as its continued illegal occupation of Namibia. The South African policy of apartheid was in violation of the Charter and had been frequently condemned as a crime against humanity. Steps had been taken against South Africa in accordance with Chapter VII of the Charter. The South African régime could not represent the population of South Africa and, if the matter were put to the vote, the Soviet delegation would vote against acceptance of the credentials of South Africa.

14. The representative of Haiti stated that he fully shared the views of the representative of Singapore and supported his proposal. His delegation considered that the credentials of South Africa emanated from a racist régime which in no way was the expression of the sovereign will of the South African people. Those credentials must therefore be rejected.

15. The Chairman said that it was clear from the discussion that there was no consensus on the question of the credentials of South Africa and that a vote on the proposal by the representative of Singapore to reject the credentials of South Africa was therefore necessary.

16. The Committee, by 6 votes to 1, with 2 abstentions, decided to reject the credentials of the delegation of South Africa for the eighth emergency special session of the General Assembly.

17. The Committee further decided, without a vote, to accept the credentials of Guinea and Yemen for the eighth emergency special session of the General Assembly.

18. The Chairman proposed that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution (see para. 20). The proposal was approved by the Committee.

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

#### RECOMMENDATION OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

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

#### Credentials of representatives to the eighth emergency special session of the General Assembly

##### The General Assembly

Approves the first report of the Credentials Committee.