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SIXTH COMMITTEE  
53rd meeting  
held on  
Thursday, 5 December 1985  
at 10.30 a.m.  
New York

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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 53rd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. AL-QAYSI (Iraq)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.15 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 140: REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH THE HOST COUNTRY  
(continued) (A/40/26, A/40/152; A/C.6/40/L.32)

1. Mrs. DIAGO ULACIA (Cuba) stressed the importance of section III of the report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, which dealt, inter alia, with the question of the security of missions and the safety of their personnel, issues arising in connection with the implementation of the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations and the privileges and immunities of mission personnel. Her delegation did not consider it appropriate to reiterate the views which it had already expressed to that Committee or to repeat the contents of the letter of protest from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and circulated as document A/40/152; in the letter, Cuba drew attention to certain negative actions which demonstrated that the host country showed little interest and readiness when it was a question of respecting its obligations under the Headquarters Agreement and the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.
2. Her delegation was deeply concerned at the discriminatory restrictions imposed by the host country on the movements of United Nations staff members who were nationals of the Soviet Union, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Afghanistan, Libya, Viet Nam and Cuba. She expressed strong disapproval of those restrictions and reaffirmed her delegation's support for the legal view set forth by the Secretary-General in his note verbale to the host country dated 9 December 1985. She hoped that the Committee on Relations with the Host Country would study that question in greater depth, taking into account the relevant legal instruments.
3. She referred to the important recommendations made by that Committee in its report (A/40/26), particularly in paragraph 56, subparagraphs (2), (3) and (5) and said that they should be considered in a more detailed manner in the interest of the efficient functioning of the Organization itself.
4. Mr. DROUSHIOTIS (Cyprus) introduced draft resolution A/C.6/40/L.32 submitted by his delegation and said that it endorsed the recommendations of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country contained in paragraph 57 of its report. He hoped that the draft resolution could be adopted without a vote.
5. Mr. ROSENSTOCK (United States of America) said that the report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country demonstrated a good understanding of the various aspects of those relations and the progress made in that regard. His Government was proud of being the country in which the United Nations had its Headquarters and of its tradition as the host country.
6. His delegation was aware of the problems created by life in New York. It continued to do its best to prevent difficulties from arising and to find satisfactory and speedy solutions to difficulties which nevertheless did come about.

(Mr. Rosenstock, United States)

7. The problem of the security of missions and the safety of their personnel and that of Secretariat staff members was very important. In New York, as elsewhere, diplomats could not work if their safety was not guaranteed. The United States Government was doing everything humanly possible to provide them with maximum protection.
8. As an example, he referred to the Federal, State and City Terrorist Task Force set up in order to take action against members of organizations which sought to attack diplomats. That group had already had great success and had arrested members of several terrorist groups, including Croatian terrorists and anti-Castro Cuban terrorists belonging to the group known as Omega 7. The New York City police protected in the same remarkable way the missions which were under the greatest threat and had set up stationary posts in front of each of them; police cars patrolled in front of other missions which seemed to be less threatened. Each year millions of dollars from American taxpayers subsidized the protection of the diplomatic community in New York.
9. On the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations a police presence of several thousand persons had provided excellent security for the most important meeting of heads of State and Government ever held.
10. Nevertheless, at the 52nd meeting of the Sixth Committee, the representative of the Soviet Union had complained that many persons accused of terrorist acts against diplomats and diplomatic missions had been released without being prosecuted. Life in the United States was subject to the rule of law, and the law presumed that all persons who had not been proven guilty were innocent. The authorities, however, never failed to search for, apprehend, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of the ignominious acts of which diplomats were the victims. It was clear that the United States had always condemned such acts.
11. While it was fortunate that no serious difficulty had arisen in 1985 in that field, the security of missions and the safety of their personnel and their families remained a constant concern of his Government. Those responsible for security matters at the United States Mission to the United Nations were on the alert 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They were always ready to co-operate with the Committee on Relations with the Host Country and the diplomatic community and would spare no effort to provide the latter with increased security.
12. Mr. BERAL (Mexico) said that the Spanish version of paragraphs 2, 4 and 5 of draft resolution A/C.6/40/L.32 contained some errors and requested the Secretariat to take steps to correct them.
13. The CHAIRMAN assured the representative of Mexico that the Secretariat would make the necessary corrections and said that, if he heard to objection, he would take it that the Sixth Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/C.6/40/L.32 without a vote.
14. It was so decided.

15. The CHAIRMAN declared the Committee's consideration of agenda item 140 concluded.

AGENDA ITEM 128: UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF ASSISTANCE IN THE TEACHING, STUDY, DISSEMINATION AND WIDER APPRECIATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/40/893; A/C.6/40/L.30)

16. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to draft resolution A/C.6/40/L.30 and said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

17. It was so decided.

18. The CHAIRMAN declared the Committee's consideration of agenda item 128 concluded.

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.