

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 2ND MEETING

Chairman: Mr. HEPBURN (Bahamas)

CONTENTS

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN
ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIRMEN
ELECTION OF THE RAPporteur

* This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be incorporated in a copy of the record and should be sent *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, room A-3550.

Corrections will be issued shortly after the end of the session, in a separate fascicle for each Committee.

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.1/34/PV.2
21 September 1979
ENGLISH

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to begin my statement by expressing the sentiments of the entire Committee in extending a most cordial and friendly welcome to the 152nd member of our Organization, St. Lucia. With the entry of St. Lucia the United Nations has taken yet another step towards becoming a truly universal organization. We are confident that St. Lucia will make significant contributions to the progress of our work and in the service of the ideals of the United Nations.

I wish to express my profound appreciation to all Members of the United Nations for the honour and privilege which they have conferred on me and my delegation by electing me as Chairman of this august body. It will be my endeavour to conduct the business of this Committee in a manner which not only will gain your confidence but might also deserve your approval.

Let me say, first of all, how much I appreciate the very kind and generous words offered by our eminent Chairman of last year, Ambassador Ilkka O. Pastinen of Finland, when he presented my nomination at the first meeting of the Committee. It is no exaggeration to say that much of the success of this Committee last year was due to his engaging personality and negotiating ability. I am certain that I express the sentiments of all members of this Committee when I extend to Ambassador Pastinen our congratulations and gratitude for the exemplary manner in which he presided over our deliberations last year.

I am fully aware that I am following a lineage of very distinguished Chairmen who presided ably and skilfully over the work of this Committee during the last few years. For my part, I shall spare neither effort nor time to bring our work to maximum fruition. In so doing, I count on the constructive co-operation and assistance of the Committee's entire membership. Co-operation and assistance are the key words here, and I have no doubt that we all deem these aspects of our functions to be one of the decisive factors of success in our common endeavours.

(The Chairman)

It is gratifying to know that I can count also on the most valuable experience, competence and profound knowledge of my two distinguished friends, the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Security Council Affairs, Mr. Sytenko, and the Secretary of the First Committee, Ambassador Banerjee, who has always so ably assisted the Bureau of the Committee.

Mr. Jan Martenson, who is the new Assistant Secretary-General, is not here, but I should like to extend to him, on behalf of the Committee and on my own behalf, a warm welcome to the United Nations, and particularly to the First Committee.

I take this opportunity also to express on behalf of the Committee and myself our thanks and appreciation to Mr. Rolf Bjornerstedt, the former Assistant Secretary-General, Centre for Disarmament, for his assistance and co-operation during past sessions. We wish him success in his future career.

At this juncture, I wish to paraphrase a Biblical quotation "He who would experience greatness must first know how to serve", especially as it coincides with a sentence that I read some time ago and could use as a motto: "Chairmanship should not and does not confer status ... rather it denotes service". In this light I would assure you once again that I will devote my efforts to the service of the Committee and will conduct the deliberations in a spirit of dedication and complete impartiality. I realize that we have a very long session and a heavy programme of work ahead of us, yet I firmly believe that, in a spirit of conciliation, accommodation and useful dialogue, we can achieve positive results.

The international community and world public opinion expect from the United Nations, and especially from the Committee, progress on the items before us dealing with disarmament and international security.

The agenda for today's meeting concerns the election of the Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteur. Before taking up the agenda items I should like to draw the attention of the members of the Committee to the decision of the General Assembly, taken at its 1935th meeting on 22 September 1971, relating to the procedure for the election of officers of the Main Committees. According to that decision, the nominations of candidates should be limited to one statement for each candidate, after which the Committee should immediately proceed to the election. The Committee will follow this procedure in regard to the items on our agenda for today.

ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIRMEN

Mr. CHERKAOUI (Morocco)(interpretation from French): First of all, I should like to take this opportunity to convey to you, Sir, the warm congratulations of my delegation on your election as Chairman of this Committee.

I now have the honour and pleasure of nominating Mr. Awad Burwin as Vice-Chairman of the First Committee. Mr. Awad Burwin is a graduate in sociology and philosophy from the University of Libya and already has a brilliant career behind him, having filled important posts in the Libyan Foreign Ministry and the Libyan embassies in London and Caracas. Mr. Awad Burwin is at present Minister Plenipotentiary and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations.

In the light of his professional experience and distinguished qualities, Mr. Burwin is eminently qualified to discharge the functions of Vice-Chairman of the First Committee. I therefore have the honour of nominating him for that office.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Morocco, Mr. Boubker Cherkaoui, who, as representatives know, was one of last year's Vice-Chairmen, for the kind words he addressed to me and my country. On behalf of the Committee, I wish to convey to him our sincere thanks for the contribution he made last year as Vice-Chairman.

There being no other nomination, I take it that, in accordance with rule 103 of the rules of procedure and with established practice, the Committee wishes to dispense with the secret ballot and to declare Mr. Awad S. Burwin elected Vice-Chairman of the First Committee by acclamation.

Mr. Awad S. Burwin (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) was elected Vice-Chairman of the First Committee by acclamation.

Mr. CABADA (Peru)(interpretation from Spanish): Since this is the first time that I have spoken in this Committee under your chairmanship, please allow me to convey to you, Sir, on behalf of our delegation, our most cordial congratulations on your election. It is a distinction for our region, characterized by its great interest in the issues dealt with in this Committee, disarmament and international security. I pledge the Peruvian delegation's support to you in your task of successfully guiding the work of this Committee.

My delegation has the honour of submitting to the First Committee the candidacy of Mr. Yurun Kochubey, at present head of the Department of International Affairs of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, as Vice-Chairman of this Committee. We are convinced that Mr. Kochubey's contribution to the Committee's work will be valuable, as is ensured by his personal and professional qualities.

He is a graduate of the Department of International Affairs of the University of Kiev, and has been a diplomatic representative of his country since 1957. During that time he has participated as an adviser to the Ukrainian delegation in many sessions of the United Nations General Assembly, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Labour Organisation. His vast experience at the multilateral level has also been related to disarmament issues, and has included participation in the Disarmament Commission.

For all those reasons, we feel that Mr. Kochubey should be elected Vice-Chairman of this Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Peru for his nomination of Mr. Yurun Kochubey of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic for the post of vice-chairman. I thank him also for the very kind words he addressed to my country and me. I am sure that I am expressing the sentiments of the Committee when I thank him for his delegation's important contribution to the work of this Committee, and ask that he extend to Mr. Hugo Palma our sincere thanks for his contribution as Vice-Chairman last year.

(The Chairman)

There being no other nomination, I take it that in this instance also the Committee wishes to dispense with the secret ballot and to declare Mr. Yurun Kochubey elected Vice-Chairman of the First Committee by acclamation.

Mr. Yurun Kochubey (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) was elected Vice-Chairman of the First Committee by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN: I wish to express to the two Vice-Chairmen my warmest congratulations on the distinction that has been conferred upon them and assure them of my confidence that together, as the Bureau, we shall co-operate in a harmonious manner so that we can jointly discharge the responsibilities incumbent upon us.

ELECTION OF THE RAPPORTEUR

Mr. VUKOVIC (Yugoslavia): Allow me, Sir, to extend to you my sincerest congratulations on your election to the chairmanship of the First Committee. I am convinced that, under your guidance and diligent leadership, our Committee will successfully accomplish its task during the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly. You may count on the full support and co-operation of my delegation.

I wish now to nominate Mr. Ernst Sucharipa as Rapporteur of this Committee. It is superfluous to say how pleased I am to have this pleasant duty. Mr. Sucharipa is a very good friend of mine and of many others here. He has been with us for several years and we have all witnessed his exceptional qualities as a diplomat in the most difficult times of negotiations on disarmament issues, during the preparation for and holding of the special session of the General Assembly on disarmament, during sessions of the Disarmament Commission and during the last three or four years of the General Assembly. His personal contribution to the solution of sometimes apparently insoluble problems has brought him well-deserved recognition. I am convinced that his election to the post of Rapporteur will prove once more his dedication to the cause of disarmament.

(Mr. Vukovic, Yugoslavia)

Mr. Sucharipa was born in Vienna in 1947; he studied law and political science at the University of Vienna. His career in the art of foreign relations started in Austria at Linz, where he was Assistant Professor of International Law and International Relations until 1972. In 1972 he entered the Austrian Foreign Service where he performed various duties, his most recent post being his assignment to the Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations.

I am sure that I am expressing the desire of all members of the Committee in recommending his election, and I expect that the Committee will approve it by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Yugoslavia for his nomination of Mr. Ernst Sucharipa of Austria for election to the post of Rapporteur of the First Committee. I thank him also for his very kind words addressed to me. I am sure that I am expressing the sentiments of the Committee when I offer our thanks to him personally and to his delegation for the important contribution made to the work of the Committee during the last session through the Office of Rapporteur.

(The Chairman)

As Mr. Sucharipa is the only candidate for the post of Rapporteur, I take it that the Committee wishes to follow the same procedure by dispensing with the secret ballot and declaring him elected Rapporteur of the First Committee by acclamation.

Mr. Ernest Sucharipa (Austria) was elected Rapporteur of the First Committee by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN: I wish to express my most sincere and cordial congratulations to the representative of Austria upon his election as Rapporteur of the First Committee, and I now invite him to take his place at the officers' desk.

At this point I am very pleased to call upon the representative of Finland, Mr. Ilkka O. Pastinen, the Chairman of the First Committee during the thirty-third session.

Mr. PASTINEN (Finland): Mr. Chairman, three days ago I had the honour of nominating you to serve as Chairman of this Committee at the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly. The rules of procedure now give me the added pleasure of exercising the privilege of extending to you and to the other newly elected officers of the Committee congratulations on behalf of its members. According to those rules of procedure, I have the monopoly of that pleasure.

Your Chairmanship falls at a time when, as a result of the special session devoted to Disarmament, the First Committee has gained added importance as a main deliberative organ on disarmament questions and related international security questions. This explains the length and the substance of the agenda before our Committee.

At the same time, the General Assembly is engaged in the effort to improve and rationalize its working methods. All this will put you, Mr. Chairman, the other officers, and, ultimately, all the members of the

(Mr. Pastinen, Finland)

Committee to a severe test in carrying through its work. I hope that the turning-around of the seating arrangements of this room by 180 degrees will be a contributing factor in the success of that endeavour.

Mr. Chairman, this Committee has every reason to consider itself particularly fortunate in having elected you to guide its work. In my statement of nomination I had occasion to refer to your personal qualities, which I have learnt to appreciate through a long-standing association with you. These, I believe, deserve repetition today: good and balanced judgement, impartiality, objectivity, tolerance combined with firmness and a thorough knowledge of the subjects within the ambit of the First Committee. This list is by no means exhaustive.

I should also like to take the liberty of considering your election a tribute to the constructive role of your country, the Bahamas, in the United Nations, and in world affairs in general.

As I recall from my own experience as Chairman of the First Committee, the other members of the Bureau -- that is, the two Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteur -- provide a source of advice and support to the Chairman. It is in that sense that I wish to express the collective congratulations of the Committee to Mr. Burwin of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and to Mr. Kochubey of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic on their election as Vice-Chairmen, and to Mr. Sucharipa of Austria on his election as Rapporteur of the First Committee. The qualifications of these distinguished colleagues of ours are an additional assurance of the effective discharge of the manifold tasks of the Committee.

In exercising this privilege conferred upon me under the rules of procedure, I am confident that I reflect the will of the entire Committee in pledging its support and co-operation to you, Mr. Chairman, and the other members of the Bureau in managing the challenging workload that stands before us.

The CHAIRMAN: On behalf of the Bureau of the Committee, as well as on my own behalf, I thank the representative of Finland, Mr. Ilkka Pastinen, for his kind words addressed to me and to the Bureau. I appreciate the extension of your co-operation, Sir, and I particularly value the assurance of your friendship and collaboration, which I shall certainly need in the discharge of my future duties.

Mr. BURWIN (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), Vice-Chairman (interpretation from Arabic): Mr. Chairman, I should like very briefly to convey both to you and to the distinguished members of the First Committee my whole-hearted thanks as well as the great appreciation of my delegation for the great honour bestowed upon me, and for the confidence placed by the Committee in me, by electing me Vice-Chairman. I should like to avail myself of this opportunity to assure both you yourself, Sir, and the distinguished members of the Committee, that I shall do everything possible to contribute to the success of the work of this Committee.

I have no doubt that, thanks to co-operation and consultation between the Bureau and the members of the Committee, under your leadership the Committee will discharge its duties in the best possible manner with a view to serving the noble ideals of our international Organization in its endeavour to ensure prosperity, peace and security for the whole human community. Any effort exerted to ensure complete and general disarmament will have positive results on the course of the social and economic development of our society, particularly as concerns the developing countries.

I should like to congratulate you, Sir, on your election to the chairmanship of this Committee, and also the other officers. I wish too to express my thanks to the members of the Committee's Bureau at the preceding session.

Mr. KOCHUBEY (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic), Vice-Chairman (interpretation from Russian): First of all I should like to congratulate you, Sir, upon your election to the important post of Chairman of the First Committee. Secondly, I should like to congratulate the representatives of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Austria upon their election to membership of the Bureau.

I should also like to convey my gratitude to all the members of the Committee for their unanimous support of my nomination as Vice-Chairman of our Committee. I understand very well that this is above all a tribute not to my own merits but to those of the country which I have the honour to represent.

Permit me, Mr. Chairman, to assure you that I shall do everything in my power to be useful to you.

The CHAIRMAN: In thanking the Vice-Chairman, Mr. Kochubey, I should like to say that I certainly appreciate the kind words addressed to me by both Vice-Chairmen. I certainly look forward to a very harmonious relationship.

Mr. SUCHARIPA (Austria), Rapporteur: Mr. Chairman, I should like first to express to you my deep-felt personal congratulations on your election to preside over this important Committee. Due to the alphabetical order of the seating arrangements at the United Nations, I have had, as the representative of Austria during past years, the great pleasure of working closely together with you in the First Committee and in other disarmament bodies. From this valuable experience I am more than confident that our Committee will be in very good and experienced hands.

I should like briefly to express to the members of the Committee my sincere appreciation and gratitude for the great honour conferred upon me. I wish to pledge to you, Mr. Chairman, and to the Committee my full co-operation and assure you that through whatever modest contribution I can make to the success of our work I shall do my very best to justify the confidence the Committee has placed in me.

(Mr. Sucharipa, Austria)

I should also like to express my most sincere thanks to my dear friend, Miljenko Vuković, the representative of Yugoslavia, for the exceptionally kind words that he used in putting forward my nomination.

Mr. Chairman, I have no doubt that, under your competent guidance and with the well-known experience of the other members of the Bureau, this Committee will achieve substantial progress in the discussion of the many pressing issues we find on our agenda.

The CHAIRMAN: I am especially pleased to thank the Rapporteur for his kind words and to say briefly that since 1973, when the Bahamas became a Member of the United Nations, we have been neighbours here with Austria and have always enjoyed a wonderful relationship. I am extremely pleased that that relationship will be continued.

I am sure that I am speaking on behalf of the Committee in concurring with what was said by the representative of Yugoslavia concerning our knowledge of the skill and ability of the Rapporteur. I know that we are all looking forward to working very closely with him during this session.

Having elected the officers of the Bureau, the Committee has now concluded its work for this meeting. I should like to say that it is my intention to convene another meeting shortly, at which the First Committee will consider the organization of its work. An announcement regarding the date and the time will be made in due course.

The meeting rose at 3.45 p.m.