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SEP 28 1980



**World Conference
of the United Nations
Decade for Women:
Equality, Development and Peace**

**Copenhagen, Denmark
14-30 July 1980**

Distr.
LIMITED

A/CONF.94/L.24
28 July 1980

Original: ENGLISH

Agenda item 6 (b) (ii)

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

1. At its 1st plenary meeting held on 14 July 1980 the Conference in accordance with rule 4 of its rules of procedure, appointed a Credentials Committee composed of the following States: Belgium, China, Congo, Ecuador, Pakistan, Panama, Senegal, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America.
2. The Credentials Committee held one meeting on 24 July 1980. Mr. Johan Verkercke (Belgium) was unanimously elected Presiding Officer of the Committee.
3. The Committee noted from a memorandum submitted to it by the Secretary-General of the Conference that as of 24 July 1980:
 - (a) 145 States were participating in the Conference;
 - (b) Credentials issued by the Head of State or Government or the Minister for Foreign Affairs had been submitted, as provided for in rule 3 of the rules of procedure, in respect of representatives of 119 participating States;
 - (c) The credentials of the representatives of seven participating States had been communicated to the Secretary-General of the Conference in the form of cables from the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the countries concerned;
 - (d) The credentials of the representatives of one participating State had been communicated in a letter from that State's Minister for Culture and Social Services;
 - (e) The representatives of 15 participating States had been designated in letters, notes verbales or cables from authorities other than those mentioned in rule 3 of the rules of procedure, such as Permanent Missions to the United Nations or other diplomatic missions of the States concerned;
 - (f) The appointment of the representatives of one State was communicated in cables from the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme in the country concerned;

(g) From one State formal credentials issued by the Minister for Foreign Affairs were received in respect of a specified person. However, before the receipt of these credentials, that person had been accredited as the Head of the delegation of another State;

(h) From one participating State no designation of representatives had been received at the time of the first meeting of the Credentials Committee.

4. In connexion with the memorandum by the Secretary-General of the Conference, the Presiding Officer of the Committee proposed the following decision for the approval of the Committee:

"The Credentials Committee:

1. Accepts the credentials of the 119 States referred to in paragraph 3 (b) above;

2. Accepts provisionally the communications referred to in paragraphs 3 (c) (d) (e) and (f) above, pending the receipt of the formal credentials of the representatives concerned;

3. Takes no action at the present time on the credentials referred to in paragraph 3 (g), pending the designation of a representative not already accredited by another State;

4. Recommends that the representatives referred to in paragraph 3 (h) above should continue to participate provisionally in accordance with rule 5 of the rules of procedure."

5. The representative of the USSR stated that his delegation could not accept the credentials of all the participating delegations. He recalled that on 16 July 1980 a number of delegations had presented the following declaration to the Credentials Committee: "The delegations of the Bylorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Hungarian People's Republic, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Mongolian People's Republic, the Polish People's Republic, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics strongly protest against the presence at the Conference of persons claiming to be the representatives of so-called Democratic Kampuchea, but in fact representing no one except the remnants of the criminal Pol Pot régime overthrown by the Kampuchean people, and declare that they do not recognize the credentials submitted by those persons as valid and demand their expulsion from the Conference. The only legitimate representative of the Kampuchean people is the People's Revolutionary Council of the People's Republic of Kampuchea and only the delegates appointed by it can represent that country at international conferences and in international forums." The representative of the USSR stated that in accordance with that declaration he did not accept as valid the credentials presented in the name of Democratic Kampuchea.

6. The representative of Senegal stated that the Committee's mandate was not to give a ruling on the legitimacy of the authority which had issued the credentials, but to determine whether the credentials conformed to rule 3 of the rules of procedure.

7. The representative of the Congo requested the Presiding Officer to clarify the implications of the fact that certain of the United Nations agencies had dealings with the People's Revolutionary Council of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, and she also asked about the legal basis for the presence of the delegation of Democratic Kampuchea in the Conference. At the request of the Presiding Officer the Legal Adviser explained that it was the practice of the United Nations to deal with the authorities present in areas where the United Nations had activities and programmes; this practice did not, however, imply recognition, as no issue of recognition arose. The Legal Adviser further stated that the delegation of Democratic Kampuchea was participating provisionally in the Conference on the same basis as all other delegations in accordance with rule 5 of the rules of procedure.

8. The representative of Pakistan commented that the reason for his country's recognition of Democratic Kampuchea was that it was disturbed about the use of military force in Kampuchea, but the recognition did not imply that Pakistan condoned any excesses. Moreover, the provisions of the rules of procedure concerning the Credentials Committee required approval of the credentials of Democratic Kampuchea. He added that his delegation had certain reservations about the credentials of the representatives of Afghanistan.

9. The representative of China stated that the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly had confirmed the legitimacy and validity of the delegation of Democratic Kampuchea, and all subsequent meetings within the United Nations had taken the same position. The Government of Democratic Kampuchea was in its own country resisting foreign invaders. The Heng Samrin regime was a puppet resting on Vietnamese bayonets. It did not represent anyone. China supported the legitimate right of Democratic Kampuchea to be represented. The slanders and distortions by the Soviet Union were not worth refuting; she asked the representative of the Soviet Union to respect the facts.

10. The representatives of China, the United States and Ecuador expressed support for the proposal by the Presiding Officer, referred to in paragraph 4 above.

11. The Presiding Officer, speaking in his capacity as representative of Belgium, referred to statements by the Belgian delegation reflected in the reports of the Credentials Committees at the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly and at the Sixth Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly. He stated that the Committee's task in examining the credentials was a technical one, and that the acceptance of any delegation's credentials could not be construed as an approval of the present or past policies of the countries concerned: the acceptance was separate from diplomatic recognition. He further referred to the fact that earlier in 1980 the Credentials Committee at the Sixth Emergency Special Session had accepted, without a vote, all credentials, including those of the delegation of Democratic Kampuchea. Lastly, he referred to General Assembly resolution 396 (V), paragraph 3, which recommended that the attitude adopted by the Assembly concerning credentials questions should be taken into account in other organs of the United Nations.

12. The Presiding Officer assured all members of the Committee who had spoken that their views would be reflected in the report of the Credentials Committee, and asked whether on this understanding his proposal, referred to in paragraph 4 above, would be acceptable to all members of the Committee.

13. The representative of the USSR moved for a separate decision on the credentials of the delegation of Democratic Kampuchea in accordance with rule 36 of the rules of procedure. The motion having been opposed by other representatives, it was put to vote. The representatives of the Congo, Panama and the USSR voted in favour of the motion to have a separate decision; the representatives of Belgium, China, Ecuador, Pakistan, Senegal and the United States of America voted against. The motion thus was defeated.

14. The Presiding Officer then reverted to his proposal referred to in paragraph 4 above which, at the request of the representatives of the Congo, Panama and the USSR, was put to the vote. The representatives of Belgium, China, Ecuador, Pakistan, Senegal and the United States of America voted in favour of the proposal; the representatives of the Congo, Panama and the USSR voted against. The proposal thus was adopted.

15. In explanation of their votes, the representatives of the Congo, Panama and the USSR stated that they had voted against the proposal because - in view of the Committee's rejection of their request for a separate vote on the credentials of the delegation of Democratic Kampuchea - there was no alternative way in which they could have expressed their rejection of those credentials. They did not object to the credentials of any other representative.

16. Upon the proposal of the Presiding Officer the Credentials Committee thereupon decided to submit this report to the Conference for approval.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

17. The Credentials Committee recommends to the Conference the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Credentials of the representatives to the Conference

The World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace,

Approves the report of the Credentials Committee (A/CONF.94/L.24).