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ENGLISH

Forty-second session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND FOURTEENTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 16 August 1988, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. FLORIN (German Democratic Republic)

- Resumption of the forty-second session of the General Assembly
- Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations (Article 19 of the Charter) (A/42/925/Add.3) [121] (continued)
- Adoption of the agenda and organization of work; request for the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the forty-second session: [8] (continued)
 - (a) Note by the Secretary-General
 - (b) Report of the Secretary-General

Statement by the President

Statement by the Secretary-General

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The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE FORTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): I declare the forty-second session of the General Assembly resumed for the purpose of considering the request of the Secretary-General, contained in document A/42/244, for the inclusion of an additional item on the agenda of the forty-second session, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group".

I should also inform the General Assembly that the question whether, in the present urgent circumstances, a special session of the General Assembly should be convened or, alternatively, whether a resumed session of the General Assembly should be convened, was considered. After careful consideration and consultations it was concluded that a resumed session would be the most effective and expeditious manner for considering the request of the Secretary-General.

May I take it that this is acceptable to the Assembly?

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 121 (continued)

SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT OF THE EXPENSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS
(ARTICLE 19 OF THE CHARTER) (A/42/925/Add.3)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): Before turning to the item on our agenda for this morning, I should like, in keeping with the established practice, to invite the attention of the General Assembly to document A/42/925/Add.3, which contains a letter addressed to me by the Secretary-General in which he informs me that since the publication of his note dated 18 March 1988, Dominica, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Romania and Sao Tome and Principe have made the necessary payments to reduce their arrears below the amount specified in Article 19 of the Charter.

May I take it that the General Assembly takes due note of that information?

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 8 (continued)

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK: REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM IN THE AGENDA OF THE FORTY-SECOND SESSION

- (a) Note by the Secretary-General (A/42/244)
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General (A/42/244/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): In connection with this item a note by and a report of the Secretary-General have been circulated in documents A/42/244/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1. In his note the Secretary-General, pursuant to rule 15 of the rules of procedure, requests that an additional item of an important and urgent character be placed on the agenda entitled, "Financing of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group". Owing to the nature of the item, he also requests that the item be allocated to the Fifth Committee for consideration.

Under the circumstances of the present case, may I take it that the General Assembly agrees that the provision of rule 40 of the rules of procedure, which would require a meeting of the General Committee on the question of the inclusion of an additional item on the agenda, could be waived?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): May I also take it that the Assembly wishes to include an additional item to read as follows: "145. Financing of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group" and to allocate that item to the Fifth Committee for consideration?

It was so decided.

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): It was with relief and satisfaction that the cease-fire in the Iran-Iraq conflict announced by the Secretary-General, Javier Perez de Cuellar, and the unanimous adoption of the pertinent resolution 619 (1988) by the Security Council were noted world wide.

(The President)

I welcome and support these accords. They represent a significant step forward towards a comprehensive, just and honourable settlement of the conflict, as called for earlier in Security Council resolution 598 (1987). Now there exists a real chance to settle the eight-year long conflict, which has caused immense human suffering and enormous material damage, by political means.

This is - and on this point the reactions of States concur - an essential contribution towards strengthening security in the region and peace in the world at large. It has again become evident that given good will, a readiness for compromise, and due regard for each other's interests, it is possible to find rational solutions even to difficult disputes. It is a hopeful sign that the emerging change for the better in international relations is yielding positive effects for the exclusively political settlement of regional conflicts. Special credit and appreciation are due to the Secretary-General for his untiring efforts in peacefully resolving conflicts. The accords reached furnish fresh proof of the great possibilities and potential of the United Nations in the peaceful settlement of international conflicts. I am convinced that the present session will take decisions which serve the practical implementation of peace efforts.

STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): I now call on the Secretary-General.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: Mr. President, allow me, first of all, to thank you for your very kind words.

The General Assembly has before it, in document A/42/244/Add.1 and Corr.1, a report containing my recommendations for the financing of the newly-established United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG). A decision on the financing of this new peace-keeping operation is urgently required.

The cease-fire between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq is due to become effective at 0300 hours GMT on 20 August. That is less than four days away. It is essential that by that time United Nations military observers should be on the ground to perform the functions entrusted to them in operative paragraph 2 of Security Council resolution 598 (1987), namely to verify, confirm and supervise the cease-fire and withdrawal.

That is why I hope that the Assembly will be able to take a very quick decision to approve the recommendations in my report.

Ever since Security Council resolution 598 (1987) was adopted, contingency planning has been under way in the Secretariat for the deployment of an observer group to Iran and Iraq. Towards the end of last month, when there seemed to be a marked improvement in the prospects for implementation of resolution 598 (1987), I decided to send to Iran and Iraq a technical team, led by the Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), Lt. General Martin Vadset, to work out on an urgent basis, with the authorities of the two countries, the modalities for the despatch of the team of United Nations observers required under operative paragraph 2 of resolution 598 (1987). General Vadset's report, which I

(The Secretary-General)

received on 4 August, enabled me to refine the contingency planning already undertaken in the Secretariat and to present to the Security Council on 7 August a report containing my recommendations for the establishment of the Observer Group.

The next day I was able to announce that the cease-fire would take place on 20 August. On the following day, 9 August, the Security Council adopted its resolution 619 (1988), in which it approved my report and decided to set up the Observer Group on that basis. Within hours of the adoption of the resolution, two advance parties were on their way to Baghdad and Tehran to establish liaison with the authorities of Iran and Iraq and to organize the reception of the main body of military observers. Since then there has been a steady build-up of the advance parties, and most of the main body, both of observers and of signals personnel, are due to reach the mission area today or tomorrow.

The setting up of this Observer Group comes at a time when there is a most welcome renewal of interest in the peace-making and peace-keeping functions of the United Nations and at a time when several other new peace-keeping operations are under active discussion. It is thus of the greatest importance that this new operation should be a success.

There has also, however, been increased concern in recent years about the financial arrangements for peace-keeping and about the unfair burden which, for various reasons, has sometimes fallen on those Member States which so generously contribute troops and thus make these operations possible. This is why I said in my report of 7 August to the Security Council that one of the essential conditions for UNIMOG to be effective is that adequate financing arrangements be made to cover its costs.

(The Secretary-General)

The decision which the General Assembly is now asked to take is thus of very great importance, not only for peace between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq, which is so ardently desired by the Members of this Organization, but also for the wider standing of the United Nations itself.

It is in this spirit that I express the strong hope that the recommendations contained in my report will be favourably received and that they will be approved by an early resolution of the General Assembly.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): Given the urgency of the matter before us, which has just been stressed so forcefully by the Secretary-General, I shall now adjourn this meeting and reconvene tomorrow afternoon at 3 p.m. to consider the report of the Fifth Committee with a view to approving it as expeditiously as possible. I am confident that the Fifth Committee will similarly complete its work as speedily as possible in view of the overriding urgency of the situation that we face with the cease-fire between Iran and Iraq scheduled to come into effect at 0300 GMT on 20 August: less than four days from now.

The meeting rose at 10.55 a.m.