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Agenda item 8

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH REGULAR SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ALLOCATION OF ITEMS AND ORGANIZATION
OF WORK

Third report of the General Committee

I. INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL SUBITEM

1. At its 4th meeting, on 24 October 1979, the General Committee, on the proposal of the Secretary-General (A/34/607), decided to recommend to the General Assembly:

(a) That the following subitem should be added to agenda item 17:

"(j) International Civil Service Commission:

(i) Appointment of a member of the Commission;

(ii) Designation of the Chairman of the Commission."

(b) That the additional subitem should be allocated to the Fifth Committee.

II. RATIONALIZATION OF THE PROCEDURES AND ORGANIZATION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2. At the same meeting, the General Committee considered a note by the Secretary-General dated 22 October 1979 on the rationalization of the procedures and organization of the General Assembly (A/BUR/34/2).

3. After an exchange of views, the Committee decided to submit to the General Assembly the following recommendations:

Documentation

(a) The General Committee recommends that:

- (i) Subsidiary organs should be required to complete their work at the latest by 1 September, so that their reports may be available in all the working languages in time for consideration by the opening of the session of the General Assembly, and the Committee on Conferences should take this provision fully into account;
- (ii) No reports should contain a compilation of other previous documents;
- (iii) Subsidiary organs should not annex to their reports summary records of their meetings or other material which were already distributed to all Members;
- (iv) The General Assembly should review periodically the need for summary records of its subsidiary organs.

Organization of work

- (b) The General Committee recommends that:
 - (i) During sessions, the Chairmen or other officers of the Main Committees should be entrusted by their Committees, whenever appropriate, with the conduct of informal negotiations aimed at reaching agreement on specific issues;
 - (ii) Chairmen of Main Committees should fully exercise their authority under rule 106 and, in particular, propose more frequently the limitation of the time to be allowed to speakers or of the number of times each representative may speak on any given item;
 - (iii) To save time at the end of the session, the General Assembly and the Main Committees should dispense with the practice of making concluding statements except by the presiding officers.

Planning of meetings

- (c) The General Committee recommends that:
 - (i) The Committee on Conferences should be authorized to play a more effective role in the planning of meetings and in the use of conference facilities;
 - (ii) No subsidiary organ of the General Assembly should be permitted to meet at United Nations Headquarters during a regular session of the Assembly, unless explicitly authorized by the Assembly.

4. The Committee decided to defer for a period of two to three weeks consideration of paragraphs 5 (d) and (f), 6 (a) and (b), 8, 9, and 13 (a) and (b) of the note by the Secretary-General (A/BUR/34/2) in order to allow for consultations.

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III. REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM

5. Also at the 4th meeting, the General Committee decided to defer temporarily consideration of the request for the inclusion of an additional item entitled "Observer status for the Council of Arab Economic Unity in the General Assembly" (A/34/244).
