



VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 1st MEETING

Temporary Chairman: Mr. Caputo (President of the General Assembly)

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The meeting was called to order at 4.35 p.m.

ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): Rule 103 of the rules of procedure provides that each Main Committee shall elect a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur. These officers shall be elected on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, experience and personal competence.

The elections shall be held by secret ballot unless the Committee decides otherwise in an election where only one candidate is standing. The nomination of each candidate shall be limited to one speaker, after which the Committee shall immediately proceed to the election.

Furthermore, rule 110 of the rules of procedure provides that congratulations to the officers of a Main Committee shall not be expressed except by the Chairman of the previous session - or, in his absence, by a member of his delegation - after all the officers of the Committee have been elected.

This meeting has been convened for the election of the Chairman of the First Committee. Are there any nominations?

Mr. BAGBENI ADEITO NZENGEYA (Zaire) (interpretation from French): As the first representative to speak following your election to the presidency of the forty-third session of the General Assembly, I cannot refrain from congratulating you most sincerely. Without anticipating the congratulations that will be extended to you by the head of the delegation of Zaire, I should like to take advantage of my opportunity today to express to you my confidence in your talents as a diplomat and negotiator, which augur well for the session over which you will preside.

I should also like to pay a tribute to the competence of your predecessor, Mr. Peter Florin, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic. It was a great pleasure for me to work with him in my capacity as Chairman of the First Committee throughout the forty-second session of the General Assembly and also during the fifteenth special session of the General Assembly, the third devoted to disarmament.

It is both an honour and a pleasure for me to propose a candidate for the chairmanship of the First Committee at its forty-third session. This year, as everyone is aware, the First Committee's meeting follows the third special session devoted to disarmament, and its work is beginning in an international atmosphere marked by a common will on the part of States to co-operate and to engage in dialogue to reduce tensions, settle conflicts and finally establish a lasting peace in a safe world, which has been the dream of the United Nations. In that context the role of the Chairman of the First Committee will be of great importance in taking advantage of this new impetus and in guiding the Committee's work.

It is therefore a privilege for me, and a great satisfaction, to propose the candidacy of His Excellency Mr. Douglas Roche, the Canadian Ambassador for Disarmament, for the post of Chairman of the First Committee at the forty-third session of the General Assembly. Ambassador Roche is an outstanding figure in the world of disarmament, and it would be presumptuous of me to attempt to make an

(Mr. Bagbeni Adeito Nzengeya,  
Zaire)

exhaustive summary of his many activities. He is a born diplomat and one who has led the Canadian delegation in the service of the cause of disarmament. He has been a university professor and is a Doctor of Law, a writer and a parliamentarian; he has presided over non-governmental organizations and has always worked towards the goal of disarmament. He was appointed Ambassador of Canada for Disarmament in 1984 and is also a special adviser to his Government in the field of disarmament. He is in charge of liaison between the Canadian Government and non-governmental organizations. He has written eight books dealing with international problems and with the United Nations. In addition, the many awards he has received attest to the esteem we have for him. I would mention the Christian Culture Gold Medal Award he received in 1986 and the Alberta Premier's Award for Excellence of 1984, as well as the 1983 Peace Award of the Canada World Federalists. It is obvious, therefore, that it is with the greatest of pleasure that I today put forward the candidacy of my colleague and friend, Ambassador Roche of Canada, for the chairmanship of the First Committee at the forty-third session of the General Assembly.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): The representative of Zaire has nominated Mr. Douglas Roche of Canada as Chairman of the First Committee. As only one candidate has been nominated, I propose that under rule 103 of the rules of procedure the Committee decide not to hold a secret ballot.

It was so decided.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I therefore declare His Excellency Mr. Douglas Roche of Canada elected Chairman of the First Committee by acclamation.

The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m.