



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 3rd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. DENG (Sudan)

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ORGANIZATION OF WORK

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The meeting was called to order at 11.55 a.m.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK (A/C.6/43/1; A/C.6/43/L.1)

1. The CHAIRMAN announced that the Sixth Committee was to complete its work on Friday, 25 November, and that it should be borne in mind that the United Nations building would be closed on 24 November, Thanksgiving Day. Given that the current agenda contained the same number of items as the previous year's and that the Committee would no doubt have to devote as much time to consideration of them, particularly rational planning of its work was called for to ensure compliance with that deadline.
2. As a matter of priority, the Sixth Committee should set up a working group on the draft Convention on International Bills of Exchange and International Promissory Notes, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 42/153. The Working Group, which would be open-ended, would meet, under the chairmanship of Mr. Abascal-Zamora (Mexico), from 26 September to 7 October and, in principle, would hold its meetings concurrently with those of the Sixth Committee. The Sub-Committee on Good-Neighbourliness would be chaired by Mr. Voicu (Romania) and the Working Group on the Draft Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment would be chaired by Mr. Treves (Italy).
3. As Chairman, he intended to begin consultations at the earliest opportunity, with the delegations and representatives of the regional groups concerned regarding the arrangements for consideration of the report of the International Law Commission, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 42/156.
4. In the light of the recommendations appearing in section II of the report of the General Committee (A/43/250), he intended: (a) to begin meetings on time, without waiting for the presence of a quorum, at 10 a.m. for morning meetings and 3 p.m. for afternoon meetings; (b) to close the list of speakers on each agenda item promptly, so that the likely length of the debate would be apparent as early as possible; (c) to request speakers to be brief; (d) to encourage representatives to speak early in the debate; and (e) to urge delegations to submit draft resolutions without delay and to ensure that draft resolutions with financial implications were submitted no later than 23 November 1988.
5. Mr. HANAFI (Egypt) hoped that the Secretariat would give an earlier indication than in previous years of the dates on which the Sixth Committee would be discussing the various questions relating to agenda item 134 (Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fortieth session), and in any case before the beginning of the debate on that item.
6. Mr. KALINKIN (Secretary of the Committee) replied that a non-paper on the matter would be circulated once the report of the International Law Commission had been issued.

7. Mr. HERNDL (Austria) requested that the meetings of the working group to be set up pursuant to resolution 42/156 of the General Assembly should not take place simultaneously with those of the Sixth Committee, since it would be very difficult for the small delegations to attend the meetings of both bodies simultaneously.
8. Mr. LINDHOLM (Sweden) hoped that the consultations relating to the arrangements for considering the Commission's report would take place at the beginning of the session, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 42/156.
9. Mr. LOULICHKI (Morocco) asked for the consideration of agenda items 133 (Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Drafting of an International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries) and 135 (Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization) to be postponed until after the consideration of items 126, 127 and possibly 125, in order to enable as many delegations as possible to take part in the debate. Many delegations had been renewed and they should be allowed sufficient time to study the reports of the committees in question.
10. Mr. KALINKIN (Secretary of the Committee) explained that many delegations had specifically informed the Secretariat that they wished items 133, 135 and 129 to be discussed at the beginning of the session, when they would be able to benefit from the presence in New York of high-ranking officials of their countries.
11. Mr. ROSENSTOCK (United States of America), supported by Mr. LOULICHKI (Morocco), Mr. SENE (Senegal) and Mr. HANAFI (Egypt), suggested that, as a compromise, item 133 might be taken up at the time proposed in the note by the Secretariat (A/C.6/43/L.1), but that the consideration of items 126 and 127 should take place between items 133 and 135.
12. Mr. BYKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) was opposed to postponing the consideration of item 135, particularly since the Committee on the Charter had done a considerable amount of work on the question at its 1988 session and had adopted a draft declaration. However, consultations might be held to decide on the question.
13. Mr. MAKAREVICH (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) suggested that the Sixth Committee should confine itself at the current meeting to approving the consideration of item 131, and that it should hold informal consultations regarding the rest of its work programme.
14. Mr. TREVES (Italy), supported by Mr. KAKOLECKI (Poland) and Mr. HERNDL (Austria), said that since the argument put forward by the Secretary was particularly applicable to item 135, that item might be examined from 10 to 13 October, and that the Committee might then move on to items 126, 127, and possibly 125, before dealing with item 133. Delegations would thus have a period of respite between the discussion of the two items which, as the representative of Morocco had said, provoked the most heated discussion.

15. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should postpone a final decision on the order in which the items on its agenda should be taken up, and that it should hold informal consultations on the matter.

16. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.