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CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FORTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

First report of the Credentials Committee

Chairman: Mr. Jean FEYDER (Luxembourg)

1. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 20 September 1988, the General Assembly, in accordance with rule 28 of its rules of procedure, appointed a Credentials Committee for its forty-third session consisting of the following Member States: Bolivia, China, Luxembourg, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America and Zimbabwe.
2. The Credentials Committee held its first meeting on 11 October 1988.
3. Mr. Jean Feyder (Luxembourg) was unanimously elected Chairman.
4. The Committee had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General, dated 10 October 1988, on the status of credentials of representatives to the forty-third session. The memorandum indicated that, as at 10 October 1988, credentials issued by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, as provided in rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, had been submitted by 123 Member States (Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya,

Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire and Zambia). The Legal Counsel informed the Committee that, subsequent to the preparation of the memorandum, additional credentials in due form had been received in respect of the representatives of five Member States (Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Equatorial Guinea and France).

5. The Legal Counsel explained to the Committee that the Secretary-General's memorandum, as supplemented by the additional information he had provided to the Committee, related solely to the Member States that had submitted formal credentials for their representatives in accordance with rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. The Legal Counsel indicated also that at a later stage the Secretary-General would report to the Committee on the credentials of representatives of other Member States participating in the forty-third session whose formal credentials had not yet been received at the time of the Committee's first meeting.

6. Statements relating to the credentials of representatives of Member States were made by the representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Togo, China, Thailand, Luxembourg and the United States of America.

7. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics reiterated his delegation's opposition to acceptance of the credentials of the delegation of the so-called "Democratic Kampuchea" and its support for the People's Republic of Kampuchea occupying its legitimate place in the Organization.

8. The same representative stated that his delegation also wished to reconfirm its non-acceptance of the credentials of Chile and Grenada.

9. The representative of Togo stated that peace could be instituted only through compliance by all States with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular that of non-interference in the internal affairs of States. In this respect, he said the Credentials Committee should set the example of compliance with these principles by not entering into political issues concerning a given country or delegation. He further stated that the Committee was called upon only to examine the credentials submitted; any other consideration would fall outside its competence. He considered that all credentials received to date fulfilled the requirements of form and therefore proposed that the Committee accept them without further debate.

10. The representative of China reiterated the position of the Chinese delegation that the coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea was the sole legitimate

Government of Kampuchea. The General Assembly at all its previous sessions had made the correct decisions concerning the credentials of representatives of Democratic Kampuchea. The Chinese delegation therefore recommended that the Committee accept the credentials of the representatives of Democratic Kampuchea.

11. The same representative reiterated, with regard to the credentials of the representatives of Afghanistan, that, although agreements on the question of Afghanistan had been signed and were in effect, they were still in the process of being implemented; the Afghan question had not yet been finally resolved. The Chinese delegation, therefore, maintained its reservations regarding the participation by the Afghan representatives in the current session of the General Assembly.

12. The representative of Thailand recalled that the General Assembly had consistently taken the correct decision on the acceptance of the credentials of the representatives of Democratic Kampuchea in the past. He was confident that the credentials of the representatives of Democratic Kampuchea, which his delegation found to be in order, would once again be accepted by the Credentials Committee and by the General Assembly. He agreed with the representative of Togo that all credentials listed in the Secretary-General's memorandum and in the Legal Counsel's additional list should be accepted by the Committee.

13. The representative of Luxembourg stated that the function of the Committee under rules 27 and 28 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly was essentially of a technical character rather than a political one: the Committee was to examine whether the credentials submitted meet the formal requirements stipulated in rule 27 of the rules of procedure. Thus, the Committee was not called upon to make political judgements regarding the Governments that issued credentials; such judgements were to be made in other forums of the Assembly. The delegation of Luxembourg concluded that the credentials listed in the memorandum of the Secretary-General and in the additional information provided to the Committee by the Legal Counsel fulfilled those requirements, were accordingly in order and therefore should be accepted.

14. The representative of the United States of America stated that the credentials of the representatives of Democratic Kampuchea were clearly in order, fulfilled the requirements of rule 27 of the rules of procedure, had already been accepted by the General Assembly for a number of years and should therefore be accepted at the current session.

15. The same representative noted that it was regrettable that the credentials of the representatives of Chile and Grenada had been questioned. They were in order under the terms of rule 27 of the rules of procedure, and there was no possible basis for their being called into question.

16. The representative of the United States stated that, in view of the technical nature of the credentials exercise, the United States delegation would voice no objection to the acceptance of the credentials of the representatives of Afghanistan, even though that country's Government had been installed as a result of foreign aggression.

17. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that the statements made by one delegation about the credentials of the Republic of Afghanistan, which was acting in the international arena as a sovereign, independent and non-aligned State and as a full-fledged member of the United Nations, were a deliberate attempt to distort historical and political realities. Such statements did not reflect the task of the full, comprehensive settlement of the situation regarding Afghanistan, which must be pursued through the conscientious implementation of the Geneva accords.

18. The Chairman proposed that, taking into account the statements made by the Legal Counsel and by members of the Committee, which would be reflected in the Committee's report, the Committee should adopt the following draft resolution:

"The Credentials Committee,

"Having examined the credentials of the representatives to the forty-third session of the General Assembly of the Member States referred to in paragraph 4 of this report,

"Taking into account the various reservations expressed by delegations during the debate,

"Accepts the credentials of the representatives of the Member States concerned."

19. The draft resolution proposed by the Chairman was adopted without a vote.

20. The Chairman then proposed that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution (see para. 22). The proposal was adopted without a vote.

21. In the light of the foregoing, the present report is submitted to the General Assembly.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

22. The Credentials Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Credentials of representatives to the forty-third
session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Approves the first report of the Credentials Committee.
