



General Assembly

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General Committee

Summary record of the 4th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 15 October 2002, at 9.30 a.m.

Chairman: Ms. Clarke (Barbados)

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The meeting was called to order at 9.35 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda of the fifty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly and allocation of items (continued)

Memorandum by the Secretary-General (A/BUR/57/1); first report of the General Committee (A/57/250)

1. **The Chairman** recalled that the General Committee had decided at its 1st meeting to defer its consideration of the inclusion of the item entitled "Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte" to a later date (A/57/250, para. 71).

2. **Mr. Ramos** (Portugal) said that, having consulted the Comorian and French delegations, he wished to propose that the consideration of item 52 entitled "Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte" should be deferred to the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly and that the item should be included in the provisional agenda of that session, without prejudice to the positions of the two countries on the question.

3. **The Chairman** said that the representative of the Comoros had asked to make a statement. She took it that the Committee wished to accede to that request.

4. *It was so decided.*

5. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Aboud (Comoros) took a place at the Committee table.*

6. **Mr. Aboud** (Comoros) said that the island of Mayotte was an integral part of the Comoros and that the defence of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Comoros remained a national priority. His Government's position was backed by relevant United Nations resolutions as well as resolutions of other organizations such as the African Union and the League of Arab States, which all recognized the sovereignty of the Comoros over Mayotte. That stand was in keeping with international law, to which his Government was profoundly attached. Moreover, it was because of his Government's belief in France's commitment to the principles of international law that it favoured resolving the dispute between the two countries through a frank and constructive dialogue on the question. Pending a positive response from France, his Government continued to believe firmly that the question could be settled only within the framework of the United Nations. He therefore endorsed the proposal by the representative of Portugal.

7. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that consideration of the item should be deferred to the fifty-eighth session and that the item should be included in the provisional agenda of that session.*

8. *Mr. Aboud (Comoros) withdrew.*

Request for the inclusion of an additional item submitted by Peru (continued) (A/57/232)

9. **The Chairman** invited the Committee to consider a request by Peru for the inclusion of an additional item entitled "South American zone of peace and cooperation" (A/57/232).

10. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. de Rivero (Peru) took a place at the Committee table.*

11. **Mr. de Rivero** (Peru) said that the South American zone of peace and cooperation had been declared on 27 July 2002 in the context of the second meeting of Presidents of South America held at Guayaquil, Ecuador. That initiative was a dynamic commitment within the context of disarmament, security and development and sought to eliminate any possibility of conflict between South American countries. The creation of the zone would contribute to the strengthening of world peace and security at a critical time when the international community was threatened by international terrorism and the development of weapons of mass destruction. For those reasons, on behalf of the South American countries, his delegation requested the inclusion of the item in the agenda of the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly. It was important that the international community should support the purposes of the Declaration regarding the South American Zone of Peace and Cooperation.

12. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item should be included in the agenda, and that it should be allocated to the plenary Assembly.*

The meeting rose at 9.45 a.m.