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AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE  
TENTH SPECIAL SESSION  
1st meeting  
held on  
Wednesday, 24 May 1978  
at 10.30 a.m.  
New York

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 1ST MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ORTIZ DE ROZAS (Argentina)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.30 a.m.

ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIRMEN AND THE RAPPORTEUR

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): The report of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament contains in its paragraph 47 the recommendation that the Ad Hoc Committee should have a 10-member Bureau consisting of a Chairman, eight Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur. That recommendation, together with the rest of the final report, was approved unanimously by the General Assembly at its plenary meeting yesterday afternoon. Accordingly, the purpose of this meeting is to elect the eight Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteur of the Committee.

As frequently happens in the United Nations, there have been intensive consultations between delegations with a view to proposing candidates for these posts and deciding other pending matters. That was the reason for the delay in opening the meeting. Some delegations feel that they need still more time for consultation. Accordingly I propose that, if there are no objections, we should decide to have a brief recess before proceeding to the elections in order to give representatives the time to conclude their consultations.

It was so decided.

The meeting was suspended at 11.35 a.m. and resumed at 12.25 p.m.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I apologize for the additional delay in our work. But, as I said a while ago, these consultations are a necessary consequence of our proceedings, and while it may seem that time has been lost, in fact our work has been greatly facilitated. I should like to express my special gratitude to the Chairman of the Group of Western European and Other States, Ambassador Papoulias, for his co-operation and his understanding.

We shall now proceed to comply with the decision taken yesterday afternoon by the General Assembly in plenary meeting endorsing the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee and with rule 103 of the rules of procedure which governs the election of officers of the Committee; that is to say eight vice-chairmen and a rapporteur. In accordance with the rule I have just mentioned, the nominations are personal nominations. For this purpose, I am pleased to call first on the representative of Italy, Mr. Vinci.

Mr. VINCI (Italy): Mr. Chairman, since this is the first time I have spoken, I should like, first of all, to fulfil a pleasant duty in welcoming you back and to congratulate you upon your election to the chairmanship of the Committee of the Whole. You did such a wonderful job as the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee in the preparation of this special session of the General Assembly on disarmament that now you have the confidence of us all. We have now arrived at a decisive stage and we are happy to see you as our Chairman and to be working under your guidance.

My second pleasant duty is to proceed to the nomination of the two vice-chairmen of this Committee from the Group of Western European and Other States. It may be a surprise to all that I should be speaking on this occasion, but it is only by reason of age and seniority. It should not be my turn, but I am sure that everyone will understand why this is so when I make the first nomination.

For the first of the two vice-chairmanships I have the honour to nominate Ambassador George Papoulias of Greece. As he is the representative of the current Chairman of our Group, it would have been his turn to make the nomination, so this indicates why it was my turn to do so.

(Mr. Vinci, Italy)

Representatives all know our colleague from Greece very well. He has been active in many of the main bodies of the United Nations. He is, I think, held in the highest esteem not only by our Group but also by all the delegations belonging to other Groups. He has followed very closely the work of the Preparatory Committee, and he would certainly be an asset as one of the officers of this Committee.

Our second choice is His Excellency Ambassador Malcolm Templeton, the Permanent Representative of New Zealand. He also is well known. He has been very active in the Preparatory Committee. We had him in mind for another key post, but, if the Committee is in agreement, we shall be happy to see him elected as one of the Vice Chairmen of this Committee.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I ask you to propose to the Committee the election as Vice-Chairmen of Ambassador Papoulias and Ambassador Templeton from the Group of Western European and Other States.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I thank the representative of Italy for the kind words he was good enough to address to me. I am sure that if his Group selected him to submit the names of its candidates that was not because of age and seniority alone but because he is one of the most well liked members of the Group of Western European and Other States.

Mr. LINDENBERG SETTE (Brazil): Mr. Chairman, may I join Ambassador Vinci in expressing pleasure at seeing you once more presiding over our work. This Ad Hoc Committee has very important tasks ahead of it during this special session of the Assembly, and I think we are indeed fortunate to have you presiding over our meetings.

On behalf of the Latin American Group of countries I should like to nominate Mr. Davidson Hepburn as one of the Vice-Presidents of this Committee. Those of us who have worked here in New York know enough of his qualities as a diplomat and as a negotiator and of his experience in our work. But I should like to mention one qualification that I have observed personally and that I think very important, although it might be taken as levity in a group having such serious tasks ahead of it. One of Mr. Hepburn's chief qualities is his sense of humour.

It is with great pleasure that I propose Mr. Hepburn as one of the Vice-Chairmen.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I thank the representative of Brazil, my friend Mr. Lindenberg Sette, for the cordial words he addressed to me.

Mr. ISSRAELIAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Yesterday the Permanent Representative of the USSR to the United Nations, Mr. Troyanovsky, speaking in the plenary Assembly on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States, and on behalf of the Soviet Union in particular, welcomed you, Mr. Chairman, and congratulated you on your assumption of the chairmanship of this Committee. Unfortunately, that deprives me of an opportunity to congratulate you once more. You are my old friend, Ambassador de Rozas. I should say at the outset that it is difficult to imagine the activities of the United Nations without Ambassador Carlos Ortiz de Rozas. It is difficult to imagine discussions of the question of disarmament without your active participation, Sir. It seems to me that your election to your responsible post indeed ensures success for this highly important Committee of the special session of the United Nations devoted to disarmament.

At the behest of the Group of Eastern European States, it is my pleasure to submit the candidacy of the Permanent Representative of Poland to the United Nations, Comrade Jaroszek, for one of the vice-chairmanships of the Committee. Those present know that eminent Polish diplomat. He has earned commendation in many posts in various bodies of the General Assembly.

Similarly it is my pleasure to submit the candidacy of the Permanent Representative of Yugoslavia to the United Nations, Ambassador Petric, for another of the vice-chairmanships of this Committee. He is a great Yugoslav diplomat and is well known in United Nations circles. I have no doubt that he would ably discharge his important functions in working for the Committee of the Whole.

I express the hope that these candidacies will receive universal support.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I thank the representative of the Soviet Union for the very cordial words he addressed to me - words no doubt inspired by the friendship that he mentioned and that unites us.

Mr. TSHERING (Bhutan): As Chairman of the Asian Group for the month of May, and on behalf of the delegation of the Kingdom of Bhutan, I congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your election. We are satisfied by your unanimous election as Chairman of this important Committee of the Whole. We are confident that with your wide experience, diplomatic skill and tact you will be able to guide our deliberations to a fruitful and successful conclusion. I can assure you of the fullest co-operation of my delegation in the days ahead.

At a recent meeting the Asian Group endorsed the candidacy of Iran and Japan for two posts of Vice-Chairmen of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole. In my capacity as representative of the current Chairman of the Asian Group, I have the great pleasure and honour of nominating my two distinguished colleagues, Ambassador Fereydoun Hoveyda of Iran and Ambassador Motoo Ogiso of Japan. We are all familiar with their abilities and experience in work on disarmament. The members of this Committee know that Ambassador Hoveyda is the Chairman of the World Disarmament Conference and that Ambassador Ogiso has been the representative of his country to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament. I can assure you, Sir, that you will find them able, most co-operative and helpful in discharging your heavy responsibilities.

I wish you every success.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I thank the Permanent Representative of Bhutan for his cordial words addressed to me.

Mr. MUTUKWA (Zambia): On behalf of the African Group, and indeed on behalf of my own country, Zambia, I have the honour to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your election to the chairmanship of the Committee of the Whole. I was fortunate enough to participate as a member in the work of the Preparatory Committee and I am quite familiar with your skill as a diplomat and as a chairman.

(Mr. Mutukwa, Zambia)

I have the privilege, on behalf of the African Group, to present two nominations. The first is that of Ambassador Leslie Harriman, the Permanent Representative of Nigeria, as Vice-Chairman of the Committee. Ambassador Leslie Harriman needs no introduction in the forums of the United Nations. He is a well-known figure and, of course, the contribution of his country to the work of the United Nations and to matters on the African continent is very well known. Ambassador Harriman is Chairman of the United Nations Committee against Apartheid.

The second nomination which I wish to present is that for the post of Rapporteur. Here I have the honour to present the name of Mr. Abdelkader Bensmail of Algeria for the post of Rapporteur of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Bensmail has represented his country in the First Committee of the General Assembly since 1971. He has already served as Rapporteur of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament. He was also Chairman of the Drafting Committee that was established by the Preparatory Committee and which prepared the draft final document of the special session which we have before us. What I have just said bears testimony to the ability of Mr. Bensmail, whom the African Group is pleased to endorse as a candidate for the position of Rapporteur.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I thank the representative of Zambia for the cordial congratulations he was good enough to address to me.

With the statements we have just heard we now have the nominations for the eight Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteur. They are Ambassadors Papoulias of Greece, Templeton of New Zealand, Hepburn of the Bahamas, Jaroszek of Poland, Petric of Yugoslavia, Hoveyda of Iran, Ogiso of Japan and Harriman of Nigeria, and Mr. Bensmail of Algeria as Rapporteur.

(The Chairman)

I believe that we can dispense with the voting procedure established under the rules of procedure since I am confident that this Committee wishes to elect by acclamation the persons whose names I have read out and who have been duly nominated by the various geographical groups.

Ambassadors Papoulias (Greece), Templeton (New Zealand), Hepburn (Bahamas), Jaroszek (Poland), Petric (Yugoslavia), Hoveyda (Iran), Ogiso (Japan) and Harriman (Nigeria) were elected Vice-Chairmen, and Mr. Bensmail (Algeria) was elected Rapporteur.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I invite the Rapporteur, Mr. Bensmail, to take his place at the officer's table, and I should like to be the first, on behalf of this Ad Hoc Committee, to congratulate the eight Vice-Chairmen and our Rapporteur most cordially on the well-deserved honour which has been accorded to them.

The election of the eight Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteur, which we have just completed in unanimity, was the main purpose of today's meeting. Consequently we have concluded the work scheduled for this morning.



## ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I should like to explain that it is my intention to hold consultations now with the officers of the Committee in order to have an exchange of views on the organization of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee. I trust that in a very few days - possibly in 48 hours - we shall be able to examine all the organizational aspects which are still pending so as to be in a position to submit to the Committee the views of the officers regarding the manner in which the Committee should take up its tasks. Since the officers of the Committee are broadly representative of the various groups which constitute the United Nations I should like to think that the proposals we make in due course will be acceptable to all members of the Committee. In any event, all delegations will at that time have an opportunity to state their views should they deem it appropriate to do so.

Tentatively, and in accordance with the suggestion of the Preparatory Committee, our next meeting will be held on 1 June, on which day we can begin our substantive work. Nevertheless, it is possible that, after consultations with the Committee's officers, an earlier meeting may be convened in order to dispose of all organizational matters, so that on 1 June we can really embark on the task before us on the lines already approved by the Committee. In any case, the date of the next meeting will, as usual, be announced in the Journal.

Before adjourning this meeting I wish to say a few words about the importance which I attach to this morning's election of officers. It is my intention to continue to use the criteria which I applied when I was Chairman of the Preparatory Committee - that is to say, to maintain constant co-operation and consultation with all members of the Bureau. In the Preparatory Committee that system produced excellent results, and I am sure that the same will be true in the case of this Ad Hoc Committee. The congratulations which I had the opportunity to extend to the Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur not only reflect my feelings as Chairman and my personal feelings - for they are all good friends of mine - but also perhaps indicate selfishness on my part in that I intend to call on the co-operation, competence and intelligence of every officer so that our work may proceed as smoothly as possible, as I am sure it will.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.