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Agenda item 3

CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE THIRTY-SECOND SESSION  
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

First report of the Credentials Committee

Chairman: Mr. Shailendra Kumar UPADHYAY (Nepal)

1. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 20 September 1977, the General Assembly, in accordance with rule 28 of its rules of procedure, appointed for its thirty-second session a Credentials Committee consisting of the following Member States: Canada, China, Ecuador, Fiji, Madagascar, Nepal, Nigeria, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and United States of America.
2. The Credentials Committee held its 1st meeting on 9 November, it being understood that a further meeting would be convened at an appropriate time in order to consider remaining credentials.
3. Mr. Shailendra Kumar Upadhyay (Nepal) was elected Chairman unanimously.
4. The Committee had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General, dated 1 November 1977, indicating that as of that date communications had been received from 148 Member States participating in the session. Credentials issued by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, as provided for by rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, had been submitted by 120 Member States. The appointment of the representatives of Egypt, Lebanon and the Philippines had been communicated to the Secretary-General by cables from the Ministers for Foreign Affairs. The appointment of representatives of 25 Member States (Angola, Bahamas, Belgium, Comoros, Congo, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, France, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Italy, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Netherlands, Pakistan, Poland, Sao Tome and Principe, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey and United Arab Emirates) had been communicated to the Secretary-General by letter or note verbale from the permanent representative or permanent mission concerned. However, of these, the permanent representatives of 14 Member States (Angola, Bahamas, Belgium, Congo, Dominican Republic, France, Italy, Mozambique, Netherlands, Pakistan, Poland, Sudan, Tunisia and Turkey) had been empowered to represent their Governments without limitation as to session in all organs of the United Nations. No communication had been received from South Africa.

5. The Legal Counsel informed the Committee that, since the preparation of the memorandum of the Secretary-General, credentials in the form provided for by rule 27 of the rules of procedure had been received from El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea and the Netherlands. The Legal Counsel also informed the Committee that it would be in accordance with past practice to permit the representatives of Member States participating in the session for whom formal credentials had yet to be submitted to be provisionally seated with the same rights as other representatives pending the receipt of formal credentials. A further memorandum by the Secretary-General would be issued in due course concerning these remaining credentials.

6. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, referring to paragraph 2 of the memorandum of the Secretary-General, stated that his delegation did not recognize the credentials of the delegation of the fascist régime of Chile and requested that this view be reflected in the report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

7. The representative of the United States of America stated that the comment made by the representative of the USSR was not related to the competence of the Credentials Committee and the provisions of rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, under which the Secretary-General had reported that the credentials of the member in question were in order.

8. The Chairman proposed that in the light of the remarks of the Legal Counsel, and taking into account the statements made by the representatives of the USSR and the United States, the Committee should decide to accept the formal credentials already received and allow all other representatives of Member States participating in the session to sit provisionally with the same rights as other representatives pending the receipt of formal credentials. Accordingly he proposed the following draft resolution for adoption by the Committee:

"The Credentials Committee,

"Taking into account the views expressed during the debate,

"1. Accepts the formal credentials of the representatives that have already been received;

"2. Proposes that, pending the receipt of formal credentials as provided for by rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the representatives for whom formal credentials have not yet been submitted be provisionally seated with the same rights as other representatives."

The draft resolution was adopted without a vote.

9. The Chairman then proposed that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution (see para. 11 below). The proposal was approved by the Committee without a vote.

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

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RECOMMENDATION OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

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

Credentials of representatives to the thirty-second session  
of the General Assembly

The General Assembly

Approves the first report of the Credentials Committee.

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