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

First report of the Credentials Committee

Chairman: Mr. Siméon AKE (Ivory Coast)

1. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 21 September 1976, the General Assembly, in accordance with rule 28 of its rules of procedure, appointed for its thirty-first session a Credentials Committee consisting of the following Member States: China, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ivory Coast, Malaysia, Netherlands, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America and Zambia.
2. The Credentials Committee held its 1st meeting on 2 November, it being understood that a further meeting would be convened at an appropriate time in order to consider remaining credentials.
3. Mr. Siméon Aké (Ivory Coast) was elected Chairman unanimously.
4. The Committee had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General, dated 22 October 1976, indicating that as of that date communications had been received from 144 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 117 Member States. The appointment of the representative of Sao Tome and Principe had been communicated to the Secretary-General by cable from the Minister for Foreign Affairs. The appointment of representatives of 26 Member States (Algeria, Bangladesh, Colombia, Congo, Egypt, Gabon, Gambia, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Italy, Lebanon, Mauritania, Mauritius, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates and Zaire) 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 16 Member States (Algeria, Bangladesh, Congo, Egypt, Gabon, Grenada, Italy, Lebanon, Mauritius, Pakistan, Philippines, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey and Uganda) 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 Trinidad and Tobago and Uganda. 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 Chile and requested that this view be reflected in the report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

7. The Chairman proposed that in the light of the remarks of the Legal Counsel, and taking into account the statement made by the representative of the USSR, 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.

8. The Chairman then proposed that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution (see para. 10 below). The proposal was approved by the Committee without a vote.

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

RECOMMENDATION OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

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

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

The General Assembly,

Approves the first report of the Credentials Committee.