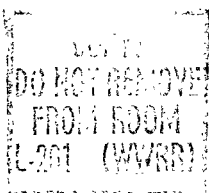


United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

Official Records *



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LECT

SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE
39th meeting
held on
Monday, 5 December 1977
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 39th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. NEUGEBAUER (German Democratic Republic)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 128: QUESTION OF THE COMPOSITION OF THE RELEVANT ORGANS OF THE UNITED NATIONS (A/32/243)

1. Mr. MATANE (Papua New Guinea), speaking on behalf of the Asian countries which had requested the inclusion of item 128 in the agenda of the General Assembly, said that the very fact that 29 of the 37 countries of the Asian Group had joined in requesting consideration of the question demonstrated the importance that the Group attached to it.
2. It was generally acknowledged that the composition of the various organs of the United Nations should be such as to ensure their representative character. Because of the fact that there had been a large increase in the membership of the United Nations, particularly in the African and Asian groups, the representation of regional groups in the various organs no longer reflected the principle of equitable geographical distribution.
3. A consensus had been reached among the interested delegations of the Asian Group to begin by proposing at the current session a revision of the composition of the General Committee of the General Assembly, one of the most important organs of the United Nations. The present composition of the General Committee was fixed by resolution 1990 (XVIII), adopted by the Assembly at its eighteenth session in 1963, in the course of which the Assembly had also adopted resolution 1991 (XVIII) enlarging the membership of the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council. The situation had changed greatly since then; in 1963, the United Nations had had a membership of 113, 53 per cent of which had consisted of African and Asian States, whereas the present figures were 149 and 58 per cent respectively. However, the African and Asian States occupied only 44 per cent of the seats in the General Committee, i.e. 11 out of 25: 8 vice-presidencies of the General Assembly and 3 Chairmanships of Main Committees. There was thus good reason to propose that the composition of the General Committee should be revised in such a way as to reflect more accurately the number of African and Asian States Members of the United Nations.
4. Intensive consultations were under way among the interested delegations of the Asian Group, which hoped to be able to submit at the next meeting of the Committee a draft resolution containing concrete proposals.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

5. The CHAIRMAN said that, since consultations concerning item 123 were still under way in the regional groups, consideration of that question had had to be postponed until the next meeting of the Committee, which would then take up items 123 and 128. Noting that the Committee had only a week left in which to complete its work, he suggested that on Wednesday morning, 7 December, it should begin the debate on item 56 entitled "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects" and should then include in the agenda for each of its subsequent meetings any items on which work had not yet been completed.

/...

6. It was so decided.

7. The CHAIRMAN noted that the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee for the Announcement of Voluntary Contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East was to be held on 6 December at 11 a.m.

The meeting rose at 3.45 p.m.