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3rd
PLENARY MEETING

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President: Mr. Hamilton Shirley AMERASINGHE
(Sri Lanka).

AGENDA ITEM 5

**Constitution of the Main Committees and election of
officers (*continued*)**

1. The PRESIDENT: Although rule 31 of the rules of procedure states that the Vice-Presidents shall be elected after the election of the Chairmen of the seven Main Committees referred to in rule 98, it would help to expedite our work if we were to proceed at once to the election of the 17 Vice-Presidents. While the ballot papers are being counted, I shall recess the meeting to enable those who are concerned with the election of the Chairman of the Fourth Committee to hold consultations and reach a decision on their nomination. That would enable us to complete the constitution of the General Committee. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Assembly agrees to proceed in that manner.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 6

Election of the Vice-Presidents

2. The PRESIDENT: As the Assembly has just decided, we shall now proceed to the election of the 17 Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly who are to be chosen in such a manner as to ensure the representative character of the General Committee. All States Members of the General Assembly are eligible in this election except those already represented in the General Committee—namely, those countries whose representatives have been elected to the presidency of the General Assembly or to the chairmanship of one of the Main Committees.

3. I realize that a problem arises here, because we do not know which countries are not represented among the chairmanships of the Main Committees. It appears that,

although I made a suggestion that we proceed to the election of the 17 Vice-Presidents, we may not be in a position to do so. I call on the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs to advise us on this point.

4. Mr. BUFFUM (Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs): It would seem to us that, given the general assumptions which must be made about the probable candidacies for chairman of the Fourth Committee and the fact that candidates for the chairmen of six of the Main Committees have already been agreed upon, it would be reasonable to assume that, given the number of candidates for the post of Vice-President that have already been agreed upon and that have been neither contested nor made dependent on the final decision regarding the chairmanship of the Fourth Committee, it would be in order for the President to proceed.

5. The PRESIDENT: I take it that the Assembly is, therefore, ready to proceed with the election of the 17 Vice-Presidents.

It was so decided.

6. The PRESIDENT: In view of the fact that under resolution 1990 (XVIII) the election of the President has the effect of reducing by one the number of vice-presidencies allocated to the region from which the President has been elected, only six representatives from African and Asian States—that is, from Group A, as indicated in foot-note 14 to rule 31 of the rules of procedure—may be elected Vice-Presidents.

7. Under rule 92 of the rules of procedure, all elections must be held by secret ballot and there shall be no nominations.

8. Five ballot papers are now being distributed. The back of each ballot paper is marked with the letter A, B, C, D or E, corresponding to the five groups of States. The number of Vice-Presidents to be elected is indicated on each ballot paper, as follows:

- Group A: Six representatives from African and Asian States;
- Group B: One representative from an Eastern European State;
- Group C: Three representatives from Latin American States;
- Group D: Two representatives from Western European and other States;
- Group E: Five representatives from the permanent members of the Security Council.

9. I request representatives to write on each ballot paper the names of the Member States for which they wish to vote, not the names of those countries' representatives. Any ballot paper containing more names than are assigned to that particular group will be declared invalid. Those Member States receiving a majority of the votes will be declared elected.

10. In order that there should be no confusion with regard to the ballot paper for Group A, representatives from African and Asian States, I wish to state that, although the ballot paper says that there will be seven vice-presidencies, the seventh has been eliminated and that group is entitled to only six vice-presidencies. We shall now proceed to the vote.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Theodoracopoulos (Greece), Mr. Al-Zaid (Kuwait), Mr. Jere (Malawi), Mr. Korneenko (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic), and Mr. Scotland (Guyana) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

11. The PRESIDENT: Since the counting of the votes will take some time, I propose to suspend the meeting while the tellers are carrying out their task.

The meeting was suspended at 4.35 p.m. and resumed at 5.50 p.m.

12. The PRESIDENT: Before announcing the results of the election for the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly, I should like to state that I have been informed by the tellers that in certain instances votes were cast for permanent members of the Security Council in the voting for regional groups. Those votes for permanent members of the Security Council have not been included in the total number of votes.

13. I shall now announce the results of the election for the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly.

Group A: African and Asian States

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	133
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	0
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	133
<i>Abstentions:</i>	1
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	132
<i>Required majority:</i>	67

Number of votes obtained:

Chad	127
United Republic of Tanzania	127
Guinea	125
Sudan	125
Japan	114
Oman	112
Democratic Yemen	5
Ghana	3
Nepal	2

Group B: Eastern European States

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	133
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	8
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	125
<i>Abstentions:</i>	4
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	121
<i>Required majority:</i>	61

Number of votes obtained:

German Democratic Republic	117
Romania	3
Yugoslavia	1

Group C: Latin American States

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	131
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	0
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	131
<i>Abstentions:</i>	2
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	129
<i>Required majority:</i>	65

Number of votes obtained:

Panama	127
Dominican Republic	119
Nicaragua	117
Cuba	4
Guyana	2
Venezuela	2
Argentina	1
Colombia	1
Costa Rica	1
Jamaica	1
Mexico	1
Peru	1

Group D: Western European and other States

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	133
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	1
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	132
<i>Abstentions:</i>	2
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	130
<i>Required majority:</i>	66

Number of votes obtained:

Turkey	125
Australia	122
Austria	2
Sweden	2
Greece	1
Luxembourg	1
Netherlands	1
Portugal	1

Group E: Permanent members of the Security Council

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	133
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	1
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	132
<i>Abstentions:</i>	4
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	128
<i>Required majority:</i>	65

Number of votes obtained:

France	124
China	121
United States of America	121
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	121
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	120

Having obtained the required majority, the representatives of the following Member States were elected Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly: Australia, Chad, China, Dominican Republic, France, German Democratic Republic, Guinea, Japan, Nicaragua, Oman, Panama, Sudan, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America.

14. The PRESIDENT: I thank the tellers for their assistance in this election, and I congratulate the countries whose representatives have been elected Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly.

15. I shall now suspend the meeting so that the Fourth Committee may meet to elect its Chairman.

The meeting was suspended at 5.55 p.m. and resumed at 6 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 5

Constitution of the Main Committees and election of officers (concluded)

16. The PRESIDENT: The following representatives have been elected Chairmen of the seven Main Committees of

the General Assembly and are accordingly members of the General Committee for the thirty-first session:

First Committee: Mr. Henryk Jaroszek (Poland);

Special Political Committee: Mr. Mooki V. Molapo (Lesotho);

Second Committee: Mr. Jaime Valdés (Bolivia);

Third Committee: Mr. Dietrich von Kyaw (Federal Republic of Germany);

Fourth Committee: Mr. Tom Vraalsen (Norway);

Fifth Committee: Mr. Ali Sunni Muntasser (Libyan Arab Republic);

Sixth Committee: Mr. Estelito P. Mendoza (Philippines).

May I congratulate the Chairmen on their election. I look forward to their co-operation during the rest of the session.

17. The General Committee has now fully constituted.

18. I think it is appropriate for me at this stage to make a statement in relation to the problems that have arisen today in the elections. The difficulties we have encountered in disposing of the chairmanships of the Main Committees lead me to observe that this is a matter in which advance planning and agreement among all groups can greatly facilitate and expedite the work of the General Assembly. It is quite clear that our difficulties have arisen because there is no fixed pattern of rotation of Committee chairmanships on a regional basis. To avoid a repetition of the problem we have encountered today I would urge the chairmen of the regional groups to take it upon themselves during the balance of this session to seek to arrive at a firm agreement on how chairmanships should rotate so that we may have a gentleman's agreement which we could observe in the future and avoid the difficulties that have arisen today.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.