

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**



THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

Official Records *

FIRST COMMITTEE
1st meeting
held on
Wednesday, 22 September 1976
at 11.55 a.m.
New York

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 1st MEETING

Temporary Chairman: Mr. AMERASINGHE (President of the
General Assembly)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.55 a.m.

ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Rule 103 of the rules of procedure provides that each Main Committee shall elect a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur. These officers shall be elected on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, experience and personal competence. The elections shall be held by secret ballot unless the Committee decides otherwise in an election where only one candidate is standing. The nomination of each candidate shall be limited to one speaker, after which the Committee shall immediately proceed to the election.

Furthermore, rule 110 of the rules of procedure provides that congratulations to the officers of a Main Committee shall not be expressed except by the Chairman of the previous session -- or, in his absence, by a member of his delegation -- after all the officers of the Committee have been elected.

This meeting has been convened for the election of the Chairman of the First Committee. Are there any nominations?

Mr. GHORRA (Lebanon): Mr. Chairman, your election yesterday as President of the General Assembly at its thirty-first session is a new laurel to be added to so many that crown a brilliant career which you have skilfully and faithfully dedicated to your country, to the international community, to every cause associated with respect for human rights, the international community, to peace and progress and to the strengthening of international co-operation. Please accept, Sir, my deepest and warmest congratulations and those of the Lebanese delegation upon your election.

Having been privileged during the thirtieth session to serve as Chairman of the First Committee, I am indeed very pleased to follow the established practice in placing before this Committee the nomination of the Chairman of the Committee for the current session. It is, therefore, my personal pleasure and distinct honour to nominate His Excellency the Permanent Representative of the Polish People's Republic, Ambassador Henryk Jaroszek.

(Mr. Ghorra, Lebanon)

I have no need to introduce Ambassador Jaroszek for he is very well known to his colleagues here in the United Nations and in international circles where he is held in high esteem.

He has served his country, the Polish People's Republic, in various diplomatic capacities in several capitals and has participated in many international conferences, mainly those relating to disarmament in general and to nuclear weapons in particular.

(Mr. Ghorra, Lebanon)

He has represented his country on the First Committee for several General Assembly sessions with distinction and has participated in the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament and in the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States in 1968. He was the Permanent Representative of Poland for the United Nations Office in Geneva and has also directed the Department of International Organizations at the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. His vast experience and thorough knowledge of international problems, especially those on the agenda of the First Committee, are a sure guarantee that he will conduct the affairs of that Committee very ably and successfully, bringing positive results.

We all know the importance of the problems that will be discussed in the First Committee during the next three months but we know also that Ambassador Jaroszek, with his skill as a negotiator and as a mediator, will be able to conduct the Committee's affairs in a just and impartial manner. With his experience in United Nations Affairs and his dedication to the cause of peace with justice and international co-operation, I am confident that Mr. Jaroszek will be a great asset to the General Assembly.

In nominating Ambassador Jaroszek, I am confident that I am expressing the views and opinions of the delegations assembled here and therefore I should like to propose that the members of the Assembly elect him by acclamation Chairman of the First Committee.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Henryk Jaroszek of Poland has been nominated by the delegation of Lebanon for the chairmanship of the First Committee. Since only one candidate has been nominated, I propose that under rule 103 the Committee decide not to have a secret ballot.

It was so decided.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Therefore I declare Mr. Henryk Jaroszek of Poland elected Chairman of the First Committee by acclamation.

The meeting rose at 12.05 p.m.