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Thirty-ninth session
Agenda item 3CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE THIRTY-NINTH SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLYFirst report of the Credentials Committee

Chairman: Mr. Dago TSHERING (Bhutan)

1. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 18 September 1984, the General Assembly, in accordance with rule 28 of its rules of procedure, appointed a Credentials Committee for its thirty-ninth session consisting of the following Member States: Bhutan, China, Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, Italy, Ivory Coast, Paraguay, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and United States of America.
2. The Credentials Committee held its 1st meeting on 11 October 1984.
3. Mr. Dago Tshering (Bhutan) was unanimously elected Chairman.
4. The Committee had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General, dated 10 October 1984, on the status of credentials of representatives to the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly. The memorandum indicated that, as at 10 October, credentials issued by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, as provided for in rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, has been submitted by 127 Member States (Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Denmark, Djibouti, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Republic, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico,

Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire and Zambia).

5. The Legal Counsel explained to the Committee that the Secretary-General's memorandum related solely to the Member States that had submitted formal credentials in accordance with rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. The Legal Counsel indicated also that at a later stage the Secretary-General would report to the Committee on the credentials of representatives of other Member States participating in the thirty-ninth session whose formal credentials had not been received at the time of the Committee's 1st meeting.

6. Statements relating to the credentials of the representatives of the Member States referred to in the Secretary-General's memorandum were made by the representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Cuba, China, the United States of America, the Ivory Coast, Italy and Paraguay.

7. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that the Soviet delegation considered it necessary to state its position with respect to the credentials of the representatives of so-called "Democratic Kampuchea". It was no secret to anybody that there was no country called "Democratic Kampuchea" either on the geographical map or in actual international political life. There was a State, the People's Republic of Kampuchea, created by the will of the Kampuchean people, which had survived the savage bombing raids of the United States Air Force and the genocide of the Pol Pot clique. The Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, formed on the basis of free, democratic and universal elections, was leading the country steadily along the path of national rebirth. Under difficult conditions, and relying on the support of friendly countries, the People's Republic of Kampuchea had attained impressive success in restoring the economy and building a new life. The People's Republic of Kampuchea consistently pursued a policy of peace and co-operation and actively and steadfastly advocated the normalization of the situation in South-East Asia and the establishment there of a zone of peace, stability and co-operation. The international prestige of the People's Republic of Kampuchea would go from strength to strength. Its domestic and foreign policy enjoyed the full support of the Kampuchean people. Kampuchea had made its choice of the path of historical development and social progress, and it was beyond anyone's power to turn back the course of history. The Soviet delegation resolutely advocated restoration of the lawful rights of the People's Republic of Kampuchea in the United Nations. To give the representatives of the People's Republic of Kampuchea the lawful right to speak on behalf of their country and the Kampuchean people would be the only just solution, and would meet the requirements of the United Nations Charter and maintain the Organization's authority. As for those people who were still to be found within the confines of the United Nations assuming the role of delegates of so-called "Democratic Kampuchea", they

represented no one aside from the elements that had been repudiated by the Kampuchean people in the course of its struggle for liberation. "The coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea" was nothing more than a mask which had been devised to disguise the Pol Pot clique of butchers. Their presence within the United Nations was an insult to the memory of millions of Kampucheans who had fallen victim to the genocide engaged in by the Pol Pot clique, and impaired the prestige of the United Nations. The Pol Pot gang, driven out of the country by their own people, must be expelled from the United Nations as well. For those reasons the Soviet delegation opposed the acceptance of the credentials of the representatives of so-called "Democratic Kampuchea".

8. The same representative also stated that he wished to reaffirm the Soviet delegation's position with regard to the non-acceptance of the credentials of the delegation of the fascist régime in Chile.

9. The representative of Cuba stated that when, in 1979, the Pol Pot clique had abandoned Kampuchea the world had been shocked by the barbarism perpetrated against the people of that country and which had been comparable only to the fascism witnessed during the Second World War. There had been persecutions, torture and mass assassinations, atrocities difficult to understand. The Pol Pot clique had attacked its own people in a genocidal manner and now claimed to represent them. Under a popular Government, the Kampuchean people were now attempting to heal the wounds of the past. There was no longer the phantom city of Phenom Penh left behind by the Pol Pot clique. The promising reality of the Kampuchea of today should be recognized by the United Nations. The Government in Phom Penh was fulfilling the hopes of the people and, accordingly it would be absurd to recognize the butchers of Pol Pot as the representative of Kampuchea. The sole representative of the people was the Government chosen by them, the Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea. It was that Government that should represent Kampuchea in the United Nations.

10. The representative of China stated that, with regard to the question of the credentials of Democratic Kampuchea, it was common knowledge that Democratic Kampuchea since its founding was a full Member of the United Nations and that the representatives of Democratic Kampuchea had participated in all the previous sessions of the General Assembly and in all kinds of other international conferences on behalf of the Kampuchean people. Those were undeniable historical facts. In accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, the legitimacy of a State should never be challenged just because the State had been subjected to foreign aggression. Moreover, in the case of Democratic Kampuchea, its Coalition Government was effectively leading the patriotic armed forces and people of that country in a just struggle against foreign invasion, and they had achieved numerous victories. Democratic Kampuchea was a peaceful, neutral, independent and non-aligned sovereign State. The credentials of the representatives of Democratic Kampuchea to the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly were fully authentic and valid as they conformed entirely to the relevant provisions of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and to the requirements of the United Nations. The Chinese delegation reaffirmed its acceptance of the credentials of the representatives of Democratic Kampuchea. It objected to any attempt to legitimize foreign aggression against Kampuchea and would never allow a puppet régime propped up by force by foreign aggressor troops to be imposed on the United Nations.

11. The same representative reiterated the Chinese delegation's position that the fact that Mr. Dost of Afghanistan had been permitted to participate in the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly should not be interpreted as an acquiescence in the status quo resulting from armed invasion in Afghanistan.

12. The representative of the United States of America stated that he found it highly ironic to hear that the supporters of the Khmer Rouge had suddenly discovered human rights. The credentials of Democratic Kampuchea were in order and fulfilled the requirements of rule 27 of the rules of procedure. Those credentials had been accepted at previous sessions of the General Assembly and should be accepted for the current session. The substance of the situation in the area would be debated at a later stage in the appropriate forum.

13. The same representative regretted that the Soviet delegation had raised objections to the credentials of Chile. Those credentials were in order and there was no basis whatever for questioning their acceptance by the Credentials Committee. In his view the Soviet objection meant merely that the Soviet Union did not like the Government of Chile. If all ignored the technical nature of our responsibilities and instead objected to the credentials of Governments that they did not like then chaos would reign.

14. The representative of the United States added that out of respect for the technical nature of the credentials exercise his delegation had not objected to the credentials of the representatives of Afghanistan but that was not to be interpreted to mean acquiescence in the situation that exist as a result of the foreign aggression that that country had suffered from the North, namely, from the Soviet Union.

15. The representative of the Ivory Coast stated tht dialogue as the main tool for settling all disputes in international relations remained the corner-stone of the Ivory Coast's foreign policy. Dialogue did not necessarily mean agreement or approval of a given policy. The Ivory Coast fully believed in that principle for the peaceful settlement of disputes and was a fervent defender of the principle of universality within the United Nations system. It was in that spirit that his delegation had examined the credentials of delegations to the thrity-ninth session to ensure that they were in accordance with the provisions of rule 27 of the rules of procedure. All the credentials submitted were in accordance with that rule, were valid and should be accepted. Acceptance of those credentials by his delegation in no way implied that it had taken a position with respect to any dispute currently taking place in international relations.

16. The representative of Italy stated that his country had always supported the validity of the credentials of the representatives of Democratic Kampuchea which had always been accepted by the General Assembly. Those credentials were fully in accordance with rule 27 of the rules of procedure and, since the situation had remained unchanged, there were no grounds for adopting a different attitude at the current session.

17. The representative of Paraguay stated that his delegation regarded the memorandum by the Secretary-General as reflecting fully the validity of the credentials submitted. In the case of the credentials of the representatives of Democratic Kampuchea, Paraguay reaffirmed its position that those credentials were valid.

18. The same representative added that with respect to the credentials of the representatives of Chile there were no legal grounds on which to challenge that country's credentials.

19. The representative of the Soviet Union stated that his delegation considered that the pronouncements which had been made in the Committee with regard to the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan - a sovereign and non-aligned country, and a full member of the Organization - were completely out of place and were based on a malicious distortion of the historical facts and realities. The comments by the representatives of the United States and China could only be regarded as an example of psychological warfare and an inadmissible attempt to intervene in the internal affairs of a State Member of the United Nations in violation of the Charter and contrary to the interests of normalizing the situation in South-West Asia and providing a favourable atmosphere for negotiations being conducted through the personal representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

20. The Chairman proposed that, taking into account the statements that had been made by the Legal Counsel and by the members of the Committee which would be reflected in the Committee's report, the Committee should adopt the following draft resolution:

"The Credentials Committee,

"Having examined the credentials of the representatives to the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly of the Member States referred to in paragraph 4 of this report,

"Taking into account the various reservations expressed by delegations during the debate,

"Accepts the credentials of the representatives of the Member States concerned."

21. The draft resolution proposed by the Chairman was adopted without a vote.

22. The Chairman then proposed that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution (see para. 24). The proposal was adopted without a vote.

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

RECOMMENDATION OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

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

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

The General Assembly,

Approves the first report of the Credentials Committee.
