



Thursday, 6 November 1952, at 10.30 a.m.

Headquarters, New York

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**President: Mr. Lester B. PEARSON (Canada).**

**Consideration of the various items on the agenda of the meeting**

1. The PRESIDENT: Representatives have before them the agenda of this meeting, which includes five reports of Main Committees. In this connexion, I would draw the attention of the Assembly to rule 67 of our rules of procedure, which reads as follows:

"Discussion of a report of a Main Committee in a plenary meeting of the General Assembly shall take place if at least one-third of the Members present and voting at the plenary meeting consider such a discussion to be necessary. Any proposal to this effect shall not be debated, but shall be immediately put to the vote."

2. Unless I receive any proposal for discussion on these reports, I shall take it to be the wish of the Assembly to proceed to vote upon them.

*It was so decided.*

**Report of the Director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East: report of the *Ad Hoc* Political Committee (A/2246)**

[Agenda item 20]

*Mr. Salazar (Dominican Republic), Rapporteur of the Ad Hoc Political Committee, presented the report of that Committee (A/2246) and then spoke as follows:*

3. Mr. SALAZAR (Dominican Republic), Rapporteur of the *Ad Hoc* Political Committee (*translated from Spanish*): In conclusion, it is my duty also to report to the General Assembly that, in the course of the discussion in the *Ad Hoc* Political Committee, many delegations emphasized that the relief budget was generally inadequate and should be increased from \$23 to \$27 million for the fiscal year ending 30 June 1953. The view was also expressed that the relief programmes proper should be terminated without delay and that, at the same time, the three-year reintegration programme should be put into operation as quickly as possible so that the refugees may be removed from the list of persons receiving food relief and enabled to earn their own livelihood, a step which would help appreciably to solve the problem.

4. Lastly, I should mention that many delegations thanked and congratulated the Director of the Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, Mr. Blandford, as well as the members of the Advisory Commission, for what they had done during this period, in keeping with the directives of the United Nations, to deal with this serious aspect of the tensions disturbing international relations in the Near East and for providing relief and contributing to the restoration of normal living conditions for almost 900,000 persons. This work is one of the most tangible expressions of our Organization's ability to fulfil its

high humanitarian purposes and to achieve its supreme task of maintaining international peace and security.

5. The PRESIDENT: The General Assembly has decided not to discuss this item. I shall put the draft resolution of the *Ad Hoc* Political Committee (A/2246) to the vote, after which I shall call on any delegations which may so desire to explain their votes.

*The draft resolution was adopted by 48 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.*

6. The PRESIDENT: The representative of Iraq will address the General Assembly in explanation of his vote.

7. Mr. AL-JAMALI (Iraq): My delegation abstained from voting on the resolution, and it is only proper that I should explain our abstention.

8. Of course, we are in complete agreement with the principle that relief should be administered to the refugees; that is most essential. We are not against the principle of relief as long as it is needed, but we believe that such relief is inadequate for two reasons.

9. First, the whole issue of relief does not approach the problem of refugees from the source. The problem of refugees is one of the most shocking to the conscience of mankind. Men who have had the opportunity of visiting the camps of the refugees—and among them, some distinguished Congressmen from the United States—have been shocked by the conditions under which these refugees exist, a condition almost sub-human. It is shocking to the conscience of mankind because it undermines all our legal, moral, political and human principles. There is no justification for people who have lived in their own homes and their own country for thousands of years being uprooted and made homeless, their farms taken away from them, simply because other people from the outside, supported by power politics, came in and occupied their homes and their lands.

10. The General Assembly partitioned Palestine [*resolution 181(II)*], but it did not forsake the principle that these people are entitled to their homes and their lands. It recognized this right and allowed them at least sections of Palestine. But these territories were denied to them. Today, their homes, their lands, the territories allotted to them by the decision of the General Assembly, have been denied to them. The condition of the refugees is outrageous, shocking to the conscience of mankind, and the resolution which the General Assembly adopted today will not settle the matter as long as there is one Member of the United Nations which defies the resolutions of the General Assembly, defies humanitarian laws, the rights of man, the principles of the Charter and the fact that every individual is entitled to his home. That is a sacred principle which must not be violated. Unless the refugee problem is dealt with at the source, and unless rights—sacred rights, human rights—are recognized, any relief is inadequate and, in the view of my delegation, will not settle the matter.

11. The only way to tackle the question of the refugees is to see to it that their rights to their homes are recognized and that they are allowed to return to them. Relief may be necessary and, indeed, essential, but for a very temporary period only. It will

never solve the problem. People who have lived in their own homes for thousands of years, and who are so attached to their sacred home by spiritual ties, can never be separated therefrom. My delegation cannot, therefore, consider that relief of this kind is adequate to settle the refugee problem.

12. The second reason for which we are abstaining is that even this relief—administered by the United Nations to victims of its own resolution, not victims of a dictator—is so inadequate and meagre in quantity that it has forced the refugees to lead a sub-human life. My delegation has come to understand that one of the Powers which were most instrumental in causing this tragedy views the refugees in a discriminatory way. It does not treat them as human beings or as refugees of other races are treated, but recognizes in their case a standard which is much below the basic elements of human requirements. That is one of the reasons why my delegation cannot vote for a proposal which recognizes such a standard of living and such sub-human treatment for refugees. After all, the Arabs are not sub-human. They should be treated in the same way as other races and Western populations. A refugee from the West is not a higher form of human being than a refugee from an Arab land, and I hope that this kind of discrimination will be dealt with and overcome.

13. These are the reasons for which my delegation is unable to support this item on relief, although we do recognize the necessity for relief. I wish to submit that unless the refugee problem is settled justly and humanely, there can be no peace for the Middle East and, consequently, no peace for the world.

14. The PRESIDENT: I call upon the representative of Syria for an explanation of his vote.

15. Mr. DAOUDI (Syria) (*translated from French*): I had the honour of stating my delegation's views in the *Ad Hoc* Political Committee during the discussion of the annual report submitted by Mr. Blandford, the Director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. I should like to clarify the Syrian Government's position with regard to the refugee problem and the programme of the Agency, and to explain why my delegation voted in favour of the draft resolution in the *Ad Hoc* Political Committee.

16. The question of the Palestine refugees is of the greatest concern to the Syrian Government for various reasons, the most important of which is the tragic plight of the refugees. The Arab States have had occasion to express their surprise at the failure of the United Nations to deal with the situation created by the Zionist attitude. It is true that the United Nations set up the Relief and Works Agency to assist Palestine refugees, but the Agency has not succeeded in satisfactorily carrying out the great work entrusted to it. I should like to discuss the Agency's past activities, which are dealt with in Mr. Blandford's report, in order to draw some needed lessons regarding plans for the future.

17. It may perhaps be useful to say a few words regarding the situation of the refugees during the past year and during the three years which have elapsed since the people of Palestine fled to the Arab coun-

tries. The whole world remembers the story of the Palestine drama and the subsequent exile of a million men and women. Special hospitality was extended to the refugees by the Syrian people as a whole and by their Government. Syria displayed her traditional generosity in order to help the unfortunate refugees to forget their grief and their sufferings. This policy was followed by the successive governments since that date and remained unchanged even after the Agency was set up.

18. It was hoped that the United Nations agency would succeed in remedying the very serious state of affairs. But the refugees have rightly complained of the unendurable life in the camps, the lack of interest shown in education, the inadequacy of the rations and in particular the failure of the medical services to look after the refugees' health. My delegation has had occasion to point out that these complaints are justified and has drawn attention to the seriousness of the refugees' situation, especially as regards health.

19. In explaining our vote on the resolution, I should like to refer to the present and future projects of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency. My delegation wishes in the first place to state once again that Syria has always considered that the only possible solution of the refugee problem is repatriation. My Government's policy and actions are still based on that view. Is it too much for the people of Palestine to ask to return to the homes from which they were driven by force? Is it unreasonable that the people of Palestine should wish to return to their native land, to the cradle of their customs and traditions, to the place of their heritage; if they should wish to recover the possessions of which they have been deprived? Is it unreasonable that the refugees should ask the United Nations to give effect to its own resolutions?

20. My delegation considers that it is the duty of the United Nations to honour its resolutions regarding Palestine and to ensure that they are accepted by the Jews, who continue to snap their fingers at them.

21. If it is desired that Syria should take part in the implementation of programmes for improving the condition of the Palestine refugees, in particular of those in Syria, the basic principle should not be forgotten that the refugees are living in the Arab States only as a temporary expedient. When the Syrian Government agreed to grant the refugees asylum in its territory, it was prompted by purely humanitarian considerations and by the desire to fulfil its obligations as a Member of the United Nations. The Syrian Government's position in that respect is no different from that of the other Member States of the United Nations.

22. We are ready to support the future programme of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency in order to improve the living conditions of the refugees. To continue to leave the refugees in camps, some of which are in the centre of Syrian towns, with all the disadvantages and risks which that involves, would be a social and moral danger and a threat to the health of both the refugees and the Syrian people. Our co-operation in the implementation of the programme is intended to save the refugees from moral degradation and physical deterioration. It is further proof to the United Nations and to the whole world of our goodwill and of our desire to improve understanding among

the freedom-loving and peace-loving countries and, so far as it is within our power to do so, to mitigate injustice and distress without parallel in the history of mankind.

23. The Syrian Government made further sacrifice when it agreed to co-operate with the agency by providing State lands as temporary homes for the refugees. The provision of large areas of land for the temporary settlement of the refugees was a further contribution which cannot on any reckoning be less than the contribution made by the other States which are providing the agency with financial assistance.

24. We hope, therefore, that the agency, a body established by the United Nations—which is mainly responsible for the Palestine tragedy—will in the future do everything necessary to help to settle the refugee problem. We hope that the agency will confine itself to the humanitarian side of the problem and that it will not be influenced by any ulterior political motives. Past experience, unfortunately, increases our bitterness, for we remember the partiality which has been shown to those in the opposite camp and which has always guided the various bodies that have dealt with Arab problems. We also hope that the work of the agency will not be spoiled by any political scheming. If that occurs, it might very seriously affect the future of the refugees. We firmly believe that nothing would be more disastrous to international co-operation and understanding than the exploitation of the altruism of the peoples for partisan or aggressive ends.

25. The PRESIDENT: The representative of Israel will address the General Assembly in explanation of his vote.

26. Mr. LOURIE (Israel): It had not been the intention of the delegation of Israel further to explain its position as regards the item before the Assembly, but it finds itself obliged briefly to comment, by way of explanation, on portions of the statements which have just been made.

27. The theory that the constant repetition of an untruth of itself eventually establishes its veracity is not a new one. That does not, however, make it any less pernicious. The representative of Iraq has sought, in season and out, to overcome by convenient lapses of memory or by repetitive distortion the irrefutable fact that it was Arab defiance of the United Nations resolutions, and not that of the State of Israel, which created the Arab refugee problem. That problem had its genesis in the planned, organized and armed effort of the Arab States, by the use of violence and in defiance of international authority, to prevent the establishment of the State of Israel, to strangle that State at birth and to annihilate its inhabitants.

28. Reference has been made here, indirectly, to the resolution of December 1948. That resolution [124 (III)] was expressly based on the ideas of practicality and peaceful intent. There are no resolutions on the books of the General Assembly for the return of refugees, irrespective of peace and practicality. On the other hand, the central feature of the 1948 resolution is a recommendation to the parties to negotiate a total settlement. The Arabs are in defiance of that paragraph, as they were in defiance of the resolution of 29 November 1947.

29. My delegation doubts whether it is appropriate to raise this question in the discussion of the item before us, which concerns the humanitarian aspects of the problem; we also doubt whether it is appropriate to raise the question in the form of an explanation of vote. Once it has been raised, however, it must be emphasized that the responsibility of the Arab States for the consequences of the planned aggression deliberately launched by them is clear and undeniable.

30. The United Nations programme is aimed at securing a complete solution of this humanitarian problem. The co-operation of many governments with the work of the relief agency is based on this premise. The Government of Israel has itself assumed responsibility for and taken off the relief rolls of the United Nations some 19,000 Palestine refugees, as of 30 June 1952, while at the same time, during the course of four years, accepting and absorbing into its own economy 750,000 Jewish refugees from various countries, including no less than 350,000 from the Arab countries themselves. If an attitude remotely approaching that of Israel as regards the absorption of refugees within its borders were to be adopted by the Arab States towards the refugees whom they regard as their own kith and kin, this grievous problem would overnight be transformed and the possibility of an early solution, to the benefit of the refugees themselves and the countries in which they now find themselves, as well as of the peace and security of the Middle East, would become apparent.

31. Israel voted in favour of the resolution on this item and will seek in every way possible to assist the United Nations Relief and Works Agency in the task imposed upon it.

**Appointment of members of the Peace Observation Commission: note by the Secretary-General (A/2182)**

[Agenda item 24]

32. The PRESIDENT: The General Assembly will recall that this is one of the items with which it decided at the opening of the session to deal directly in plenary meeting, without reference to any committee.

33. The Secretary-General's note draws attention to the fact that the terms of office of the present members of the Peace Observation Commission expire on 31 December of this year, and that it is necessary for the General Assembly during this session to consider the question of the Commission's future membership. To that end, the Assembly has before it a draft resolution submitted by Canada [A/L.112] providing as follows:

*"The General Assembly*

*"1. Decides to reappoint, for the calendar years 1953 and 1954, the present fourteen members of the Peace Observation Commission;*

*"2. Requests the Peace Observation Commission to continue its work as set forth in section B of General Assembly resolution 377 A (V)."*

Those fourteen members are China, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, France, India, Iraq, Israel, New Zealand, Pakistan, Sweden, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the United States and Uruguay.

34. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the draft resolution is adopted.

*The draft resolution was adopted.*

35. The PRESIDENT: The representative of Iraq will address the General Assembly in explanation of his vote.

36. Mr. AL-JAMALI (Iraq): My delegation voted for the draft resolution presented by Canada with the following reservation, that there is one member of the Peace Observation Commission which we do not recognize and with which we cannot deal at all.

**United Nations Postal Administration: report of the Fifth Committee (A/2249)**

[Agenda item 48]

*The President presented the report of the Fifth Committee (A/2249).*

*The draft resolution contained in that report was adopted unanimously.*

**Application of Japan for membership in the International Civil Aviation Organization: note by the Secretary-General (A/2176 and Add.1)**

[Agenda item 64]

37. The PRESIDENT: If no representative wishes to speak in regard to this item, I shall put the draft resolution submitted by Canada, Peru, the United States of America and Venezuela (A/L.113) to the vote. It reads as follows:

*"The General Assembly,*

*"Having considered the application regarding the admission of Japan to the International Civil Aviation Organization (A/2176), transmitted by that organization to the General Assembly in accordance with article II of the agreement between the United Nations and the International Civil Aviation Organization,*

*"Decides to inform the International Civil Aviation Organization that it has no objection to the admission of Japan to the organization."*

38. A roll-call vote has been requested by the representative of the Philippines.

*A vote was taken by roll-call.*

*Uruguay, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.*

*In favour: Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, France, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, Liberia, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.*

*Against: None.*

*Abstaining:* Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Philippines, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

*The draft resolution was adopted by 53 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.*

**Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fourth session: report of the Sixth Committee (A/2248)**

[Agenda item 51]

*Mr. Wikborg (Norway), Rapporteur of the Sixth Committee, presented the report of that Committee (A/2248).*

*The draft resolution contained in the report was adopted.*

**Methods and procedures of the General Assembly for dealing with legal and drafting questions: report of the Sixth Committee (A/2247)**

[Agenda item 53]

39. Mr. WIKBORG (Norway), Rapporteur of the Sixth Committee: I have the honour to present to the General Assembly, for its consideration, the report of the Sixth Committee [A/2247] on methods and procedures of the General Assembly for dealing with legal and drafting questions.

40. In the Sixth Committee, we had before us a draft resolution presented by the United Kingdom, which was very much along the lines suggested by a special committee established by the General Assembly at its sixth session [resolution 597 (VI)]. As will be seen from the report, several amendments were presented.

41. The idea that prompted the General Assembly at its sixth session to include this item in the agenda and to appoint a special committee was the fact that the General Assembly possesses in its Sixth Committee a body of considerable juridical insight and knowledge. It might be of some assistance to the other Main Committees to seek advice on legal matters from this presumably expert committee, even though admittedly, they often have among their members jurists of the highest quality.

42. One of the main problems that was debated in the Committee was whether the recommendations of the Special Committee should be adopted by the General Assembly as binding rules, or whether it might be considered sufficient to leave it to the discretion of each and every committee to refer matters with certain legal aspects to the Sixth Committee.

43. The result of the discussions and the voting is the draft resolution now before the General Assembly, which is in the form of recommendations. Four of the five recommendations suggested by the Special Committee and in the United Kingdom proposal were upheld, with some amendments, by the Sixth Committee.

44. The first of these recommendations, in paragraph 1(a), deals with the procedure to be followed whenever any committee requests an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice. In such a case, it is suggested that the committee shall consult the Sixth Committee for advice on the juridical aspects and on the drafting of the request. This proposal was amended to the effect that the matter should be referred by the

committee for advice either to the Sixth Committee or to a joint committee of itself and the Sixth Committee.

45. The next recommendation, which is in paragraph 1 (b), contemplates the situation which arises when a committee wishes to refer a matter to the International Law Commission. This important Commission carries a very heavy load of work in connexion with its primary task of codifying international law as provided in Article 13 of the United Nations Charter. The Sixth Committee follows the progress of this work very closely, and is always in a position to know whether it is advisable or at all possible to disrupt the Commission's work with special assignments. For these reasons, it is recommended that whenever any committee contemplates making a recommendation to the General Assembly to refer a matter to the International Law Commission, the committee shall, at some appropriate stage of its consideration, consult the Sixth Committee as to the advisability of such a reference and on its drafting.

46. The third recommendation, which is in paragraph 1(c), deals with amendments to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. As a rule, such amendments have, in the past, always been referred to the Sixth Committee for advice. The Sixth Committee now considers it useful to have this procedure accepted as a fixed rule. If this is done, all questions concerning the drafting of rules of procedure will in a way be centralized in one and the same committee. This part of the draft proposal was adopted in the Sixth Committee by a very large majority.

47. The fourth recommendation, which is in paragraph 1(d), concerns the handling of legal aspects of questions in general. When such legal aspects of a question are considered important, it is suggested that the committee should refer it for legal advice to the Sixth Committee, or that the question should be considered by a joint committee of itself and the Sixth Committee.

48. The United Kingdom proposal also included the provision that certain steps should be taken to examine draft resolutions from the point of view of style, form and use of technical terms. Although it was felt by many representatives that reforms were needed so as to reach more uniformity and even clarity in the drafting of resolutions, the Committee was divided as to the most adequate means to meet this need. There was also some fear of introducing too rigid rules in this matter, at least for the time being, and this part of the proposal was rejected.

49. The second and last part of the draft resolution now before the General Assembly, paragraph 2, directs that several paragraphs in the Special Committee's report shall be set out verbatim in an annex to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. These paragraphs are not inserted in the report, but they will be found in document A/2174, which is the report of the Special Committee.

50. The PRESIDENT: As the Assembly has already decided not to discuss this matter, I normally would put the draft resolution of the Sixth Committee (A/2247) to the vote at once. However, a delegation has submitted amendments to the draft resolution. Although it is not in order to discuss the report, it is, of course, perfectly in order to submit amendments to the draft resolution. The amendments have not been distributed in writing to all delegations, but they are very short

and clear. I shall explain them to the Assembly and then the Assembly can vote on the amendments first.

51. I call on the representative of Czechoslovakia. I take it that he wishes to speak in order to put forward and explain his amendments, and not to discuss the substance of the report.

52. Mr. CECH (Czechoslovakia) (*translated from Russian*): The Czechoslovak delegation has proposed an amendment to the General Assembly modifying sub-paragraphs (a), (b) and (d) of paragraph 1 of the draft resolution.

53. This means that in sub-paragraph (a) the word "may" in the English text would be substituted for the word "shall" in both cases where that word appears.

54. In sub-paragraph (b), the Czechoslovak delegation likewise proposes that in the English text the word "may" should be substituted for the word "shall".

55. In sub-paragraph (d), "may" should replace the word "should".

56. In proposing these changes, the Czechoslovak delegation is aiming at better continuity and greater flexibility in the consideration of procedural and legal questions.

57. The draft resolution approved in the Sixth Committee requires that all matters dealing with sub-paragraphs (a), (b) and (d) should be referred to the Sixth Committee for consideration. The Czechoslovak delegation continues to be of the opinion that the text adopted is too rigid and destroys the balance among the various committees. In addition, it tends to transform the Sixth Committee into an advisory organ or a court of appeal. If that happened, the work of the Sixth Committee would be too heavy and would be bound to suffer, with the result that the work of the entire General Assembly might be hampered.

58. The Czechoslovak delegation is convinced that, on the whole, the draft resolution lacks the necessary flexibility and that, on the contrary, the other committees of the General Assembly should be given greater freedom of action. Such an aim can be achieved only on the basis of a different text.

59. That is why the Czechoslovak delegation proposes a separate vote on each paragraph of the draft resolution.

60. The PRESIDENT: I shall put the amendments proposed by the representative of Czechoslovakia to the draft resolution of the Sixth Committee to the vote in the order in which they were submitted.

*The amendment to paragraph 1(a) was adopted by 25 votes to 20, with 6 abstentions.*

*The amendment to paragraph 1(b) was adopted by 22 votes to 20, with 7 abstentions.*

*The amendment to paragraph 1(d) was not adopted, 22 votes being cast in favour and 22 against, with 6 abstentions.*

61. The PRESIDENT: We shall now vote on the text of the draft resolution [A/2247] as amended. A vote, paragraph by paragraph, has been requested by the delegation of Poland.

*The preamble was adopted by 41 votes to none, with 8 abstentions.*

*Paragraph 1(a), as amended, was adopted by 36 votes to 5, with 10 abstentions.*

*Paragraph 1(b), as amended, was adopted by 33 votes to 3, with 15 abstentions.*

*Paragraph 1(c) was adopted by 39 votes to 1, with 4 abstentions.*

*Paragraph 1(d) was adopted by 26 votes to 18, with 7 abstentions.*

*Paragraph 2(a) was adopted by 30 votes to 9, with 6 abstentions.*

*Paragraph 2(b) was adopted by 29 votes to 10, with 7 abstentions.*

*The draft resolution as a whole was adopted by 33 votes to 2, with 15 abstentions.*

62. The PRESIDENT: The representative of Iran will address the General Assembly in explanation of his vote.

63. Mr. ENTEZAM (Iran) (*translated from French*): I supported the amendments proposed by the Czechoslovak delegation because I believed that without them the draft resolution submitted by the Sixth Committee might prove dangerous, that it served no purpose, complicated the discussion and deprived the political committees of the right to decide upon the way in which they would request an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice.

64. As the amendments were accepted, it would have been normal that I should vote in favour of the draft resolution. I abstained, however, from voting on the draft resolution as a whole, because, while the draft resolution was dangerous without the Czechoslovak amendments, it became superfluous once the amendments were accepted. It merely repeats what the General Assembly committees are in the habit of doing in such cases. I am even surprised that paragraph 2 (a), which states "that the terms of the foregoing recommendation shall be embodied as an annex to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly", was put to the vote at all.

65. The draft resolution was submitted on the assumption that the Czechoslovak delegation's amendments would be rejected. As they were accepted, no change was made in the rules of procedure and we are in exactly the same position as we were previously. That is why I abstained from voting on the draft resolution as a whole.

66. The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of the Union of South Africa for an explanation of his vote.

67. Mr. ROBERTS (Union of South Africa): My delegation feels it necessary to explain its vote. My delegation voted against the amendments, which had the effect of making this recommendation permissive instead of peremptory.

68. We had doubted the wisdom of any resolution whatsoever in view of our opinion that it was implicit in rule 97 of the rules of procedure that legal matters should be referred to a legal committee. Rule 97 reads as follows: "Items relating to the same category of subjects"—that is to say, the category of subjects on the basis of which the standing committees are elected—"shall be referred to the committee or committees dealing with that category of subjects . . .". We felt,

however, that it might be useful, because that implicit meaning of the rule did not seem to be generally recognized, to insert in the rules this specific direction to all committees to refer legal matters for legal consideration.

69. The substitution of the word "may" for "shall" really weakens instead of strengthens this rule. It now makes permissive what to our way of thinking is peremptory under the rules. For that reason, we could not vote for the amendments. We had some doubts as to whether we should in the circumstances vote against the whole resolution, but on balance it seemed that there might be some purpose in printing these recommendations in the book of rules to help committees to realize the necessity of referring matters to an appropriate committee, and for that reason we voted for the resolution as a whole.

70. The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of Indonesia for an explanation of his vote.

71. Mr. PALAR (Indonesia): We voted for the draft resolution, but from the beginning we have always voted against paragraph 1 (d). That is why we voted now against paragraph 1 (d), and my delegation wants to go on record as having voted against paragraph 1 (d).

72. The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of the Philippines for an explanation of his vote.

73. General ROMULO (Philippines): The delegation of the Philippines voted in favour of the Czechoslovak amendments because we are discussing the methods and procedures of the General Assembly with a view to shortening these methods and these procedures. Without the Czechoslovak amendments, the resolution would have served to delay and to make more cumbersome the procedure in the General Assembly and the work of the committees. We abstained from the vote on the draft resolution as a whole, for the reason that the resolution as it now reads means no change from the present procedure, and I feel that the Fifth Committee would be against the terms of the foregoing recommendation, which reads "shall be embodied as an annex to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly", because that means money for printing, and we want to save money. That is why the Philippine delegation abstained from the vote on the draft resolution as a whole.

**Draft protocol relating to the status of stateless persons: report of the Third Committee (A/2240)**

[Agenda item 28]

*Mrs. Zena Harman (Israel), Rapporteur of the Third Committee, presented the report of the Committee (A/2240).*

*The draft resolution contained in the report was adopted by 43 votes to 5, with 8 abstentions.*

*The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.*