



General Assembly

PROVIS IONAL

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Forty-third session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVIS IONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE NINETY-SIXTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 18 September 1989, at 10.00 a.m.President:

Mr. CAPUTO

(Argentina)

- Resumption of the forty-third session
- Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations [120] (continued)
- Question of Palestine [37] (continued)
- Armed Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations and its grave consequences for the established international system concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and international peace and security [46] (continued)
- Question of Cyprus [47] (continued)
- Consequences of the prolongation of the armed conflict between Iran and Iraq [48] (continued)

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- Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country [137] (continued)
- Concluding statement by the President
- Minute of silent prayer or meditation [2] (continued)
- Closure of the forty-third session

The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE FORTY-THIRD SESSION

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): The forty-third session of the General Assembly is resumed.

AGENDA ITEM 120 (continued)

SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT OF THE EXPENSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS (A/43/995/Add.4)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): Before proceeding with the consideration of the items retained on the Assembly's agenda pursuant to decision 43/459 of 22 December 1988 and with the closure of the forty-third session, I should like to draw the Assembly's attention to document A/43/995/Add.4, which contains a letter addressed to me by the Secretary-General informing me that since the issuance of his communications dated 14 and 15 February, 18 April and 11 July 1989 Romania has made the necessary payment to reduce its arrears below the amount specified in Article 19 of the Charter.

May I take it that the General Assembly duly takes note of that information?

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 37 (continued)

QUESTION OF PALESTINE

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): Members will recall that the Assembly has adopted resolutions 43/175 A to C, 43/176 and 43/177 of 15 December 1988 and 43/233 of 20 April 1989 on this item. As members know, the item on the question of Palestine has been included on the provisional agenda of the forty-fourth session of the Assembly.

May I take it that the Assembly considers that discussion of this item at the present session is concluded?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): That concludes our consideration of agenda item 37.

AGENDA ITEM 46 (continued)

ARMED ISRAELI AGGRESSION AGAINST THE IRAQI NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS AND ITS GRAVE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE ESTABLISHED INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM CONCERNING THE PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY, THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): The Assembly decided on 23 September 1988 to include this item on the agenda of the forty-third session of the General Assembly.

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to defer consideration of this item and to include it on the draft agenda of the forty-fourth session?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): That concludes our consideration of agenda item 46.

AGENDA ITEM 47 (continued)

QUESTION OF CYPRUS

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): Members will recall that on 23 September 1988 the Assembly decided to include this item in the agenda of the present session but deferred a decision on the allocation of the item to an appropriate time in the future.

It is my understanding that it would be desirable to defer consideration of the item to the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

May I take it, then, that it is the wish of the Assembly to defer consideration of the item and to include it in the draft agenda of the forty-fourth session?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): That concludes our consideration of agenda item 47.

AGENDA ITEM 48 (continued)

CONSEQUENCES OF THE PROLONGATION OF THE ARMED CONFLICT BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): The Assembly decided on 23 September 1988 to include this item in the agenda of the forty-third session. It is my understanding that it would be desirable to defer consideration of the item to the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to defer consideration of the item and to include it in the draft agenda of the forty-fourth session?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): That concludes our consideration of agenda item 48.

AGENDA ITEM 137 (continued)

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH THE HOST COUNTRY

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): Members will recall that by resolution 43/172 of 9 December 1988 the Assembly decided to include this item on the provisional agenda of the forty-fourth session.

May I take it that the Assembly considers that the discussion of the item at the present session is concluded?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): We have thus concluded our consideration of agenda item 137.

CONCLUDING STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): Before declaring closed the forty-third session of the General Assembly, I should like, in light of the experience of these past 12 months of joint endeavour, to share with you a few final thoughts.

We are all aware that this session began at a particularly significant time in contemporary life. After many decades of anxiety and confrontation, we had grounds, for the first time in our lives in the post-war period, for hope in fundamental and positive change in international relations. There was a noteworthy improvement in the international atmosphere as a result of détente and of security agreements between the super-Powers, as well as of concrete advances towards the solution of serious regional conflicts, all of which offered us, at the beginning of the forty-third session of the General Assembly, well-founded grounds for optimism.

Today, we see that that optimism was, in fact, justified. The optimism of 1988 was not unfounded, and it remains so today, notwithstanding the fact that on some issues the pace of progress has been slower than we might have wished.

(The President)

None the less, in just a few weeks we are going to witness one of the most exciting events in international life: the birth to freedom of a new and proud nation of Africa. The independence of Namibia, achieved through the heroic sacrifice of the valiant Namibian people and with the invaluable contribution of the Organization, confirms and strengthens credibility in our own methods and procedures for resolving conflicts, corroborating the fact that we are indeed witnessing substantive change in international relations.

I would recall that during the general debate last year there was broad agreement that it was our responsibility to ensure that the atmosphere that was emerging be maintained and strengthened. I believe that we can say with pride that we have achieved the objective we set for ourselves in September 1988. From every standpoint, the forty-third session of the General Assembly has been a significant contribution to the strengthening of an international framework more conducive to dialogue, co-operation and the quest for negotiated and harmonious solutions to international disputes. That means that the forty-third session effectively helped to achieve progress towards the lofty purposes of the United Nations Charter.

In that connection we have all been witness to the fact that in almost every discussion a sound spirit of conciliation has predominated, and I would emphatically urge that that spirit be maintained as a prerequisite for the success of future sessions. We all recall the memorable statements made in this Hall, and, in view of their indisputed significance I would make special reference to those of the President of the United States of America and the President of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, both of which were possibly the most eloquent reflection of the profound change that has occurred. I would even go so far as to say that they demonstrate the end of the cold war that hung over our world for so long a time.

(The President)

I believe that, beyond these major events that signalled the end of a period of confrontation, this General Assembly, this Organization, took major decisions in promoting world peace.

Here, I would single out General Assembly resolution 43/20, on Afghanistan. The unanimous adoption of that important resolution was a definite step towards the establishment of political conditions for a lasting solution to the serious problem that had sundered the Afghan nation for more than a decade. The principles reflected in resolution 43/20 remain fully applicable and constitute a conceptual and political framework that is still valid, respect for which, by the parties concerned, will make it possible to achieve rapid progress to a peaceful conclusion to that tragedy.

Other important resolutions were also adopted at the forty-third session, and they too characterize our work over the past months: resolutions on Central America, on Western Sahara, on Kampuchea, among others.

The session that is coming to an end today also served to confirm that this time, more than any other, is the time of the United Nations. As the cold war yields to dialogue and détente new opportunities are opened for the system of collective security enshrined in the Charter. The Nobel Prize awarded in 1988 to the United Nations peace-keeping operations underscored the fundamental role the Organization must play in the development and consolidation of an international order based on respect for the principles enshrined in 1945.

(The President)

The United Nations today probably has to reassess its role in the world, since the international scene is changing dramatically. At the beginning of the 1990s we shall not be living in the same world in which we have been living since 1945. From the world of confrontation we may be moving towards a world of co-operation, and this Organization has demonstrated above and beyond the words of the sceptics and the cynics, of those who did not believe in the strength of democracy, that with perseverance and discipline it is possible, given good will on the part of all parties, especially the super-Powers, to achieve peaceful solutions to the major problems that have afflicted the world during the past 20 years. The Organization has demonstrated its efficiency.

The world is changing and we must now meet the challenges with renewed efficiency in this new post-cold-war period. I am convinced that I am reflecting the unanimous feeling of the General Assembly in expressing at this point to Javier Perez de Cuellar the profound gratitude of the entire international community for the enormous effort that he has displayed, for his efficiency and his political tact: all of those virtues have palpably contributed to the cause of international peace and security.

At this point I should like to express a few brief thoughts about the political future. I believe that against the backdrop of our common experience a series of political and diplomatic questions emerge for all of us: What will be the nature of this new world which is emerging in the post-cold-war period? What will be the role of our international organizations? Not only are super-Power relations changing: countries are also changing from within. The first world is changing, the second world is changing and the third world must change as well. The conditions of leadership among the super-Powers that had functioned until the present period will probably have to be redefined. What will the new leadership be

(The President)

like? What will be the thinking of that new leadership? The links between allies and partners, between both the United States and the Soviet Union, will most likely change as well. And perhaps we should focus our attention most on the fact that in the future there will also be a change in the criteria of security. The concept of security based on the balance of terror is yielding to a different concept of security. We are in a different world, with a different type of leadership, with different ambitions and with a different potential. There have been fantastic internal transformations that few of us had thought would come about. And what type of security will this Organization and the main leaders of the world have to build? That may well be one of the greatest fundamental challenges that lie ahead.

Within this framework I think it also appropriate to point out, from my personal perspective, the perspective of a Latin American, the enormous challenge that faces my own Latin American region. Let us consider just one stupendous event that has occurred in South America: the South American continent for the first time since its independence in 1810 will be made up of democratic nations. Never before has Latin America been as democratic as it is today. By the same token, however, this same Latin America over the past 15 years has not seen any improvement in the standard of living of its inhabitants. We have hardly ever been as poor as we are today. That is another new phenomenon: the poverty of our democracies. There had been poverty in the past, but not this poverty with democracy. So these poor democracies are also emerging not only as a challenge to us Latin Americans, but as a challenge to the world at large, this interdependent world, which must be aware that there can be no tranquil "first class" passenger if in "economy class" there is a bomb. We are all travelling together and the problems of one region are indeed a challenge to us all.

(The President)

I should like to conclude my statement by expressing my deepest appreciation to everyone for the support and the assistance that you have extended to me throughout this forty-third session. Without your good will and your spirit of co-operation, my task would have been more than difficult. I also want to express my very special gratitude to the Secretary-General for his support and friendship, and to the entire Secretariat team which, with such dedication and efficiency, co-operated with me and my colleagues. They all do honour to the international civil service and are an example of the generous and universal spirit which inspires all the staff members of this Organization.

In this context, as I welcome Ambassador Speer, the new Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly Affairs, I do not want to fail to express special feelings to my great friend, Joseph Verner Reed, for whose impartial co-operation, intelligent counsel and invariable good humour I shall always be grateful.

To Iqbal Riza, María Maldonado, Juan Carlos Brandt, Alicia Santomauro and all of those who, in their different capacities, collaborated with me, I also want to extend my sincere thanks.

In conclusion, I should like to dedicate my last words in this post to my country, the Republic of Argentina, which I have tried to represent with dignity and effectiveness. I have always felt that my election represented not a gesture towards me, but rather a tribute to my homeland. Following a long night of dictatorship, with enormous difficulties, but also with unshakeable will and faith, Argentina is today at last marching towards its destiny of grandeur, a grandeur which in this case is reflected not in impossible feats or unattainable plans but in the strengthening of a democratic way of life that gives priority to and ensures full respect for the rights, the dignity and the civil and political liberties of all Argentines.

Thank you, and best wishes to all of you.

AGENDA ITEM 2 (continued)

MINUTE OF SILENT PRAYER OR MEDITATION

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): We come now to the end of the forty-third session of the General Assembly. I invite representatives to stand and observe a minute of silent prayer or meditation.

The members of the Assembly observed a minute of silent prayer or meditation.

CLOSURE OF THE FORTY-THIRD SESSION

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): I declare closed the forty-third session of the General Assembly.

The meeting rose at 10.50 a.m.