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CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Report of the Credentials Committee

Chairman: Mr. Haraldur KROYER (Iceland)

1. At its 1753rd plenary meeting, on 16 September 1969, the General Assembly, in accordance with rule 28 of its rules of procedure, appointed a Credentials Committee for its twenty-fourth session consisting of the following Member States: Bolivia, Iceland, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Sudan, Thailand, Togo, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and United States of America.
2. The Credentials Committee met on 15 December 1969.
3. Mr. Haraldur Kroyer (Iceland) was unanimously elected Chairman.
4. The Chairman drew the attention of the Committee to the memorandum by the Secretary-General on the status of credentials of representatives to the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly and pointed out that the credentials of some representatives did not conform to rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and to the practice established under this rule, according to which credentials should be issued by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs in the form of a written document bearing the signature of the issuing authority, except in the case of emergency sessions where cabled credentials are acceptable. However, in view of the approaching closing date of the session and the assurances given by the delegations concerned that

credentials in due form would be submitted as soon as possible, the Chairman proposed, as an exceptional measure, that the Committee decide, pending the receipt of the proper credentials, to accept in lieu thereof the communications referred to in paragraph 2 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

5. The above-mentioned proposal was adopted.

6. The representative of the Sudan, referring to the credentials of the representatives of the Republic of China, stated that the persons concerned did not actually represent the Government of China and were not entitled to speak in its name. He proposed therefore that the Committee should not recognize their credentials as valid.

7. The representative of Mongolia said that in his Government's view there was only one China, the People's Republic of China, which could be represented by the authorities which genuinely expressed and upheld the interests and the rights of more than 700 million Chinese people. The credentials of the representatives of the Chiang Kai-shek régime could therefore not be regarded as valid in accordance with rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. For these reasons he fully subscribed to the proposal made by the representative of the Sudan.

8. The representative of the United States of America said that such questions as the representation of China were not for the Committee to decide. There was no legal basis for challenging the credentials of the representatives of China which had been submitted as provided for by rule 27 of the rules of procedure. Furthermore, the question of Chinese representation had already been decided by the General Assembly at the current session in its resolution 2500 (XXIV) adopted on 11 November 1969 at its 1808th plenary meeting. The representative of the United States of America indicated that he would therefore vote against the proposal of the representative of the Sudan if it were put to vote, and expressed the hope that the members of the Committee would join him in doing so.

9. The representative of Nicaragua stated that his country had maintained diplomatic relations with the Republic of China ever since the time when both countries had been founding Members of the United Nations. Accordingly, he would be obliged to vote against to the Sudanese proposal.

10. The representative of Thailand stated that the issue raised by the representative of the Sudan had already been settled at the current session, at which the General Assembly had reaffirmed the right of the Republic of China to represent the Chinese people. He would therefore, vote against the Sudanese proposal.

11. The Chairman put to vote the proposal of the representative of the Sudan. The proposal was rejected by 5 votes to 3, with 1 abstention.

12. The Chairman stated that all reservations expressed in the Committee concerning the representation of China would be recorded in the Committee's report to the General Assembly and proposed the following draft resolution for adoption by the Committee:

"The Credentials Committee,

"Having examined the credentials of representatives to the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly,

"Recalling the different views expressed during the debate,


"Accepts the credentials of all representatives to the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly and recommends to the General Assembly that it approve the report of the Credentials Committee."

13. The draft resolution proposed by the Chairman was adopted by 6 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

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

Credentials of representatives to the twenty-fourth session of the
General Assembly

The General Assembly, 

Approves the report of the Credentials Committee.
