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**General Assembly**  
FORTY-FOURTH SESSION  
*Official Records*

GENERAL COMMITTEE  
3rd meeting  
held on  
Monday, 2 October 1989  
at 9.15 a.m.  
New York

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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 3rd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. GARBA (President of the General Assembly)

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The meeting was called to order at 9.25 a.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF THE FORTY-FOURTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
AND ALLOCATION OF ITEMS (continued)

Requests for the inclusion of an additional item submitted by Antigua and Barbuda  
(A/44/243)

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the request by Antigua and Barbuda for the inclusion of an item entitled "Emergency assistance to Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica and Saint Kitts and Nevis" (A/44/243).
2. Mr. HURST (Antigua and Barbuda), speaking also on behalf of the Governments of Dominica and Saint Kitts and Nevis, said that the three Caribbean nations had been struck by hurricane Hugo on 15 to 17 September 1989. Fortunately, owing to sound planning and extensive preparations, loss of life had been low. The hurricane, however, had left several hundred families homeless and had severely damaged schools, hospitals, electricity and water delivery systems and telecommunications. The damage to crops and the fishing industry was particularly severe. The Governments concerned had estimated the overall cost of the damage to the public and private sectors at approximately \$300 million, a sum which far exceeded the annual export earnings of the three countries combined. That preliminary estimate would, in all likelihood, be substantially greater once a complete survey was made.
3. Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, and Saint Kitts and Nevis had already begun the enormous task of rebuilding, thanks to the fortitude of their citizens and the generous assistance of the international community. Both the public and private sectors had joined hands to ensure that those in need had food and shelter. Priority had been given to restoring electricity to hospitals, hotels and manufacturing operations in order to guarantee the economic viability of the countries and the social well-being of the inhabitants. He expressed heartfelt thanks to the countries, agencies and individuals that had responded so generously, particularly the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
4. Although the peoples concerned recognized that recovery from the disaster was their own responsibility, they were appealing for the support and assistance of the international community. Consequently, he wished to submit for consideration by the General Assembly the draft resolution entitled "Emergency assistance to Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica and Saint Kitts and Nevis" contained in document A/44/243. The draft resolution, which had the full support of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States sought to ensure multilateral co-operation in order to meet the emergency situation in the affected areas and to initiate the process of reconstruction. It urged all States to contribute generously to the relief and reconstruction efforts and requested the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the international financial institutions and the United Nations system, to assist the Governments concerned in identifying needs and in mobilizing resources. It was hoped that a General Assembly would be able to adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

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(Mr. Hurst, Antigua and Barbuda)

5. General Assembly resolution 42/169, on the international decade for natural disaster reduction, recognized the importance of reducing the impact of natural disasters for all people, and in particular for developing countries. Hurricane Hugo served to remind the international community of the special vulnerability of island developing countries. He urged all Member States to work actively to ensure that the goals of the decade were met and that the international community used the enormous technological capacity at its disposal to ease the human suffering which accompanied such disasters. Lastly, he expressed sympathy to the other victims of hurricane Hugo in Guadeloupe, Montserrat, Saint Croix, Saint Thomas, Puerto Rico and the United States.

6. Mr. TAYLHARDA (Venezuela) expressed his delegation's support and sympathy for the peoples and Governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, and Saint Kitts and Nevis in connection with the loss of life and destruction caused by hurricane Hugo. The international community should take steps to help small countries with scarce resources to cope with the economic impact of natural disasters. Accordingly, his delegation supported the inclusion of the proposed item in the agenda of the current session of the General Assembly. In view of the urgent situation, the draft resolution in document A/44/243 required immediate action.

7. Mr. HARRISON (United Kingdom) said that his delegation had a great deal of sympathy for all the victims of hurricane Hugo and strongly supported the inclusion of the proposed new item in the agenda. It was to be hoped that the General Assembly would speedily adopt by consensus the draft resolution in document A/44/243. Two dependent Territories of the United Kingdom, the British Virgin Islands and Montserrat, were among the other victims of the hurricane. Accordingly, his delegation proposed that the item should be amended to include assistance to those Territories as well. That proposal was agreeable to its sponsors.

8. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include the additional item, as amended, in the agenda.

9. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item should be considered directly in plenary meeting and that it should be given priority in view of its importance and urgent character.

The meeting rose at 9.40 a.m.