

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

TWENTY-THIRD SESSION

Official Records

**GENERAL COMMITTEE, 176th
MEETING**

*Friday, 1 November 1968,
at 10.15 a.m.*



NEW YORK

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
<i>Consideration of the agenda of the twenty-third session and allocation of items (continued)</i>	
<i>Request for the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda: item proposed by Austria, Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, India, Iran, Italy, Lebanon, Peru, the Philippines, Somalia, Sweden, Togo and Trinidad and Tobago</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Statement by the Secretary-General</i>	<i>1</i>

Chairman: Mr. Emilio ARENALES (Guatemala).

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Diallo (Guinea), Vice-President of the General Assembly, took the Chair.

Consideration of the agenda of the twenty-third session and allocation of items (continued)

REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM IN THE AGENDA: ITEM PROPOSED BY AUSTRIA, BULGARIA, THE BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC, CANADA, GHANA, GUATEMALA, GUINEA, GUYANA, INDIA, IRAN, ITALY, LEBANON, PERU, THE PHILIPPINES, SOMALIA, SWEDEN, TOGO AND TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO (A/7225 AND ADD.1)

1. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the request for the inclusion in the agenda of the twenty-third session of an additional item entitled "Celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations". The request had been submitted by eighteen delegations in a letter dated 30 October 1968 (A/7225 and Add.1).

2. Mr. RAO (India) said he welcomed the Secretary-General's initiative regarding the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations. On behalf of eighteen countries, the Indian delegation was introducing the request for the inclusion in the agenda of an additional item concerning the celebration of that anniversary. The time had come to reaffirm the purposes and principles of the Charter. As the Prime Minister of India had said on 14 October 1968, at the 1693rd plenary meeting, 1970—the year of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations—should be a year of peace. It should be marked by an important declaration, a treaty or some other legal instrument, so that the world would have a living souvenir of that anniversary.

3. The CHAIRMAN said that if there was no objection, he would take it that the General Committee recom-

mended that the item should be included in the agenda of the twenty-third session.

The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item entitled "Celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations" should be included in the agenda.

4. The CHAIRMAN said that if there was no objection, he would take it that the General Committee recommended that the item should be considered directly in the plenary meeting.

The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item should be considered in plenary meeting.

Statement by the Secretary-General

5. The SECRETARY-GENERAL said that the state of health of Mr. Arenales, the President of the General Assembly, was very encouraging after the surgery he had undergone on 22 October 1968. When he had visited him in hospital on 30 October, Mr. Arenales had been in excellent spirits and they had exchanged views about the Assembly's work. According to the doctors who were taking care of him, he was making a speedy recovery, and there was no reason why he should not return to his responsibilities in the very near future. Indeed, he should be able to preside over a meeting of the Assembly as early as the following week. His mental and physical faculties were unimpaired. The President had, moreover, confirmed that he would be able to preside over plenary meetings of the General Assembly in the following week and thereafter.

6. The CHAIRMAN thanked the Secretary-General for his statement. He was sure that all the members of the Assembly were relieved to learn that the President's health was improving rapidly.

7. Mr. FINGER (United States of America) said he was glad to learn that the President was recovering and would soon be able to resume the functions which he performed with the utmost skill. He asked the Secretary-General to convey his delegation's best wishes to Mr. Arenales.

8. Mr. RAO (India) thanked the Secretary-General for giving the Committee such encouraging news about the health of the President of the General Assembly. He was glad to learn that Mr. Arenales would soon be able to preside once again over the Assembly's work.

9. Mr. VINCI (Italy) said that he too was glad to learn that the President was recovering rapidly after his operation and would soon resume his functions.

10. Mr. ALVARADO (Peru) asked the Secretary-General to convey to Mr. Arenales the best wishes of the Peruvian delegation for his recovery. He was

glad that the General Assembly would soon be able to benefit once more from the wide experience of its President.

11. Mr. IGNATIEFF (Canada) said he was glad to learn that the President's health was improving, and he thanked the Secretary-General for conveying the good news to the Committee.

12. Mr. ASTROM (Sweden) suggested that the Committee, in its report, should recommend that the General Assembly convey to the President its best wishes for a speedy recovery.

13. Mr. OHIN (Togo) said that he had spoken with the staff of the hospital where the President was being treated, and could confirm that the latter's health was improving. He was glad that the President would soon resume his place in the Assembly.

14. Sir Leslie GLASS (United Kingdom) welcomed the reassuring news that the Secretary-General had given the Committee about the President of the Assembly, and joined with the representatives who had expressed their best wishes for the President's speedy recovery.

15. Mr. HOVEYDA (Iran) whole-heartedly supported the Swedish representative's suggestion.

16. Miss JARDIM (Guyana) said that she too supported the Swedish representative's suggestion.

17. Mr. TARABANOV (Bulgaria) said that the news about the President's health was very encouraging, and he asked the Secretary-General to convey the Bulgarian delegation's best wishes to Mr. Arenales.

18. Mr. MALIK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he was glad to learn that the President was making a speedy recovery; he hoped that he would soon resume the functions he had performed with such distinction at the beginning of the session.

19. Mr. CHAYET (France) said that his delegation's satisfaction at the Secretary-General's statement was commensurate with the concern it had felt on learning that the President was to undergo an operation. He hoped that Mr. Arenales would soon be able to resume his activities, and he supported the Swedish representative's suggestion.

20. Mr. OULD DADDAH (Mauritania) thanked the Secretary-General for his statement. He was happy to learn that the health of the President of the Assembly was improving and would soon allow him to resume his functions. He supported the Swedish representative's suggestion.

21. Mr. GHORRA (Lebanon) said that he too supported the Swedish representative's suggestion. Speaking on behalf of the delegations of the Arab countries to the General Assembly, he expressed his satisfaction at learning that the President was recovering.

22. Mr. JIMENEZ (Philippines) said that the news conveyed by the Secretary-General was very reassuring. He associated himself with the good wishes expressed by the other representatives and supported the Swedish suggestion.

23. Mr. NARASIMHAN (Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly affairs) said that the first item on the agenda of the plenary meeting of the General Assembly that afternoon would be the statement by the Secretary-General on the health of the President of the Assembly. The Committee's report to the General Assembly would reflect the suggestion made by the Swedish representative and supported by the other members of the Committee.

24. The CHAIRMAN thanked the Secretary-General for his statement and asked him to convey to the President the best wishes of all the members of the Committee for a speedy recovery.

The meeting rose at 10.40 a.m.