FIRST COMMITTEE, 1308th

Tuesday, 8 October 1963, at 3.10 p.m.

NEW YORK

EIGHTEENTH SESSION

United Nations

GENERAL

ASSEMBLY

Official Records

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Opening statement by the Chairman 3

Chairman: Mr. C. W. A. SCHURMANN (Netherlands).

Opening statement by the Chairman

1. The CHAIRMAN thanked the members of the Committee for electing him. They had done his country and himself an honour of which he would endeavour to prove himself worthy. He would count on the co-operation of all members of the Committee, particularly as regards punctuality, in ensuring that the Committee was able to carry out its work within the time allowed.

2. He paid tribute, on behalf of all the members of the Committee, to the memory of Mr. Kiselev, who, as Under-Secretary for Political and Security Council Affairs, had served the Organization with distinction.

3. After welcoming the delegation of Kuwait, which was taking part in the Committee's work for the first time, he observed that most of the questions on the agenda had already been discussed at previous sessions. The debate on them at the current session, however, was opening in a much more encouraging atmosphere than in the past. The favourable climate was due in particular to the recent signing of the Treaty banning nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water. He was confident that the treaty was only a prelude to other measures designed to reduce tension and strengthen international peace and security.

4. Mr. DIALLO Telli (Guinea), speaking on a point of order, reminded the Committee that the Prime Minister of the Congo (Leopoldville) was to make a statement in the plenary meeting. In view of the importance of that statement for the Organization, he proposed that the meeting should be suspended so that all delegations could hear the Prime Minister speak, after which the Committee could resume its work.

5. Mr. PAZHWAK (Afghanistan), speaking on a point of order, pointed out that after the Congolese Prime Minister's statement the General Assembly was to consider a most important draft resolution of interest to many delegations. He therefore proposed that the Committee's meeting should be adjourned.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 3.20 p.m.

