



Friday, 5 October 1973,
at 3 p.m.

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Statement by the Chairman	7
Organization of work	7

Chairman: Mr. Otto R. BORCH (Denmark).

Statement by the Chairman

1. The CHAIRMAN: Before turning to our agenda for today's meeting, I should like to make two announcements.

2. First, the following countries have asked that their names be added to the list of sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/L.645: the Central African Republic, Haiti and the Dominican Republic. The German Democratic Republic has asked that its name be added to the list of sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/L.644.

3. Secondly, at its last meeting the First Committee decided to invite the two Korean delegations to participate in the discussion on the question of Korea without the right to vote. Accordingly, the Secretary-General, on 1 October 1973, addressed two communications to the Governments concerned, informing them about the decision of this Committee and requesting them to inform him of the names of the representatives whom they would be designating for this purpose.

4. On 3 October 1973, the Secretary-General received a communication from the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, informing him that the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had decided to send its delegation to attend the discussions on Korea at the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly, and containing a list of the members of the delegation. The delegation will be headed by His Excellency Ho Dam, Vice-Premier of the Administration Council and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

5. Similarly, the Secretary-General received a communication dated 4 October 1973 from the Permanent Observer of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations, informing him that the Government of the Republic of Korea would be represented by His Excellency Yong Shik Kim, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, who will be assisted by a number of delegates.

Organization of work (A/C.1/1032)

6. The CHAIRMAN: I would draw the attention of members of the Committee to document A/C.1/1032, containing the Chairman's proposals for our programme of work and time-table for the discussion of the items on our agenda. At our last meeting I promised to have consultations with members in order to present to the Committee a draft programme of work, indicating a target date for the conclusion of the work, the approximate dates of consideration of items and, if possible, the number of meetings to be allocated to each item, thus fulfilling rule 101 of the rules of procedure.

7. The document I have just referred to is the result of those consultations. While, for simple physical reasons, it has not been possible for me to consult each and every member of the Committee, I can assure you that my consultations have been extensive. It is my hope that I have succeeded in taking into proper consideration all major interests in the matter. On the basis of those consultations it is my impression that the proposals made in document A/C.1/1032 should meet the wishes of members, or at least that the arguments adduced in favour of the proposed programme of work are respected and acquiesced in.

8. In working out the agenda, I have—apart from consulting with the officers of the Committee, and to mention only a few examples—taken into consideration the views of the Chairmen of the regional groups and delegations most actively interested in one or another agenda item, such as the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction and the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Similarly, I have consulted delegations that are sponsors of draft resolutions pertaining to agenda items before us.

9. As will be evident from document A/C.1/1032, the questions before us are many and of great significance and importance. If we begin our work on 15 October and continue through to 11 December, the Committee will have at its disposal a maximum of 82 meetings. The work programme foresees that our deliberations will demand the full utilization of the time available. Should exceptional situations arise, the Committee will therefore be well advised to prepare itself for the necessity of holding night meetings. The Chairman—and I am sure that is also true for the Vice-Chairmen—is ready to co-operate with the Committee in this regard.

10. Allow me also to make a special remark with regard to the starting dates of the discussion of the items on disarmament and the question of Korea. As members well know, experts from many countries will arrive here to be

present in the First Committee when the questions of disarmament are taken up for deliberation. It is therefore necessary that we should adhere to the proposed date for the start of the disarmament debate. Should the debate on the problems pertaining to the peaceful uses of the sea-bed prove more protracted than foreseen—and I should like to say that in arriving at the evaluation of the number of meetings I have, of course, consulted carefully with the Chairman of the sea-bed Committee—we may need to have night meetings during the first week. However, should the deliberations take up less time than estimated, I feel that the Committee should be prepared to start on the disarmament discussion immediately.

11. I therefore take the liberty of suggesting that the disarmament experts be available in time for the debate to begin on Monday, 22 October. I believe that most of the experts will come here over the week-end, so that it should not be any great inconvenience for them to be here for the 22nd. But in all honesty, I do not think that we can conclude the sea-bed debate before the end of the day of Monday, 22 October.

12. As I have already informed the Committee, the two Korean delegations have already been appointed, and I believe that it is the wish of the Committee, for many reasons, including those of courtesy to Foreign Ministers, to arrange our programme of work in such a manner that we can be sure that the question of Korea will actually be taken up not later than 14 or 15 November. Personally, I attach great importance to meeting that time schedule, and I trust that the Committee will fully co-operate with its officers in attaining that goal.

13. The number of meetings allocated for the last two items on the agenda corresponds to tradition, and it is my impression that this has been found satisfactory. I wish,

however, to underline that in the suggested programme of work I have found it necessary to go beyond the cut-off date suggested by the President of the Assembly, namely, 7 December, and have foreseen the need for meetings until 11 December. The Secretariat tells me that such a prolongation should not give rise to insurmountable difficulties; but members will also understand that we must, out of respect for the plenary Assembly, finish our work not later than 11 December.

14. With those remarks, together with my remarks regarding the opening dates for our deliberations on the items on disarmament and on the question of Korea, I recommend the proposed programme of work, for the Committee's approval. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that it is so decided.

It was so decided.

15. The CHAIRMAN: The Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction has informed me that the Rapporteur of that Committee will present his report at our first meeting on 15 October, and that this will be followed by a statement by the Chairman himself.

16. The next meeting of the Committee will be on Monday, 15 October, at 10:30 a.m. Before I adjourn this meeting, I should like to express my sincere thanks to the members of the Committee for their co-operation both in the consultations that went on before this meeting, and during this meeting. I know that it has been difficult for many of you to agree with the agenda, and I am very happy that we have succeeded.