

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION

Official Records



**FIRST COMMITTEE, 1723rd
MEETING**

(Opening meeting)

Tuesday, 15 September 1970,
at 4.35 p.m.

NEW YORK

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Temporary Chairman: Mr. Edvard HAMBRO
(Norway).

Election of the Chairman

1. The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Are there any nominations for the office of Chairman of the First Committee?
2. Mr. SHAHI (Pakistan): I have the honour to nominate as Chairman of the First Committee the Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the United Nations and former Minister of Justice of his country, Ambassador Andrés Aguilar M.
3. Born in Caracas on 10 July 1924, Ambassador Aguilar graduated *summa cum laude* from the Universidad Central de Venezuela, Caracas, with the degree of Doctor of Political Sciences. At McGill University in Montreal he received the degree of Master of Civil Law. Ambassador Aguilar has taught civil law at the Universidad Central de Venezuela since 1948 and at the Universidad Católica Andrés Bello in Caracas since 1954.
4. At both universities he has held the title of Professor of Law since 1958. In addition he was Vice-Rector of the Universidad Católica Andrés Bello in 1962 and 1963, Dean of the Faculty of Law of the Universidad Central in 1958 and a member of the Council of the latter Faculty from 1967 to 1969.
5. After serving as Minister of Justice, Ambassador Aguilar was appointed in 1963 as the Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the European Office of the United Nations and to the organizations of the United Nations family with headquarters in Geneva, with the rank of Ambassador. While in that position, which he held until 1965, Ambassador Aguilar was Chairman of several Committees of the International Labour Organisation and President of the forty-eighth session of the International Labour Conference in 1964. He was also President of the Council of the Inter-Governmental Committee for European Migration at its twenty-second and twenty-third sessions in 1964 and 1965.
6. Ambassador Aguilar was a member of the delegation of Venezuela to the International Conference on Human Rights, held at Teheran in 1968, and was Chairman of the Second Committee of that Conference. He was also Chairman of the Venezuelan delegation to the twenty-

fourth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations. He is the author of several legal works and articles, which have been published in specialized journals.

7. From that impressive record it is clear that Ambassador Aguilar is most eminently qualified to guide the deliberations of the First Committee at this twenty-fifth anniversary session of the United Nations. As representative of Venezuela our colleague personifies the best traditions of the Hispanic civilization of Latin America, its courtesy, its gallantry, its pride and its sensitiveness to everything that touches human dignity.

8. As the representative of Venezuela, a country which has been one of the most active Members of our Organization, Ambassador Aguilar will be able to play a part no less distinctive and outstanding than that of many of his predecessors. Venezuela has served with great distinction on various organs of the United Nations, including the Security Council, the Committee of Twenty-Four¹ and other bodies. In particular, Venezuela has stood shoulder to shoulder with the Asian-African nations in the cause of human rights and decolonization. Over the years the Latin American nations have made a contribution to the life and work of this great Organization which is second to that of no other group represented here.

9. At this session the First Committee of the General Assembly will be called upon to deliberate on some of the gravest issues confronting mankind, including the question of peace and international security in the nuclear era. This is a question of life and death for nations and touches the very survival of all mankind. Therefore, it is befitting that a son of Latin America should be called upon to preside at this historic session over the deliberations of the political and security Committee.

10. Permit me, Mr. President, before I conclude, to extend to you my personal congratulations on your elevation to the office of the Presidency of the historic twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly. At the appropriate time the Chairman of my delegation will pay a fitting tribute to you personally and to the great country you represent. But

¹ Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

The printed official records of the meetings of the First Committee of the General Assembly are published in fascicle form, the record of each meeting being issued separately. A prefatory fascicle is issued for each session, containing a table of contents, the agenda and other prefatory matter. The fascicles are subsequently bound in volumes by session.

I cannot refrain on this occasion from paying a very personal tribute to you for your steadfast faith, undimmed vision and robust sense of realism in your approach to the work of the Organization. As one who has followed your statements, and in particular the keynote address that you have delivered today, may I most respectfully repeat my congratulations to you.

11. With these words I have the honour once again to propose the nomination of Ambassador Andrés Aguilar, Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the United Nations, as Chairman of the First Committee of the General Assembly.

12. Mr. TARABANOV (Bulgaria) (*interpretation from French*): Mr. President, before speaking on the item on our agenda, I should like to tender you my most sincere congratulations on your election to the office of President of the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly. I am convinced that you will preside wisely and with inspiration over the work of this session which marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations. It is also a pleasure to congratulate you at a moment when relations between your country and mine are developing very satisfactorily and in so promising a way.

13. I should like to offer, on behalf of the countries of Eastern Europe, our most sincere support for the candidacy of Ambassador Andrés Aguilar, Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the United Nations. I do not wish to dwell upon all his qualifications, which have been so well presented by the preceding speaker. Ambassador Aguilar is a personal friend, I will not say of long standing, but ever since his arrival at the United Nations. He is a man of deep feelings whose culture, keen intelligence and level-headed qualities are greatly appreciated. Obviously, we have had and perhaps shall have in the future some differences of opinion on a number of questions; but that does not and will not hinder us from finding common ground on many questions and collaborating constructively in the work of the United Nations. I am certain that Ambassador Aguilar, a man of talent, of perspicacity and of level-headedness, is a most qualified candidate to preside over the work of the First Committee for the present anniversary session of the United Nations.

14. We therefore recommend the unanimous election of Ambassador Aguilar to the post of Chairman of the First Committee.

15. Mr. BOYD (Panama) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Mr. President, on behalf of my delegation I want at the outset to tender you our congratulations on your election to preside over the General Assembly at a specially important moment of historic commemoration. For the delegation of Panama it is a matter of particular pleasure to note that election, for we know of your outstanding personal qualifications, your competence and your wide

experience, all of which stand as sufficient earnest to the fact that under your guidance the work of the twenty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly will be crowned with the success that we all desire.

16. With regard to the chairmanship of the First Committee—which we believe to be the most important Committee of the present session—I would most warmly support the candidacy of the distinguished Ambassador Aguilar of Venezuela, submitted a few moments ago by the representative of Pakistan, Ambassador Shahi.

17. Because I represent Panama, a country of the Latin American group, linked to Venezuela by deep ties of friendship and fraternity that have been strong because of our common Bolivarian origin, and because also I find myself at present presiding over the Latin American group in the United Nations, it becomes a particularly pleasant duty for me to support the candidacy of Ambassador Aguilar for the post of Chairman of the First Committee. In addition to his vast international and juridical experience, to which Ambassador Shahi referred, he brings also the capacity and wisdom that he has shown in his conduct as Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the United Nations. All this has merely been proof of those qualifications which we have already noted in him when in our own group. We are convinced that under the guidance of Ambassador Aguilar this extremely important Committee of the General Assembly will follow a clear-cut path.

18. For all those reasons it is both a pleasure and an honour to second this Latin American candidacy, and we trust that it will be unanimously supported by the entire Committee.

19. The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: I think that delegations are aware of the fact that the post of Chairman of the First Committee has been claimed by the countries of two geographical groups this year: Latin America and East Europe. However, the Eastern European group, meeting the desire of the Latin American group halfway, does not insist on its proposal. I have been informed that the Eastern European group will propose and forward its candidature for the post of Chairman of the First Committee at the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly. Therefore, this year there remains only one candidate for the post of Chairman of the First Committee, namely, the Ambassador of Venezuela.

20. Since there is only one candidate, in accordance with past practice I declare Ambassador Aguilar of Venezuela elected Chairman of the First Committee.

Mr. Andrés Aguilar M. (Venezuela) was elected Chairman by acclamation.

The meeting rose at 4.55 p.m.