



Chairman: Mr. Carlos GIAMBRUNO (Uruguay).

AGENDA ITEM 49

Human rights in armed conflicts (*continued*):

- (b) Protection of journalists engaged in dangerous missions in areas of armed conflict: report of the Secretary-General (*continued*) (A/8703, chap. XIV, sect B; A/8777 and Add.1 and 2, A/C.3/L.1952, A/C.3/L.1956, A/C.3/L.1958, A/C.3/L.1960, A/C.3/L.1961, A/C.3/L.1963/Rev.1, E/CN.4/1096)

DRAFT INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION OF JOURNALISTS ENGAGED IN DANGEROUS PROFESSIONAL MISSIONS IN AREAS OF ARMED CONFLICT (*continued*)

1. Mr. VAURS (France) said that consultations in the working group had been conducted in a spirit of realism and conciliation. He wished to pay a tribute to the representative of Greece who had suggested establishing the working group, and to the representative of Morocco for her efforts as chairman of the group. Many improvements had been incorporated in the revised version of the draft articles of the convention (A/C.3/L.1963/Rev.1); in particular, more emphasis had been placed on respect for the sovereignty of States.
2. As several delegations wished to have more time to study the revised draft articles, he suggested that consideration of the item should be suspended for a few days.
3. Mr. KANGWA (Zambia) suggested that the meeting should be adjourned to enable the regional groups to complete their informal consideration of the revised version of the draft articles.
4. Mr. MOUSSA (Egypt) said that he supported the suggestions made by the representatives of France and Zambia, but could not agree with the suggestion which had been put forward during the informal discussions that a decision on the item should be postponed until the twenty-eighth session. He was sure that if consideration of the item was suspended for, say, seven days, it would be possible to reach agreement on the draft articles.
5. Mr. PAPADEMAS (Cyprus) said that he too thought the Committee should be able to reach agreement on the draft articles at the current session. The fact that as many as 42 amendments had been submitted was evidence of the general desire to draft an effective convention; both the delegations which had sponsored the draft articles and those which had submitted amendments were clearly working to that end in a spirit of conciliation. The Committee could not settle the remaining differences of opinion by postponing a decision on the item until the twenty-eighth session, nor should it be referred to the Commission on Human Rights. The proposed suspension of consideration of the item would enable delegations to consult their Governments. Meanwhile, the informal consultations should continue in the hope that the collective will to have a convention adopted at the current session would not be disappointed.
6. Mr. SEKVIAMAH (Ghana) said that he hoped the Committee would agree to the Zambian suggestion concerning adjournment of the meeting before taking a decision on the French suggestion to suspend consideration of the item.

7. Mr. ALFONSO (Cuba) said that he too was in favour of the Zambian suggestion. No opportunity of settling the remaining differences should be overlooked. He was confident that those differences could be reconciled, although more than seven days might be needed to complete that task, and it might even prove necessary to postpone action on the item until the twenty-eighth session. The Committee should certainly not make a hasty decision.

8. The CHAIRMAN said that if there were no objections, he would take it that the Committee wished to adjourn the meeting to enable the regional groups to complete their informal consultations; the representative of Zambia would report to the Committee at its next meeting, and consideration of the item would then be suspended for a maximum of seven days.

*It was so decided.*

*The meeting rose at 3.55 p.m.*