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Acting President :

Mr. Raymond SCHEYVEN (Belgium),

(*Outgoing Vice-President.*)

Later:

President: Mr. Raymond SCHEYVEN (Belgium.)

Present:

The representatives of the following countries: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, China, Cuba, Egypt, France, India, Philippines, Poland, Sweden, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia.

Observers from the following countries: Brazil, Czechoslovakia.

The representatives of the following specialized agencies: International Labour Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, International Monetary Fund, World Health Organization.

Opening of the session

1. The ACTING PRESIDENT declared open the fifteenth session of the Economic and Social Council.

2. He welcomed the representatives of the countries that had been newly elected to the Council namely, Australia, India, Turkey, Venezuela and Yugoslavia, as well as the United States of America, which had been re-elected.

Point of order by the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics concerning the representation of China on the Council

3. Mr. ZORIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) speaking on a point of order said that the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China had declared that it did not consider that representatives of the Kuomintang group were entitled to represent the Chinese people on United Nations bodies and had called for their expulsion. The USSR supported that contention. It did not regard the representative of the Kuomintang group as a representative of the people of China and urged that he should be excluded from the Council and that a representative of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China should be invited to participate in the Council's work.

4. He therefore submitted the following draft resolution:

"The Economic and Social Council

"Decides

"(a) To exclude from the membership of the Council the representatives of the Kuomintang group:

*"(b) To invite a representative of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China to participate in the work of the fifteenth session of the Economic and Social Council."*¹

5. Mr. HSIA (China) said that the question of the representation of China was regularly introduced by the Soviet Union and its satellites with the object of embarrassing the Chinese delegation. The USSR's draft resolution was out of order and should be rejected.

6. The question of representation was dealt with in chapter III of the rules of procedure. The President and Vice-Presidents would undoubtedly find the credentials of the Chinese delegation to be in perfect order. The USSR delegation was not, however, questioning the credentials of the Chinese delegation, but the status of the Chinese Government. It wished the members of the Council to believe that the Government of the Republic of China did not represent the Chinese people. That was not a matter for the Economic and Social Council, the membership of which was duly constituted each year by the General Assembly. The USSR was therefore challenging a decision of the General Assembly. The National Government of China was the only lawful government duly elected under the Constitution and recognized by the overwhelming majority of the Members of the United Nations.

7. He asked the President to rule the USSR proposal out of order.

8. Mr. WADSWORTH (United States of America) said that his delegation would state once again that his Government was opposed to unseating the representatives of the Chinese National Government and inviting representatives of the Chinese Communists to take their place. The question was particularly delicate at a time when the Chinese Communist régime was departing so widely from recognized standards of international conduct and the principles for which the United Nations stood, as was shown by its actions in Korea.

9. He moved the adjournment of the debate for the duration of the fifteenth session under rule 50 of the rules of procedure.

10. Mr. BIRECKI (Poland) opposed the motion for adjournment. In his opinion the Council was fully competent to discuss the matter. The question should be settled in the Council as well as in the other organs of the United Nations with a view to the best interests of all organs. The presence of representatives of the

¹ Subsequently distributed as document E/L.473.

Kuomintang group was harmful to those interests and prejudicial to peace. It was important for the success of the Council's work that a genuine representative of the Chinese people should be present.

11. The ACTING PRESIDENT put the motion for adjournment to the vote.

The motion for adjournment was adopted by 14 votes to 4.

12. Mr. MEADE (United Kingdom) said he had voted in favour of the motion for adjournment because the situation in Korea made it inopportune for the question of Chinese representation to be debated in the Economic and Social Council at the present time.

13. Mr. ZORIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) observed that the United States delegation had taken refuge in a procedural motion because it lacked the courage to face a discussion on the substance of the matter. The decision taken was wrong and illegal.

14. Mr. MUNOZ (Argentina) had voted for the United States motion because it was for the General Assembly to take decisions regarding the representation of Member States in the United Nations organs.

Election of the President and Vice-Presidents for 1953

[Agenda item 1]

ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT

15. Mr. MUNOZ (Argentina) nominated Mr. Scheyven (Belgium) as President of the Council.

16. Mr. Scheyven's past achievements were a guarantee that he would guide the Council's debates with efficiency and impartiality and with a view to the best interests of the United Nations as a whole. His political and economic activities had covered many fields which were within the purview of the Economic and Social Council. His enthusiasm for the cause of freedom was shown by the fact that he had taken part in the Resistance during the occupation of his country. He was particularly glad to put forward Mr. Scheyven's name because Argentina was bound to Belgium by many ties of friendship.

17. Mr. TANGE (Australia) seconded the nomination. Belgium had contributed much to the Council's constructive work in the economic and social fields, and Belgium's own economic policy had produced a thriving and stable economy. Mr. Scheyven was admirably fitted for the office of President of the Council, in virtue both of his distinguished record in national legislative and public life and of the services he had rendered as Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council.

18. Mr. BORIS (France) proposed that, since there were no other nominations, Mr. Scheyven should be considered to have been elected by acclamation.

Mr. R. Scheyven (Belgium) was elected President by acclamation.

19. The PRESIDENT thanked the members of the Council for the honour they had done both him and his country in electing him President and said that he would do his best to live up to the example set by his predecessors in that office, Mr. Santa Cruz and Mr. Amjad Ali.

20. Upon the opening of a new session of the Council, he wished to congratulate the Secretariat and the specialized agencies on the work they had done since the previous session and on the excellent documentation they had prepared. He mentioned in particular the two basic reports on the world economic situation and the world social situation.

21. At the previous session, he had been impressed by the highly optimistic tone of the speeches concerning the world economic situation and of the report on *Measures for International Economic Stability* (E/2156). In that report, the group of experts had stated: "We believe that in the future, 'prosperous' years will be the rule rather than the exception, and even in years of recession prosperity will be, not merely around the corner, but in full view. This for the first time makes the problem of international economic instability a manageable one." At the same time, however, the group of experts had fully recognized the possibility of a recession and had stated that "any substantial or sudden cutback in rearmament would clearly involve a serious risk of recession, and even a levelling off of the programme would mean a drop in the secondary defence demands for inventories, plant and equipment".

22. On the basis of all the documentation submitted, the Council had considered various measures to avert a recession, such as the creation of buffer stocks, adjustments to render the International Bank and the International Monetary Fund more effective, etc. The discussions had been useful but it must unfortunately be admitted that they had not led to any concrete solutions. The Council had simply referred the problems to a committee, recommended further study, or else adopted resolutions, which had been drafted in such diplomatic terms, in order to achieve unanimity, that they had lost all their effectiveness.

23. The group of experts had stated in their report that there was for the first time a possibility of solving the problem of international economic stability, provided that certain steps were taken immediately. They had also given warning of the possible effects of a levelling off in the armaments race, a race which his country viewed with regret but was unfortunately unable to prevent. In the circumstances, it was quite possible that the recent decline in economic activity in certain countries and the sudden drop in the prices of certain raw materials were in fact the first warning symptoms of a recession, which the Council could take steps to avert. The time had come for the Council to look back on its work and to see whether it had always fulfilled its responsibilities towards the suffering millions in the world. Naturally the problems must be approached with caution and wisdom but there was also room for courage and imagination. In recent years, many of the countries represented in the Council had adopted bold solutions to their own internal problems and their courage had been rewarded. There was a tendency in certain circles to regard the work of the United Nations with scepticism. Patience was certainly needed, but the optimists who still believed in the ideal of a universal international organization would be encouraged in their belief if they were given some sign that the Organization was making progress towards the achievements of practical solutions. Naturally the Council could not undertake to solve all the problems at a single session, but he sincerely hoped that it would be able to find definite solutions for some

of them so that they need no longer appear on the agenda at future sessions.

ELECTION OF THE FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

24. Mr. MEADE (United Kingdom) said that Sir Gladwyn Jebb had asked him to convey to the Council his regret that he was unable to be present, as the Council's opening meeting coincided with a memorial service for the late Queen Mary.

25. It had been Sir Gladwyn Jebb's intention to nominate Mr. Muñoz (Argentina) as First Vice-President. Mr. Muñoz had represented his country in the United Nations since 1946 and was one of the few who had served on all three Councils. He possessed a profound knowledge of the rules of procedure and had been an admirable Chairman of the Fourth Committee during the seventh session of the General Assembly.

26. Mr. ÑUNEZ PORTUONDO (Cuba) seconded that proposal on behalf of his country and of all the other Latin American countries.

Mr. Muñoz (Argentina) was elected First Vice-President by acclamation.

ELECTION OF THE SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT

27. Mr. ZORIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) nominated Mr. Birecki (Poland), who was well

known to the members of the Council, having represented his country at its thirteenth and fourteenth sessions.

28. Mr. WADSWORTH (United States of America) asked that a vote should be taken.

29. The PRESIDENT called for a vote by secret ballot, in accordance into rule 67 of the rules of procedure.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Bartol (Argentina) and Mr. Amanrich (France) acted as tellers.

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	18
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	0
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	18
<i>Abstentions:</i>	2
<i>Number of valid votes cast:</i>	16
<i>Required majority:</i>	9
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Mr. Birecki (Poland).....	13
Mr. López (Philippines).....	1
Mr. Sarper (Turkey).....	1
Mr. Tange (Australia).....	1

Having obtained the required majority, Mr. Birecki (Poland) was elected Second Vice-Chairman.

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.