

UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



Distr.  
GENERAL

A/3773  
9 December 1957

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twelfth session  
Agenda item 3

CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE TWELFTH SESSION  
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Report of the Credentials Committee

Chairman: Mr. Thor THORS (Iceland)

1. At its 678th plenary meeting on 17 September 1957, the General Assembly, in accordance with rule 28 of its rules of procedure, appointed a Credentials Committee for its twelfth session consisting of the following Member States: Burma, Canada, Iceland, Liberia, Nicaragua, Panama, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.
2. The Credentials Committee met on 6 December 1957.
3. Mr. Thor Thors (Iceland) was unanimously elected Chairman of the Committee.
4. The representative of the United States introduced a motion "that the Committee take no decision regarding the credentials submitted on behalf of the representatives of Hungary". He stated that the Credentials Committee, at the eleventh session of the Assembly, had adopted a similar motion and that the Assembly, at its 677th plenary meeting, on 14 September 1957, had adopted a resolution which, inter alia, found that: "The present Hungarian regime has been imposed on the Hungarian people by the armed intervention of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics";<sup>1/</sup> he added that there had been no action since by the Hungarian authorities or by the USSR to justify any different judgement.
5. The representative of the United Kingdom stated that he would support the motion submitted by the representative of the United States, since the misgivings regarding the representative character of the Hungarian authorities had been strengthened by the report of the Special Committee on the Problem of Hungary.

<sup>1/</sup> Resolution 1133 (XI), para. 4 (b).

6. The representative of the USSR stated that there was no reason to raise the question of the validity of the credentials issued by the lawful Government of the Hungarian People's Republic in accordance with its constitution and the relevant provisions of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. He added that States which had sponsored and supported the motion tending to cast doubts on the credentials of that Government were among those which maintained diplomatic relations with it.
7. The representative of Panama supported the motion submitted by the representative of the United States, no changes having occurred in the situation in Hungary since the previous decision taken by the Credentials Committee on the same subject.
8. The representative of Burma stated that, in the absence of concrete evidence on whether or not the present Government of Hungary had a representative character, he would abstain in the voting on the United States motion.
9. The representative of Canada stated that he would support the motion, since he entertained serious doubts regarding the right of the present Hungarian Government to represent the people of Hungary.
10. The representative of Liberia stated that he would abstain in the voting on the motion, which raised such a serious issue; this motion having been submitted during the meeting, he was unable to contact his Government.
11. The representative of the United States explained that the motion was not to be considered as an approval or a disapproval of the credentials of the representatives of Hungary, but simply meant that, in view of the doubts entertained by many concerning the representative character of the Hungarian Government, the Committee would take no definitive action either in favour of or against those credentials.
12. The United States motion was adopted by 6 votes to 1, with 2 abstentions.
13. The representative of the USSR introduced a draft resolution providing that the credentials of the representatives of the Government of the Republic of China should not be recognized as valid since these credentials did not conform to rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.
14. The Chairman, basing himself on the resolution adopted by the General Assembly at its 686th plenary meeting on 24 September 1957 (A/RES/1135 (XII)), ruled that the USSR draft resolution was out of order, since the Assembly had already taken a decision on this matter for the present session.

15. The representative of the USSR, in challenging the ruling of the Chairman, stated that, notwithstanding the resolution adopted by the Assembly, it was the duty of the Credentials Committee to examine the validity of the credentials submitted to it, and that it should not recognize as valid the credentials of the representatives of the Government of the Republic of China.
16. The representative of the United States supported the ruling of the Chairman, as a decision had already been made by the General Assembly in connexion with the representation of China.
17. The representative of Burma recalled that his delegation had opposed the adoption of resolution 1135 (XII). He supported the views expressed by the representative of the USSR, as he did not recognize as valid the credentials of the representatives of the Government of the Republic of China.
18. The representative of Panama recalled that the question of the representation of China had been fully discussed both in the General Committee and in the plenary meeting of the General Assembly before the adoption of resolution 1135 (XII) and that no events had occurred since then to warrant any departure from the Assembly's decision.
19. The representative of Canada associated himself with the remarks of the representative of Panama. He stated further that it would be improper for the Committee to take any action not in accordance with resolution 1135 (XII).
20. The Chairman's ruling was upheld by 6 votes to 2. The Chairman did not participate in the voting.
21. A proposal was submitted by the Chairman that, subject to the decision relating to Hungary, the Credentials Committee should find the credentials of all representatives in order and recommend that the General Assembly approve its report.
22. This proposal was adopted unanimously.
23. The representative of the USSR stated that his vote in favour of the report of the Credentials Committee should not be interpreted as a modification of his previous position against the validity of the credentials of the representatives of the Government of the Republic of China, and in favour of the validity of the credentials of the representatives of the Government of the Hungarian People's Republic.

24. The Credentials Committee recommends that the General Assembly adopt the following resolution:

Credentials of Representatives to the Twelfth Session  
of the General Assembly

The General Assembly

Approves the report of the Credentials Committee.

-----