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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR A CONFERENCE
FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVIEWING THE CHARTER

Rapporteur: Dr. Franz Matsch (Austria)

1. Under resolution 992 (X) the General Assembly decided to appoint a Committee consisting of all the Members of the United Nations to consider, in consultation with the Secretary-General, the question of fixing a time and place for a general conference, to be held at an appropriate time to review the Charter, and the organization and procedures of such a conference. The Committee was requested to report, with recommendations, to the General Assembly at its twelfth session.
2. The report of the Committee was considered by the General Assembly during its twelfth session,^{1/} and at its 705th plenary meeting on 14 October 1957, the Assembly accepted the recommendation in the draft resolution (A/AC.81/L.1) contained in the Committee's report that the Committee be kept in being and be requested to report, with recommendations, to the General Assembly not later than at its fourteenth session.^{2/}
3. Accordingly, at its third meeting on 2 September 1959 the Committee elected Mr. Abdul Rahman Pazhwak (Afghanistan) as Chairman and Mr. Carlos Adrian Perdomo (Honduras) as Vice-Chairman to replace, respectively, Mr. Abdul Aziz (Afghanistan) and Mr. José Trujillo (Ecuador) who were no longer members of their delegations and hence were not available in New York.
4. Dr. Franz Matsch (Austria) continued to be the Rapporteur of the Committee.

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Session, Annexes, agenda item 22, document A/3593.

^{2/} General Assembly resolution 1136 (XII).

5. The representatives of the following Member States took part in the discussion: Afghanistan, the United Kingdom, Ghana, Ceylon, Italy, the Soviet Union, the United Arab Republic, the United States, India, Romania, Yugoslavia, the Philippines, Poland and China. The Rapporteur was requested to prepare a draft of the Committee's report to the General Assembly and to submit it for the Committee's consideration at its next meeting. The representatives of the USSR and Ghana hoped that the report would reflect all the views expressed by the Committee members. The representatives of Ghana, Ceylon and the Philippines spoke in favour of deciding, at this stage, a definite date for convening a conference for the purpose of reviewing the Charter. The representative of Afghanistan, whilst expressing the hope that the appropriate time for review might not be too far distant, did not think that any drastic review of the Charter was necessary. Nevertheless, he felt it was high time that use should be made of the provisions of Article 108 of the Charter to alter the size and composition of bodies such as the Trusteeship Council.
6. The majority of the speakers expressed the view that a review of the Charter would be useful on account of the political, economic and social changes that had occurred in the world situation since 1945, but thought that the present time was not propitious for the convening of such a conference and therefore favoured a postponement. The hope was voiced that the forthcoming exchange of views and negotiations may improve the international atmosphere. In their view, the Committee should be kept in being and should submit recommendations either to the fifteenth or sixteenth session of the General Assembly.
7. The representatives of the USSR, Romania and Poland said that they objected to the convening of a general conference for the purpose of reviewing the Charter and accordingly considered that it would be inappropriate to keep the Committee in being any longer. In their view, the Charter as it stood was fully adequate to the task of strengthening the general peace and developing international co-operation. They recalled the difficulties which had had to be overcome in the past, at the time of the framing of the Charter, in order to

reconcile the divergent viewpoints of many States with different social and political systems. Too superficial an approach to the problem of reviewing the Charter might undermine the very foundations of the United Nations and plunge it into a state of disorder and uncertainty. What was needed to make the work of the United Nations more effective was not revision of its Charter but the consistent application of its purposes and principles. They stated that without the participation of the People's Republic of China, whose rights as a Member of the United Nations and permanent member of the Security Council had been violated, it would be impossible and inadmissible to discuss questions relating to a review of the United Nations Charter and that such a discussion would constitute yet another violation of that instrument.

8. At the end of the discussion the representative of the United Kingdom, supported by the representative of the Philippines, noted that, in the prevailing view of the speakers, the time was not propitious for the convening of a Charter reviewing conference and that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly to keep it in being and to instruct it to report again not later than at the sixteenth regular session of the Assembly.

9. The Rapporteur presented at the Committee's fourth meeting on 3 September 1959 a draft of the Committee's report to the Assembly (A/AC.81/L.2) with the suggestion that an additional paragraph containing a draft resolution for adoption by the Assembly be incorporated in the report as paragraph 10 of the report. A number of suggestions and amendments to the draft report were made by members, including a new substitute text for paragraph 8 of the draft report by the representative of the USSR and a substitute text of paragraph 9 made by the representative of Belgium. These suggestions and amendments were accepted by the Rapporteur for incorporation in the final text. At the request of the representative of the USSR, however, the Committee voted on the amended paragraph 9 and the additional paragraph 10 of the draft report and approved them by a vote of 71 to none, with 9 abstentions.

10. Accordingly, the Committee on arrangements for a conference for the purpose of reviewing the Charter recommends to the General Assembly that it adopt the following draft resolution:

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"The General Assembly,

"Recalling the provisions of its resolutions 992 (X) and 1136 (XII),

"1. Decides to keep in being the Committee on arrangements for a conference for the purpose of reviewing the Charter and to request the Committee to report, with recommendations, to the General Assembly not later than at its sixteenth session;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to continue the work envisaged in paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 992 (X)."
