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CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE SEVENTEENTH
SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Report of the Credentials Committee

Chairman: Mr. Dimitri S. BITSIOS (Greece)

1. At its 1122nd plenary meeting on 18 September 1962, the General Assembly, in accordance with rule 28 of its rules of procedure, appointed a Credentials Committee for its seventeenth session consisting of the following Member States: Canada, El Salvador, Greece, Guinea, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and United States of America.
2. The Credentials Committee met on 20 December 1962.
3. Mr. Dimitri S. BITSIOS (Greece) was unanimously elected Chairman of the Committee.
4. The Chairman drew the attention of the Committee to the memorandum by the Secretary-General according to which credentials issued by the Head of the State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs had been submitted to the Secretary-General by all Member States for their representatives, as provided in rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.
5. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics introduced a draft resolution providing that the Credentials Committee "having considered the credentials of the group of persons calling themselves the representatives of China, resolves to consider these credentials invalid in view of their contradiction with rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly".

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6. The Chairman, recalling that the General Assembly had already taken a decision of the matter at its 1162nd plenary meeting, ruled that the USSR draft resolution was out of order.
7. The representative of the USSR, in challenging the ruling of the Chairman, stated that the Credentials Committee had the responsibility to submit a realistic report on the status of the credentials of representatives to the General Assembly.
8. The Chairman's ruling was upheld by 5 votes to 2, with 2 abstentions.
9. In explanation of his vote, the representative of Guinea stated that his Government recognized the Government of the People's Republic of China and considered it therefore the only legitimate one.
10. The representative of the United States stated that, for the past five sessions, the General Assembly had refused to recognize the credentials of the representatives of the present Hungarian régime. Since this régime continued to disregard the resolutions of the General Assembly on the Hungarian question, the Committee should maintain its attitude. He therefore introduced a motion that the Committee take no action on the credentials submitted on behalf of the representatives of Hungary. He hoped however that the attitude of Hungary towards the General Assembly would not last.
11. The representative of the USSR noted that the Secretariat had ascertained that the Hungarian credentials were formally in order and no challenge was ever made of these credentials. He added that the United States had normal diplomatic relations with Hungary and that the credentials of the representatives of Hungary had been submitted in accordance with the relevant rules of procedure of the General Assembly. He appealed to the representative of the United States not to press for a vote on his motion.
12. The representative of Nigeria stated that the Committee had to examine the formal aspects of the credentials and that the credentials of the Hungarian representatives were formally in order. As for the remark made that the Hungarian Government had not complied with General Assembly resolutions, there were other Member States who had not complied with resolutions of the General Assembly. He therefore would not be able to support the United States motion.

13. The representative of Guinea stated that his Government maintained the same diplomatic relations with the Government of Hungary as with other Governments and that Hungary, as a Member State, had to be represented in the United Nations. He would have wished the Credentials Committee to take note of the improved relations between the United Nations and Hungary, on the one hand, and the United States and Hungary, on the other hand. He therefore supported the credentials submitted by the Government of Hungary.

14. The representative of Indonesia recalled that a member of the Hungarian delegation had been unanimously elected as Rapporteur of the First Committee. He therefore could not understand how the credentials of the representatives of Hungary could be challenged.

15. The representative of Mexico stated that, according to rule 29 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, "Any representative to whose admission a Member has made objection shall be seated provisionally with the same rights as other representatives ...". There was therefore no contradiction between the election of a rapporteur and the motion submitted by the United States.

16. The representative of the USSR noted that an objection to the credentials of the representatives of Hungary had been raised only on the last day of the General Assembly session. This question was based only on political motives which were not within the competence of the Credentials Committee.

17. The United States representative recalled that the General Assembly had already on previous occasions recognized the competence of the Credentials Committee to deal with this matter.

18. The United States motion was adopted by 5 votes to 4, with no abstentions.

19. The Chairman called the attention of the Committee to paragraphs 2 and 3 of the memorandum of the Secretary-General and to the annexes to this memorandum, reproducing the credentials issued by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Yemen and by the President of the Yemen Arab Republic.

20. The representative of Guinea submitted the following draft resolution:

"The Credentials Committee

"Recommends to the General Assembly to accept the credentials addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, dated 8 December 1962, issued by the President of the Yemen Arab Republic."

21. This draft resolution was supported by the representative of the USSR.
22. The draft resolution was adopted by 6 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.
23. The representatives of El Salvador and Mexico gave an explanation of their votes.
24. A proposal was submitted by the Chairman that, subject to the decision relating to Hungary and to the resolution adopted on the credentials of the representatives of Yemen, the Credentials Committee find the credentials of all representatives in order and recommend that the General Assembly approve its report.
25. The proposal of the Chairman was approved by the Committee.
26. The representative of the USSR stated that the approval of the Committee's report by the delegation of the USSR should not be interpreted as a modification of its position on the question of the representation of the People's Republic of China and the credentials of the Hungarian delegation.

Recommendation of the Credentials Committee

27. The Credentials Committee therefore recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Credentials of representatives to the seventeenth
session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly

Approves the report of the Credentials Committee.
