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CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FIFTH EMERGENCY SPECIAL SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Report of the Credentials Committee

Chairman: Mr. Kurt WALDHEIM (Austria)

1. At its 1525th plenary meeting, on 17 June 1967, the General Assembly, in accordance with rule 28 of its rules of procedure, appointed a Credentials Committee for its fifth emergency special session. On the suggestion of the President of the Assembly, it decided that the Credentials Committee would consist of the same members who served during the twenty-first regular session and the fifth special session, namely: Austria, El Salvador, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Japan, Nepal, Nicaragua, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and United States of America.
2. The Credentials Committee met on 3 July 1967.
3. Opening the meeting, the representative of the Secretary-General referred to rule 65 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, according to which the President and Vice-Presidents for emergency special sessions shall be, respectively, the Chairmen of those delegations from which were elected the President and Vice-Presidents of the previous session, and suggested that the said rule could be equally applied to the chairmanship of the Credentials Committee.
4. There having been no objection to the above-mentioned suggestion, Mr. Kurt Waldheim (Austria) took the Chair.
5. The Chairman called the attention of the Committee to the memorandum of the Secretary-General on the status of the credentials of representatives to the fifth emergency special session of the General Assembly.
6. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that his delegation, like many others, did not recognize the validity of the credentials

submitted by the Chiang Kai-shek régime, which had unlawfully arrogated to itself the title of representative of the Chinese people. His delegation's position, as stated on many previous occasions, was that the only government legally entitled to represent the Chinese people was the Government of the People's Republic of China.

7. For the above-mentioned reasons, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics proposed that the Committee regard the credentials in question as invalid and to this end introduced the following draft resolution:

"The Credentials Committee,

"Having considered the proposal of the delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the non-recognition of the credentials of the persons calling themselves 'representatives of the Republic of China',

"Decides to consider invalid the credentials of the persons calling themselves 'the representatives of the Republic of China' at the fifth emergency special session of the United Nations General Assembly owing to the incompatibility of these credentials with the requirements of rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly."

8. The representative of Guinea stated that he strongly supported the draft resolution. In the view of his delegation the Chiang Kai-shek clique did not represent the Chinese people and the General Assembly should take note of that fact.

9. The representative of Nepal said that his Government had consistently maintained that a group of exiles living in Taiwan could not claim to represent the Chinese people. The only legal representatives of that people were those appointed by the People's Republic of China. He would, therefore, vote for the USSR draft resolution.

10. The representative of Japan observed that the USSR draft resolution confused two questions, namely, the representation of China in the United Nations and the validity of the credentials of the representatives of the Republic of China. In his view, the Committee was not competent to deal with the first question; it had been raised and settled at the twenty-first session of the General Assembly, which had rejected a proposal (A/L.496 and Add.1) that the representatives of the Republic of China should be expelled from the United Nations. He therefore

considered that the USSR draft resolution was out of order, but with a view to avoiding a procedural debate he would not object to its being put to the vote. With regard to the second issue, he saw no grounds to question the validity of the credentials of the representatives of the Republic of China, which had been issued by the competent authorities of that State in accordance with rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

11. The representatives of El Salvador, the United States of America, Nicaragua, and the Ivory Coast endorsed the views expressed by the representative of Japan and stated that they would vote against the USSR draft resolution.

12. The Chairman put to the vote the draft resolution submitted by the representative of the USSR. The draft resolution was rejected by 5 votes to 3, with 1 abstention.

13. The representative of Guinea, referring to the credentials of the South African delegation, stated that he formally reserved the position of his delegation regarding the credentials of persons who claimed to represent South Africa. In his view, they represented a fascist Government whose policies of apartheid were a flagrant violation of the principles of the Charter and of the laws governing relations between States.

14. The representatives of the Ivory Coast and the USSR associated themselves with the views expressed by the representative of Guinea and also wished to put on record the reservations of their delegations regarding the credentials of the representatives of the Government of Pretoria. The representative of the USSR further stated that his delegation had repeatedly expressed its opposition to the racist régime in South Africa, where the majority of the African population were the oppressed victims of a Government which by terrorism deprived them of their rights and freedoms and which had flouted several General Assembly resolutions calling upon it to end its policies of apartheid and racial discrimination. It was clear, he said, that the representative of such a régime could not represent the people of South Africa.

15. The representative of El Salvador said that his Government had always been firmly opposed to apartheid but that did not alter the fact that the Government of South Africa was a legally constituted Government and the only one entitled to issue the credentials for the representatives of South Africa to the United Nations. As to the violations of human rights and other rights in South Africa, that was a question for other bodies of the United Nations to deal with and not the Credentials Committee.

16. The representatives of the United States and Japan stated that their Governments also categorically rejected the policies of racial discrimination and apartheid practised by the Government of South Africa. They were of the view, however, that neither the abhorrence of apartheid nor their Government's reservations regarding other policies and acts of the South African Government affected the validity of the credentials of the South African delegation, which fulfilled the requirements of rule 27 of the rules of procedure.

17. The Chairman stated that all reservations expressed in the Committee concerning the representation of China and South Africa would be resolved in the Committee's report to the General Assembly and proposed the following resolution for the adoption by the Committee:

"The Credentials Committee,

"Having examined the credentials of the representatives to the fifth emergency special session of the General Assembly,

"Recalling the different views expressed during the debate,

"Accepts the credentials of all representatives to the fifth emergency special session of the General Assembly and recommends to the General Assembly that it approve the report of the Credentials Committee."

18. The representative of the USSR said that, in view of the fact that the proposed resolution did not take account of the objections and reservations expressed regarding the credentials of representatives of China and South Africa, he would abstain on the draft resolution proposed by the Chairman and would be unable to support the recommendation that the General Assembly should approve the Committee's report.

19. The representatives of Nepal and the Ivory Coast stated that they would vote for the draft resolution proposed by the Chairman on the understanding that all reservations expressed by their delegations during the debate would be recorded in the Committee's report.

20. The draft resolution proposed by the Chairman was adopted by 7 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

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

Credentials of representatives to the fifth emergency special session
of the General Assembly

The General Assembly

Approves the report of the Credentials Committee.
