

United Nations
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY

FORTIETH SESSION

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THIRD COMMITTEE
2nd meeting
held on
Monday, 23 September 1985
at 10.30 a.m.
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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 2nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ZADOR (Hungary)

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25 September 1985

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The meeting was called to order at 11.05 a.m.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

1. The CHAIRMAN said that, on behalf of the members of the Committee, he wished to extend deepest sympathy to the Government and people of Mexico in connection with the loss of life and damage to property resulting from the recent earthquake in that country.
2. He wished to thank the Group of Eastern European States for having endorsed his candidacy for the chairmanship of the Committee. He regarded the confidence placed in him as a recognition of his country. Hungary, though small, was exerting great efforts as a member of the socialist community to build a society in which the uplifting of the material and spiritual condition of the people went hand in hand with the constant concern for the extension of democratic rights and the protection and widening of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all citizens.
3. Despite the great differences of approach within the Committee, international co-operation was needed if it was to accomplish its work. He hoped that it would be possible to strengthen further such co-operation in the service of the Charter. The rights and freedoms enshrined therein constituted the prerogatives of every people, individual and group of individuals. The responsibility of the Committee in translating the provisions of the Charter into action was considerably enhanced by the fact that 1985 was the year of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations.
4. Many of his generation that had witnessed and had been the victims of the deprivations and human sufferings of the Second World War had also actively participated in the victory over an inhuman system which had represented the most massive negation and denial of all human rights in modern history. The Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other major human-rights instruments bore witness to the deeply held desire for peoples that barbarism should never again be allowed to raise its head in the world.
5. Yet how was it possible that, 40 years after the defeat of the system of institutionalized racial discrimination, the disciples of that inhuman creed should still rule over millions of human beings while posing as defenders of civilization? It was obvious that the international community could not shirk its responsibility but must act on the numerous resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on the apartheid system in South Africa and the right to self-determination of peoples such as those in Namibia.
6. The Committee had before it a heavy agenda dealing with matters such as human rights - in particular that most fundamental one, the right to life - the status of women, youth, the aged, disabled persons, children, the elimination of religious intolerance and the grave social and health problems posed by the illicit use of drugs. Such was the wide range of crucial issues that the Committee would be called upon to discuss and, he hoped, bring closer to a satisfactory solution.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

7. Mrs. TIRONA (Philippines) nominated Mr. Zawawi (Malaysia) for the office of Vice-Chairman.
8. Mrs. BOCHECIAMPE de CROVATI (Venezuela) nominated Mr. Hamer (Netherlands) for the office of Vice-Chairman.
9. Mr. Zawawi (Malaysia) and Mr. Hamer (Netherlands) were elected Vice-Chairmen by acclamation.
10. Mr. POLOWCZYK (Poland) nominated Mr. Kabore (Burkina Faso) for the office of Rapporteur.
11. Mr. Kabore (Burkina Faso) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.
12. Mr. MADAR (Somalia), speaking as the outgoing Chairman, expressed his solidarity with the people of Mexico with regard to the recent disaster that had struck that country.
13. In congratulating the Chairman and other officers on their election, he noted that the current session was especially important because it coincided with the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations. He hoped that 1985 would mark the prelude to liberation for those peoples still under colonial domination and those deprived of their fundamental human rights. He was sure that the Chairman would steer the Committee well and that its work would be crowned with success.
14. The Committee had to deal seriously with the methods of eradicating scourges such as racism, regardless of where it existed, whether in southern Africa or the Middle East. He therefore appealed to all Member States to subscribe to the relevant conventions, end co-operation with South Africa and apply sanctions against that country in accordance with the Charter.
15. The Committee would also deal with other important issues such as drug trafficking, the status of women, children, youth, the aged and disabled throughout the world. He wished to assure the Chairman of the full co-operation of his delegation and he was sure that the Chairman would receive from other delegations the same full co-operation which he (Mr. Madar) had received the year before.
16. Mr. ZAWAWI (Malaysia) said that his country had been honoured by his election as Vice-Chairman and that he would make a sincere effort to carry out the duties of that position. He expressed sympathy in connection with the recent earthquake in Mexico.
17. Mr. HAMER (Netherlands) said that his country had been honoured by his election as Vice-Chairman. As the Chairman had said, the current fortieth anniversary year was a special year, and the Committee's work would be influenced by that fact.
18. He expressed sympathy in connection with the recent earthquake in Mexico.

19. Mr. MADAR (Somalia), Rapporteur, expressed sympathy in connection with the recent earthquake in Mexico. He said he would make every effort to fulfil the duties of his position.

20. Mr. GONZALES DE LEON (Mexico) thanked the speakers for their kind words of sympathy in connection with the earthquake in his country.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK (A/C.3/40/L.1)

21. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the recommendations of the General Committee in section II of document A/40/250, which had been endorsed by the plenary Assembly. He stressed that all meetings should begin promptly at their scheduled time, and that any time left over from scheduled meetings of the Committee should be used for meetings of the established working groups or of the regional and other groups, as required.

22. With reference to document A/40/250, he also drew attention to paragraph 11, concerning explanations of vote, paragraph 13, concerning in extenso statements, and paragraphs 16 and 17, on questions related to the programme budget. He reminded the Committee that the General Assembly had again set 1 December as the mandatory deadline for the submission to the Fifth Committee of all draft resolutions with financial implications, and it had recommended that the Third Committee should conclude its work by 6 December.

Programme of work

23. The CHAIRMAN said that the tentative draft of the timetable circulated to delegations had been prepared in the light of the following criteria: items had been grouped into clusters as in the past; the order of their consideration also followed past practice; and account had been taken of the expected availability of documentation as well as the scheduled dates of the presence in New York of officials who would present reports. He suggested that the deadlines for the submission of draft proposals should be adhered to in order to utilize conference services to the full. He further suggested that the Committee should decide that Working Group I on the drafting of an International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families, would hold meetings from 23 September to 4 October and Working Group II, on the Elaboration of the Draft Declaration on the Human Rights of Individuals who are not Citizens of the Countries in which They Live, would hold meetings throughout the session.

24. It was so decided.

25. Mr. MATELJAK (Yugoslavia) expressed his delegation's sympathy in connection with the recent earthquake in Mexico

26. He asked when the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination would be available.

27. Mrs. DOWNING (Secretary of the Committee) replied that it would be available by 4 October.
28. Mr. YAKOVLEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) expressed sympathy in connection with the recent earthquake in Mexico.
29. He suggested that the wording on page 11 of the informal document before the Committee on the state of documentation should be altered to agree exactly with the agenda.
30. Mrs. DOWNING (Secretary of the Committee) said it would be done.
31. The CHAIRMAN said that the first cluster of items was expected to be introduced on Monday morning, 7 October.

The meeting rose at 12.05 p.m.