

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**
THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION
*Official Records**



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FIRST COMMITTEE
2nd meeting
held on
Tuesday, 11 October 1983
at 10.30 a.m.
New York

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 2ND MEETING

Chairman: **Mr. VRAALSEN (Norway)**

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DISTR. GENERAL
A/C.1/38/PV.2
15 October 1983
ENGLISH

The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN: On behalf of all the members of the Committee and on my own behalf, I take great pleasure in extending a most cordial and friendly welcome to the new Member of the United Nations, Saint Christopher and Nevis.

May I express my profound appreciation to all Members of the United Nations for the honour and privilege which they have conferred upon me and my country by electing me Chairman of the First Committee.

I thank all representatives most warmly for the confidence they have placed in me. It will be my endeavour to conduct the business of the First Committee of the General Assembly in a manner which will gain their confidence and approval.

Let me say, first of all, how much I appreciated the very kind words offered by our Chairman of last year, Ambassador James Victor Gbeho of Ghana, when he nominated me at the first meeting of the Committee. It was my privilege last year to serve as one of his Vice-Chairmen and I was much struck by his engaging personality and negotiating ability.

(The Chairman)

I am certain that I am expressing the sentiments of all members of the Committee when I extend to Ambassador Gbeno our congratulations and gratitude for the exemplary manner in which he presided over our deliberations at the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

I am thus fully aware that I am following a succession of distinguished Chairmen, who presided ably and skilfully over the work of this Committee. I shall spare neither effort nor time to assist delegations in our common endeavours. In so doing, I count on the constructive co-operation and assistance of the Committee's entire membership. It is gratifying to know that I can count also on the most valuable experience, competence and profound knowledge of my friends, the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Security Council Affairs, Mr. Viacheslav A. Ustinov, the Under-Secretary-General for the Department for Disarmament Affairs, Mr. Jan Martenson, and the Secretary of the Committee, Mr. Maceem Rathore and his colleagues. I am certain that the First Committee will fully benefit from their experience and we look forward to their co-operation in dealing with the many important issues before this Committee.

The agenda for today's meeting concerns the election of the Vice-Chairmen and the organization of work.

If I hear no objection, I shall consider that the agenda is adopted by the Committee.

The agenda was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: Before taking up the items on our agenda, I should like to draw the attention of the members of the Committee to the decision of the General Assembly, taken at its 1935th meeting on 22 September 1971, concerning the procedure regarding the election of officers of the Main Committees of the General Assembly. According to that decision, the nominations of candidates should be limited to one statement for each candidate, after which the Committee should immediately proceed to the election. The Committee will follow this procedure in regard to the items on our agenda for today.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Mr. SKOGMO (Norway): On behalf of the Norwegian Government, I have the great honour to nominate His Excellency Mr. Elfaki Abdalla Elfaki of Sudan as Vice-Chairman of the First Committee during the thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

Ambassador Elfaki is at present Deputy Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations. He is known and respected in the United Nations for his diplomatic skills and high personal qualifications. The Norwegian delegation feels very confident that the election of Ambassador Elfaki as Vice-Chairman of the Committee will be most welcome and that he will be of invaluable assistance to the Chairman and the officers of the Committee in carrying out the difficult task of leading us through the First Committee's work during this Assembly.

Ambassador Elfaki has had a very distinguished career in the Foreign Service of his country. He joined the Sudanese diplomatic service in January 1966 and served at the headquarters of the Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs in both the Arab and African Affairs Department. In the period between October 1967 and September 1972 he served on the diplomatic staff of the Sudanese Embassy in Lagos, Nigeria. In September 1972 he was appointed Counsellor to the Sudanese Embassy in Moscow where he served until November 1974, when he was transferred back to the headquarters of the Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a Deputy Director of the Department of International Organizations. In the period between August 1975 and September 1977 he joined the Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi on a scholarship from the Indian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, before returning to his headquarters to serve as Director of the Arab Affairs Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He has served in his present post in New York since August 1979.

During his distinguished career, Ambassador Elfaki has been a member of Sudan's delegation to several Organization of African Unity, Arab League and Non-Aligned Movement ministerial and summit Conferences between 1966 and 1983. He has been a member of Sudan's delegations to the thirty-fourth, thirty-fifth, thirty-sixth and thirty-seventh regular sessions of the General Assembly, and also

(Mr. Skogmo, Norway)

to special sessions of the General Assembly, since 1979. He has also led Sudan's delegations to several international conferences held under United Nations auspices, and to non-aligned meetings.

Apart from his professional career, Ambassador Elfaki has also had a distinguished academic career in political science and in international law and diplomacy. In 1978 and 1979 he served as President of the Sudanese Diplomats' Association.

It is a great pleasure and honour to nominate Ambassador Elfaki as Vice-Chairman of the First Committee, and I propose that he be elected by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN: There being no other nominations, I take it that, in accordance with rule 103 of the rules of procedure and with established practice, the Committee wishes to dispense with the secret ballot and to declare Ambassador Elfaki of Sudan elected Vice-Chairman of the First Committee by acclamation.

Mr. Elfaki Abdalla Elfaki (Sudan) was elected Vice-Chairman of the First Committee by acclamation.

Mr. ESPECHE GIL (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): As this is the first time that the Argentine delegation is speaking in the Committee at this session, Mr. Chairman, I should like to extend to you our congratulations on your election as Chairman. You may count on the full co-operation of the Argentine delegation in the effective discharge of your responsibilities.

I should also like to join in the statement you have just made concerning the outstanding work done by Mr. Gbeho last year when he presided over the meetings of our Committee.

In the absence of Mr. Carasales, it is my honour to nominate Mr. Gheorghe Tinca, of the Permanent Mission of Romania to the United Nations, as Vice-Chairman of the First Committee.

Mr. Tinca is very well known in the United Nations. I refer to his record now, because it gives me an opportunity of praising his work on all those occasions when it fell to him to act with dedication and intelligence in the service of his country and on behalf of international co-operation.

(Mr. Espeche Gil, Argentina)

Mr. Tinca, who has an outstanding academic background in law and international relations in his own country has worked in the field of disarmament in Bucharest as well as in Geneva and New York. I should also add that Mr. Gheorghe Tinca was one of the authors of the important study produced by the Secretary-General on all aspects of nuclear weapons.

For all those reasons, we are convinced that Mr. Tinca will make an excellent Vice-Chairman of our Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: I am sure that I am expressing the sentiments of the Committee when I thank the representative of Argentina for his delegation's important contribution to the work of the Committee as Vice-Chairman of last year's session.

(The Chairman)

There being no other nominations, I take it that the Committee in this case also wishes to dispense with the secret ballot and to declare Mr. Gheorghe Tinca elected Vice-Chairman of the First Committee by acclamation.

Mr. Gheorghe Tinca (Romania) was elected Vice-Chairman of the First Committee by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN: I extend to the two Vice-Chairmen my warmest congratulations on the distinction that has been conferred on them and assure them of my confidence that we shall co-operate in a harmonious manner so that we can jointly discharge the responsibilities incumbent upon us.

I now call upon last year's Chairman, Ambassador Gbeho of Ghana.

Mr. GBEHO (Ghana): When I had the privilege, Sir, of nominating you for election to the chairmanship of this Committee at our first meeting, my choice of words and obvious enthusiasm betrayed the high regard in which I hold you. It is a great pleasure for me, personally and also for my delegation, to see you presiding over our deliberations. I wish to take this opportunity once again to congratulate you most warmly on achieving this distinction.

I wish to express my sincere felicitations to Ambassador Elfaki of Sudan and Mr. Tinca of Romania on their election to the posts of Vice-Chairmen of the First Committee. I have no doubt that both you and the Committee will find Mr. Elfaki of Sudan and Mr. Tinca of Romania admirable friends and supporters of the best traditions of the Committee, given their wisdom, diplomatic skill and experience in matters concerning disarmament and international security.

It is a tradition in the First Committee that the outgoing Chairman says a few words on this occasion, and I am particularly anxious to do so in expression of my sincerest thanks to all members of the Committee for the tremendous assistance and encouragement extended to me during the thirty-seventh session. It is by no means an exaggeration to say that my task was considerably facilitated and also made more enjoyable because their co-operation was very positive, constructive and enlightening.

(Mr. Gbeho, Ghana)

You, Sir, were one of the team of very able officials who constituted our proud bureau and without whom our Committee would not have worked so well. I am particularly indebted to you, to Ambassador Carasales of Argentina, the other Vice-Chairman, and to Mr. Erdenechuluun of Mongolia, who served the Committee as its able Rapporteur. I wish also to express my thanks and appreciation to the Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Ustinov, to our Assistant-Secretary-General, Mr. Martenson, and to the Secretary of the Committee, Mr. Rathore, and all his other colleagues, who worked so hard and with so much dedication. I am privileged and proud to have had the opportunity to forge a close and enduring friendship with each and every one of them.

Custom demands that I say a word or two about the work of the First Committee, and I now wish to turn to that. We are about to commence another session of meetings devoted to disarmament and international security in an atmosphere that no one would desire for our deliberations. Relations between the two super-Powers, the star performers, have worsened considerably since we concluded our work in December 1982. Many are seized, understandably, with pessimism with regard to our work, since it is believed that the two sides may not even find it easy to communicate with each other. Regrettable as the situation is, it is my considered opinion that the First Committee's work must proceed apace no matter what the circumstances, and that we should all put our talents together to forge the necessary political will for success. My faith in all the members of the Committee and my conviction that even the super-Powers desire the ultimate goal of peace prompt me to appeal not only to the delegations constituting the Committee but, more important, to the delegations of the super-Powers to endeavour to make our discussions a success.

I have already alluded to the tense atmosphere in which we meet. This has resulted from a gradual deterioration of relations between East and West and the rather strong language that has been employed in the attacks on each other. A few incidents between them have also indicated quite clearly how fragile peace and international security have become. I believe that the lesson of the ominous war clouds under which we live is that conflict cannot be too far away. It is our duty, therefore, to create the conditions under which disarmament and

(Mr. Gbeho, Ghana)

arms control talks can be promising or reassuring. Since we met last year the arms race has intensified and the arsenals of the nuclear Powers have increased in quantity and in quality. The deployment of missiles has also become a controversial issue, and only today there is talk of the arms control talks being cut off altogether. These developments are indeed regrettable, but one realizes also that not much progress has been expected in the arms control talks, because of poor East-West relations. Therefore it is a challenge to the Committee at this session to improve the international atmosphere and provide the appropriate guidelines, through adoption of our resolutions, to facilitate negotiations on arms control and disarmament.

The delicate nature of the debates in the Committee makes a departure from traditional procedures very difficult. However, I hope I am permitted to venture a thought on how I consider our deliberations can be made more concise and effective. It will be recalled that on previous occasions we have grouped a number of items under the general title, for example, of "Disarmament and international security" and allowed delegations to speak on any of them at our meetings. Practical as that procedure has been, in my view it tends to diffuse consideration of the specific items. Therefore it is my hope that we shall be able to vary the procedure a little so as to focus more on a lesser number of items grouped together at any given time. I have no doubt that you will lead us successfully in that direction, Mr. Chairman.

(Mr. Gbeho, Ghana)

All of us know what difficulties the United Nations has been experiencing during the last twelve months. Its image as a world body has been attacked, while its capacity to reduce tensions and produce answers to difficult international problems has been questioned. But we all know that the United Nations will be only what its Member States are. Since all of us desire it to be more efficient, particularly in the areas of arms control, disarmament and international peace and security, we have an onerous duty, in the First Committee especially, to redouble our efforts so that our deliberations can afford the various forums of the United Nations system the opportunity for greater success than before.

These are not new ideas, but I dare say that they bear repetition at the beginning of our work so as to streamline the debate and provide the encouragement to achieve more than before. Mr. Chairman, I have no doubt that with your ability and expertise in these fields, you will lead us to a successful conclusion of our work. In this daunting task, I wish to assure you of my delegation's fullest support.

May I also take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to you, Mr. Chairman, and to all the other colleagues who have used very kind words to describe my period of service last year as Chairman of the Committee. I wish you and the Committee every success in the task ahead.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Ghana, Mr. Gbeho, for his pertinent and thought-provoking remarks. I also would like to thank him for his generous words of congratulations to the officers of the Committee. It is a great satisfaction to me to know that I and the other officers of the Committee can draw upon his wisdom and experience as we discuss and take action on the many items which we have on our agenda.

Mr. ELFAKI (Sudan) (interpretation from Arabic): Mr. Chairman, allow me at the beginning of my statement, as this is the first time I am addressing the Committee, to offer you cordial congratulations, on behalf of my delegation, on your important election. The choice which has been made of you as Chairman is a reaffirmation of the complete confidence which the international community has in you, your skills and diplomatic experience, all of which were evident from your past performance at the United Nations, for example, as Chairman of the Fourth Committee at the thirty-first session, and also through your participation in the

(Mr. Elfaki, Sudan)

work of the Special Committee of Twenty-four of which you were Vice-Chairman. Your election is also a recognition of the important and effective role played by your country, Norway, with which we have friendly relations, for the cause of disarmament and the strengthening of international peace and security, particularly as your country, as we all know, has been a Member of this Organization which has turned its words into deeds by performing peace-keeping operations in various parts of the world.

I wish to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your kind words about me, and let me take this opportunity to state that I shall at all times be ready to co-operate with you and your fellow officers of the Committee, and other members of the Committee, for the successful outcome of the work of this important Committee.

I also wish to thank the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations, the outgoing Chairman of the First Committee for the very kind words he said about me this morning. Let me say, also, how very proud we are of him and of the efforts he made to ensure a successful outcome of the work of the Committee last year, and of his exemplary performance as Chairman.

I also would like to cordially thank Mr. Bjorn Skogmo of the Norwegian delegation for being kind enough to nominate me for the post of Vice-Chairman and for his kind remarks.

I also wish to thank all the members of the First Committee for the confidence they have expressed in me and my country by electing me Vice-Chairman. I wish to assure all the members that I will co-operate to my fullest ability in the performance of our work. I wish to thank the other Vice-Chairman for the important role his country has played in the field of disarmament. I would also like to congratulate him on his election. His experience and diplomatic skills will do much to advance the work of the Committee. I will co-operate with him to the utmost in order to enable the Committee to complete its work properly.

Mr. TINCA (Romania): I must confess that it is for me a particular pleasure and honour to be elected to serve as Vice-Chairman of this important Committee. For this honour I have sincerely to thank you, Mr. Chairman and all the members of this Committee, and I am particularly grateful to the representative of Argentina, who nominated me for this post.

I should like to offer my congratulations to the other Vice-Chairman, the Ambassador of Sudan, and to assure him of my co-operation in the fulfilment of our responsibilities.

I should like to avail myself of this opportunity to assure you, Sir, and, through you, all the members of the Committee, of my full co-operation, dedication and - why not? - enthusiasm in discharging the responsibility entrusted to me and to the other officers of the Committee. I shall do everything in my power to contribute to the successful conclusion of the work of this important body.

I cannot conclude this short statement without offering to you, Sir, our sincere congratulations on your election to the chairmanship of the First Committee. We are confident that your ability, your qualifications and your skill as an outstanding diplomat will guide the Committee's work to a successful conclusion, and we are sure that this year this body will be able to achieve practical results in curbing the arms race and on disarmament.

I should also like to offer our thanks to the outgoing Chairman of the First Committee, the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations, as well as to the other outgoing officers.

The CHAIRMAN: I look forward to the very active co-operation of the Vice-Chairmen of the Committee, and I am sure that I can count on their assistance and their close co-operation.

The election of the Rapporteur of the Committee will take place at a later meeting.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The CHAIRMAN: I draw the attention of the members of the Committee to document A/C.1/38/1, dated 28 September 1983, containing the letter dated 23 September 1983 addressed to me by the President of the General Assembly

(The Chairman)

and informing me that the General Committee, at its 4th meeting, decided to allocate 27 agenda items to the First Committee for its consideration.

In order to be able to submit a work programme to the First Committee for approval by all members of the Committee I have taken particular account of the time limitation the Committee faces. According to established practice the First Committee will begin its substantive work only after the conclusion of the general debate in the General Assembly, which is scheduled for 17 October 1983. On the other hand, the Committee should not go beyond the cut-off date suggested by the General Assembly, that is, 9 December. These limitations leave the Committee with a period extending from 17 October to 9 December, during which the Committee should be able to cover its rather heavy workload.

I should now like to draw the attention of members of the Committee to document A/C.1/38/2, dated 7 October 1983, which contains my proposals for the programme of work and timetable of the Committee.

As members will note, compared to previous years the programme of work and timetable contained in the document include some modest changes as far as the organization of our work is concerned. In making these proposals I have been motivated solely by my wish to expedite and render more effective the work of the Committee. More specifically, the purpose of my proposals has been to facilitate a more structured and focused debate, particularly on the disarmament items, and to make possible more rational consideration of and action on draft resolutions submitted to the Committee. In this latter context I have been particularly mindful of the problems faced by smaller delegations, especially during the hectic concluding phase of the Committee's consideration of the disarmament items, during which time a large number of draft resolutions is acted upon in a very limited span of time. In my opinion all delegations, and particularly the smaller ones, would benefit from a modest attempt at streamlining the work of the Committee, and this is what I have attempted to accomplish.

The proposals made in document A/C.1/38/2 are my own proposals. They have, however, been the subject of extensive consultations with a number of individual delegations and representatives of the regional groups. These consultations have convinced me that there is widespread support in the Committee for reforms along the lines suggested in the tentative programme of work and timetable, and this I find very gratifying and encouraging.

(The Chairman)

To summarize, in the document before the Committee I am making the following main proposals: first, that the general debate on the disarmament items be divided into phases, and that the items themselves be subjected to a rough grouping to be considered by the Committee during separate phases of its work; secondly, that the deadline for the submission and introduction of draft resolutions on disarmament items be moved up; and, thirdly, that before the Committee proceeds to take action upon draft resolutions on disarmament items time be made available for in-depth consideration of texts and informal consultations on them. At least in some cases this could conceivably facilitate the merger of texts dealing with the same subject matter.

Having made these general observations, I should like to proceed to a more detailed presentation of my tentative programme of work and timetable.

Adding up the number of meetings proposed for the various stages of our work, members will find that I have been working on the assumption that the Committee should be able to complete its work in a total of 65 meetings. I have arrived at this number on the basis of past experience in the Committee. The statistics show, for instance, that last year a total of 80 meetings had been allocated to the Committee. Out of that total 59 meetings were actually utilized. The corresponding figures for the preceding year are 68 and 51, respectively. Against that background it seems likely to me that the Committee will be able to conclude its work in the 65 meetings I have suggested. However, if this turns out not to be the case there is the possibility of adding meetings, since the Committee will have at its disposal a total of 80 meetings.

(The Chairman)

Turning now to the document before us, I should like to draw the attention of members of the Committee to the fact that it is suggested that the debate on the disarmament items should be divided into three phases.

The first phase, lasting from 17 to 21 October, should be devoted to general debate on all disarmament items. Delegations are encouraged to inscribe their names on the list of speakers as soon as possible. As necessary, the general debate would continue into the second phase, lasting from 24 October to 4 November.

During this second phase, however, delegations would be encouraged to concentrate in their statements on those disarmament items listed on pages 1 to 4 of document A/C.1/38/2.

During the third phase of the Committee's debate on the disarmament items lasting from 7 to 11 November, delegations would be encouraged to address the remaining items, which have been listed on pages 4 to 6 of document A/C.1/38/2. The completion of the third phase on 11 November coincides with the suggested deadline for the submission and introduction of draft resolutions. On this point, let me add that, subject to the approval of members of the Committee, I intend to be firm on the suggested deadline. Let me also add that delegations are encouraged to submit and introduce their draft resolutions as early as possible during the first four weeks of the work of the Committee.

Following the completion of the third phase, the Committee will proceed to act upon all draft resolutions that have been submitted on the disarmament items. I am proposing that a two-week period, beginning on 14 November and ending on 25 November, be set aside for the purpose of acting upon draft resolutions.

In the first part of this period, however, it is my intention to schedule a minimum number of formal meetings. It is my hope that this will make it possible for individual delegations to subject draft resolutions to unhurried and careful consideration. Also, I would hope that the time thus made available could be constructively used for informal consultations and draft resolutions between the delegations concerned. In particular, I would encourage the sponsors of drafts dealing with the same subject-matter to get together and explore the possibilities that might exist for merging texts.

(The Chairman)

Having proposed that the Committee act on draft resolutions on the disarmament items between 14 and 25 November, let me add that in my opinion this should not preclude the possibility of its taking decisions before this period. Thus it is my understanding that, if a delegation submitting and introducing a draft resolution at an early date wishes to have it acted upon before the period designated for decision-taking in the document before members, the Committee should make every effort to accommodate that wish.

After the Committee has acted on draft resolutions on the disarmament items, I propose that it move on to consider and act upon item 140, the Question of Antarctica. Consideration of this item would begin on 28 November and should be concluded on 30 November. Since there is a possibility that the draft resolution on the item will entail financial implications, the Committee's consideration of it will have to be concluded in time to comply with the deadline for submission to the Fifth Committee of all draft resolutions with such implications.

The final stage of the work of the Committee will commence on 1 December and end on 9 December. During this period the Committee will consider and act upon the international security items on the agenda, and it is suggested that 10 meetings be allocated for the three items in question. Also, it is my intention to make time available so that delegations will have an opportunity to carry out informal consultations before the Committee proceeds to act upon the draft resolutions on the international security item. As indicated on page 7 of document A/C.1/38/2, the suggested deadline for submission and introduction of draft resolutions is 2 December.

By way of concluding this review of the tentative programme of work and time-table, I should like to emphasize to all delegations that in carrying out the programme flexibility will have to be the key word. On the other hand, I believe that the Committee would stand a better chance of making progress on the vital issues before us if every delegation, in a spirit of co-operation and discipline, did its utmost to adhere to the guidelines contained in the document that I have submitted to them. I appeal for and count on their support in this regard.

(The Chairman)

If there is no objection, I shall take it that the Committee agrees with the suggested programme of work and time-table.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: It would be fair to say that the work programme the Committee has just approved presupposes full utilization of the time available to us.

At this juncture I should like to state that the efficient utilization of conference resources has long been of major concern to the General Assembly as well as to all of us. Therefore it requires that the Committee should avoid the loss of time arising from late starting or early ending of meetings. To achieve this goal, I should like, with the co-operation of the members of the Committee, to start the meetings punctually. In order to utilize fully the time available, I will open the meetings of the Committee at 10.30 a.m. and 3 p.m. sharp and will endeavour to close the meetings at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. It is my conviction that such a policy would also obviate the need to hold night or weekend meetings.

I shall convene the Committee only when there is a sufficient number of speakers, to ensure adequate utilization of available resources. No meeting should be scheduled for those days on which less than four delegations have inscribed their names on the list of speakers.

In order to avoid unnecessary rush and to give ample time, I open the list of speakers for the general debate on the disarmament items, the first phase, as of today. I urge delegations to inscribe their names on the list of speakers before the Committee begins its substantive work. The list of speakers for the general debate -- and I emphasize "for the general debate" -- will be closed on 19 October at 6 p.m.

(The Chairman)

To facilitate the task of the Committee's officers, as well as the Secretariat, members of the Committee should submit draft resolutions as far in advance as feasible so as to provide sufficient time for consultations. The Secretariat has asked me to request members of the Committee to note that draft resolutions, amendments and co-sponsorships should be given in writing to the Secretariat in order to avoid any possible misunderstanding. With regard to requests for accommodation in and use of conference rooms for group meetings, they may also be given in writing to the Secretariat.

In connection with documentation, I should like to indicate that over the years the General Assembly has adopted a number of resolutions on the control and limitation of documentation containing measures designed to make the most effective and economical use of this vital but very expensive element of the services. These rules have been summarized in document A/INF/136/Rev.1. I would therefore at the outset request all delegations strictly to limit any requests for additional documents. This is necessary, as representatives are aware, owing to the tremendous pressures on the Secretariat during the General Assembly as far as the preparation, typing, translation and distribution of documents are concerned. May I particularly appeal to members to take those provisions which I have mentioned into account.

It would also be appreciated if delegations would provide the conference officers with 20 copies of a statement when a prepared text is to be delivered.

As representatives know, the General Assembly, at its third plenary meeting on 23 September, decided that smoking should be discouraged in large conference rooms. I therefore appeal to all members of the Committee kindly to comply with the decision of the General Assembly.

I should like to draw the attention of the members of the Committee to rule 110 of the rules of procedure, which reads as follows:

"Congratulations to the officers of a Main Committee shall not be expressed except by the Chairman of the previous session - or, in his absence, by a member of his delegation - after all the officers of the Committee have been elected."

I hope this rule, as well as other rules pertaining to the Committee's work and proceedings, will be strictly observed by all delegations.

If no delegation wishes to make any observations or remarks at this stage, I propose to adjourn the meeting. As decided, the Committee will meet again on 17 October 1983, at 3 p.m.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.