

**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY****ASSEMBLEE
GENERALE**

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

**PROGRAMME FOR OPENING MEETINGS
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

(Memorandum issued by Executive Secretary on instructions of the Temporary President of the General Assembly.)*

1. It has been agreed that the first meeting of the First Part of the First Session of the General Assembly shall be convoked for 3.45 p.m. on Thursday, 10 January 1946. It is the present intention that the meeting shall be formally called to order at 4 p.m. and that the proceedings shall actually start at 4.3 p.m. precisely, so as to allow radio commentators three minutes in which to introduce the theme and "build up" their stories. At this moment, the Acting President will deliver a speech which is likely to last about seven minutes. After Dr. Zuleta's speech has been translated, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Mr. Attlee, will address the General Assembly, and it is probable that his speech will not take more than a quarter of an hour, thus enabling it to fit into the radio time-table. The translation of the Prime Minister's speech is, therefore, likely to end at about 4.45 p.m.
2. It had originally been the intention to call on some other delegate to respond, on behalf of the General Assembly, to the Prime Minister's Address, and for the meeting then to adjourn. It is now suggested, however, that it might be better to proceed, at about 4.50 p.m., with the next item on the Agenda namely the election of the President. As is known, the President and other elected officers of the General Assembly, as well as the members of the Councils, will be chosen by

* This document will appear in the Journal of the 10 January 1946.

secret ballot, and (in the case of these officers) by a simple majority of the members present and voting. Even if the election of the President is contested, it seems improbable that the necessary balloting will take much longer than half an hour, and the probability is, therefore, that it will be over by about 5.15 or 5.30 p.m. The new President will then deliver his presidential address, unless he should prefer to make a few impromptu remarks on this occasion, leaving his formal address for a subsequent meeting.

3. If this schedule were adhered to, the proceedings on Friday would consequently open with the consideration of Item 3 on the Agenda. It may be hoped that Items 3 to 7 inclusive will be dealt with quite quickly during the morning meeting. The plenary meeting could then turn its attention immediately to the constitution of the Main Committees and the General Committee. Since Delegations should previously have submitted lists of their representatives on each of the six Main Committees of the General Assembly, it should be possible to arrange for two of the Committees to meet before lunch, another two at 2.15 p.m., and the final two at (say) 3 p.m., for the sole purpose of electing their Chairmen. According to the Provisional Rules of Procedure, the Chairmen of the six Main Committees will be nominated and elected by the Committees on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, experience and personal competence. It is suggested that the Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteurs should be elected at the second meeting of each of the Committees.

4. At 4.30 p.m., a plenary meeting of the General Assembly would then be held for the purpose of electing the seven Vice-Presidents (Item 9 on the Agenda). According to the Provisional Rules of Procedure, the Vice-Presidents will be elected on the basis of ensuring the representative character of the General Committee. Presumably the method of doing so

would be for each Principal Delegate to write down seven names on a ballot paper. Any candidate who receives by this means more than fifty per cent of the votes will be elected. It is to be expected that four or five will receive the necessary majority at the first ballot. A further ballot would then be held, for the remaining two or three. All this might be over within an hour.

5. During the next two hours it might therefore be possible to get through Items 11 and 12, namely the election of the non-permanent members of the Security Council and the members of the Economic and Social Council. On the whole, however, it would probably be wiser to postpone these important elections until Saturday morning, even if it were technically possible to start off on the election of the Security Council on the previous evening. It may be noted that each member of the Councils must be elected by a two-thirds rather than by a simple majority of members present and voting. Once the six non-permanent members of the Security Council are elected, it will be necessary to hold a further ballot to decide which of the six are to serve for a two-year, and which for a one-year term. After the eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council have been elected, it will also be necessary to have a second ballot to choose six of the elected members for the three-year term, and a subsequent ballot to choose six for the two-year term.

6. Items 13 and 14 on the Agenda of the General Assembly cannot be taken until the Security Council has met and taken certain decisions. Therefore the way would seem clear for the Assembly to proceed on the Monday morning to Item 15, namely "Discussion on those sections of the Report which the General Assembly may decide to consider". It is at this point, presumably, that the general debate will begin, and it may

be expected that the representatives of most countries will wish to take part in it. If it starts on the Monday morning, it might accordingly be continued throughout the week. During this period, moreover, the Security Council, and perhaps also the Economic and Social Council, would hold their preliminary meetings; though it seems hardly practicable for the Main Committees of the General Assembly to get down to business until after the conclusion of the main debate in the Central Hall.

7. When this debate has ended, which it might be expected to do towards the end of the week, it would be possible to take action on Item 16 of the Agenda - "Reference to Councils or Committees of certain questions arising from the discussion." Although very probably already covered in the general debate, it would next be necessary to take Item 17. - "Matters of urgent importance, including the problem of refugees", followed by the additional items for inclusion in the Agenda now figuring in the "Supplementary List." But Item (c) of the Supplementary List, namely Cuban amendment on the General Committee, may already have been dealt with in connection with Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda.

8. There would follow a pause of from a fortnight to three weeks during which the Main and ad hoc Committees would get down to business, and when they had reported - or perhaps as and when they report - the General Assembly could take action under Item 18, namely "Consideration of reports of Committees, including reports on the following subjects, if referred to Committees."

9. The remaining three Items on the Agenda (19, 20 and 21) are not likely to take very long.

GLADWYN JEBB

Executive Secretary