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GENERAL COMMITTEE

ORGANIZATION OF THE THIRTEENTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Memorandum by the Secretary-General

1. The Secretary-General has the honour to place before the General Committee the following observations and suggestions regarding the arrangements for the meetings of the General Assembly and its Main Committees during the thirteenth session.

Schedule of Meetings

2. It is suggested that both plenary and committee meetings should begin promptly at 10.30 a.m. and 3 p.m.
3. It is proposed that a five-day working week be established, it being understood that extended morning meetings on Saturdays may be scheduled should this prove necessary.

Closing date for the session

4. Rule 2 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly provides that: "On the recommendation of the General Committee, the General Assembly shall, at the beginning of each session, fix a closing date for the session". The Secretary-General wishes to suggest that the General Committee propose to the General Assembly 12 December 1958 as the closing date of the thirteenth session.

Verbatim records of Main Committees

5. The Secretary-General has the honour to recall that in previous years, in accordance with a recommendation made by the Fifth Committee at the second

session,^{1/} verbatim records have been authorized "for one Main Committee at a time, a Committee which, in the opinion of the General Committee, has the most important items on its agenda". The Secretary-General suggests that, as in previous sessions, verbatim services be provided for the First Committee; in addition, as a consequence of internal procedures which have been developed, the Secretary-General will also be in a position to transcribe the debates of the Special Political Committee.

Seating arrangements

6. In accordance with the practice followed with regard to previous sessions of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General caused lots to be drawn for the purpose of choosing the Member to occupy the first desk on the Assembly floor from which the alphabetical seating order will begin. Belgium was the name drawn and, consequently, Belgium will sit at the first desk at the extreme right of the President. At the initial meetings of the Main Committees, the same seating order will be observed. There will be, however, a weekly rotation of five places in the Main Committees thereafter.

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Second Session, Annexes, p. 1499, document A/498.