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ASSEMBLY**
THIRTY-THIRD SESSION



FIRST COMMITTEE
2nd meeting
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at 3 p.m.
New York

*Official Records**

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 2ND MEETING

Chairman: Mr. PASTINEN (Finland)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.35 p.m.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN: I am sure that I am acting in the name of all representatives present in addressing a word of warm welcome to the 150th Member of our Organization, the Solomon Islands. With the entry of Solomon Islands our Organization has taken yet another step towards becoming truly universal.

The Committee has done my country and me a great honour by electing me Chairman of the First Committee at this thirty-third session of the General Assembly of the United Nations. I wish to thank all members most warmly for the confidence they have been good enough to place in me. It will be my endeavour to conduct the business of this Committee in a manner which not only will gain its members' confidence but might also deserve their approval. I am fully aware that this is not an easy task. I have had occasion throughout many years to watch many of my illustrious predecessors in action, and I must say in all candour that their standards will be hard to reach.

When I speak of my predecessors in the Chair I naturally think in the first place of Ambassador Frank Boaten of Ghana. Were I to characterize Ambassador Boaten's action as Chairman I would use the word majestic. I have rarely before seen a Chairman who by his very presence could instil universal respect and a spirit of co-operation among members of the Committee. It was a privilege for me to serve as one of his Vice-Chairmen. Because of that experience, however, I now have a little more confidence about acquitting myself satisfactorily in the task which lies ahead of us.

I am also most grateful to Ambassador Boaten for being gracious enough to nominate me for the chairmanship of the First Committee. I hope that the admirable qualities with which he credited me on that occasion will not unduly inflate the expectations of the Committee. I am comforted, however, by the fact that I may when need arises draw on the experience and skill of Ambassador Boaten and my other predecessors as Chairman. Last but not least I am also comforted by the fact that my flanks are so solidly protected - on my right by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Security Council Affairs,

(The Chairman)

Mr. Sytenko and Assistant Secretary-General Mr. Björnerstedt, and on my left by my very old and valued friend the Committee Secretary, Ambassador Banerjee.

The agenda for today's meeting concerns the election of the Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteur. Before proceeding to the item on our agenda I should like to draw the attention 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. According to that decision the nomination of candidates should be limited to one statement for each candidate, after which the Committee should proceed immediately to the election. The Committee will follow this procedure in regard to the agenda for today.

ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIRMEN

Mr. HALASZ (Hungary): Mr. Chairman, allow me first of all to congratulate you on behalf of my delegation on your unanimous election to preside over this important Committee of the General Assembly.

I have the honour and privilege to nominate Mr. Hugo Palma, Minister and Deputy Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations, as Vice-Chairman of this Committee. As far as his qualifications are concerned, he completed his law studies in Lima in 1962 and subsequently pursued further advanced studies in the United Kingdom and Belgium. He has served in his country's diplomatic service for 20 years; he served in France, held various posts in Lima and has attended a number of international conferences.

For the last three years he has followed the work of the First Committee, and he participated in the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament as well as in the work of other disarmament-related bodies.

On the basis of his experience, his knowledge of the United Nations, and especially of this Committee, as well as his high personal qualities, I have the honour to propose that Mr. Palma be elected a Vice-Chairman of the First Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Hungary for his nomination of Mr. Hugo Palma as a Vice-Chairman. I also thank him for his kind remarks about me. I am sure I am expressing the sentiments of this Committee when I thank him for his delegation's important contribution to the work of this Committee as Vice-Chairman of last year's session.

There being no other nomination, 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 Mr. Hugo Palma elected Vice-Chairman of the First Committee by acclamation.

Mr. Hugo Palma (Peru) was elected Vice-Chairman of the First Committee by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN: At this point I wish to convey my congratulations and good wishes to Mr. Hugo Palma and say how much I am looking forward to co-operating with him during this session of the Assembly.

Mr. BLOMBERG (Finland): I have the privilege of nominating Mr. Boubker Cherkaoui, Minister Plenipotentiary in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation of the Kingdom of Morocco, as Vice-Chairman of the First Committee. Mr. Cherkaoui has become well known to the members of the First Committee during several of the past sessions of the General Assembly. He is thoroughly acquainted with the questions before this Committee.

During the thirty-first and thirty-second sessions he was the representative of his country in the First Committee. With his background of legal and administrative studies in Paris and The Hague, he has served the Moroccan Foreign Service both in the Ministry and in embassies abroad. His erudition, experience and skills make Mr. Cherkaoui eminently qualified to assume the duties of Vice-Chairman of this Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Finland for his nomination of Mr. Boubker Cherkaoui. As there is no other nomination, I take it that the Committee in this case too wishes to dispense with the secret ballot and to declare Mr. Cherkaoui of Morocco elected Vice-Chairman of the First Committee by acclamation.

Mr. Boubker Cherkaoui (Morocco) was elected Vice-Chairman of the First Committee by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN: Though Mr. Cherkaoui is absent from this meeting, I am sure it will be agreed that the warmest congratulations of the Committee, as well as those of the Chairman, should go to him, and this will be recorded.

ELECTION OF THE RAPPORTEUR

Mr. CORREA (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): While the representative of my country in this Committee will have occasion to extend congratulations to you, Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the delegation of Mexico, may I express my personal congratulations to you on your election to preside over the First Committee. These congratulations go also to my friend the representative of Peru Mr. Hugo Palma, and to Mr. Boubker Cherkaoui of Morocco on their election as Vice-Chairmen.

As Rapporteur of the First Committee during the thirty-second session of the General Assembly, I am following tradition in nominating a candidate for that post during the current session. But this is more than just a duty for me: it is an honour and a pleasure, because the candidate I wish to nominate is someone with whom it has been my privilege to work for many years. I can vouch for his undoubted qualities as a diplomat, and as a negotiator and expert on disarmament questions.

I wish to nominate Mr. Miodrag Mihajlovic as Rapporteur of the First Committee. His personal qualities, qualifications and virtues are well known to the overwhelming majority of representatives here who have been following disarmament questions in the United Nations.

For many years Mr. Mihajlovic took part in the work of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (CCD) as an outstanding member of the Yugoslav delegation. He has also played an outstanding role in the work of the First Committee on disarmament questions. It would take far too much time for me to enumerate all the international conferences and meetings on disarmament which he has attended, but I might just mention as recent examples his notable role in the work of the Preparatory Committee at the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, as well as in the special session itself, particularly in the arduous negotiations on the Programme of Action in the Final Document of that session of the Assembly.

At the present time Mr. Mihajlovic is a special adviser on disarmament in the Federal Secretariat for Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia. He is a prolific writer on disarmament questions and his monographs have also been translated into various languages. His experience in this area makes him an ideal candidate for the post of Rapporteur, and his knowledge will make him an invaluable associate, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Mihajlovic's arrival in New York has been unavoidably delayed, but I am quite confident that this Committee will elect him unanimously in absentia Rapporteur of the First Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Mexico for his nomination of Mr. Mihajlovic of Yugoslavia for the post of Rapporteur. I am sure I expressed the sentiments of the Committee when I offer our thanks to the representative of Mexico for the important contribution he made to the Committee's work during the last session in the capacity of Rapporteur.

As there is only one candidate for the post of Rapporteur, I take it that the Committee wishes to follow the same procedure, to dispense with the secret ballot and to declare Mr. Mihajlovic elected by acclamation.

Mr. Miodrag Mihajlovic (Yugoslavia) was elected Rapporteur of the First Committee by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN: Unfortunately, Mr. Mihajlovic also is absent, but the best wishes and congratulations of the Committee and of the Chairman go to him.

Mr. PALMA (Peru) (interpretation from Spanish): Mr. Chairman, I should like briefly to express to the members of the Committee, through you, my sincerest appreciation and deep gratitude for the honour bestowed upon me. At this time I wish to pledge to you my complete co-operation. I am confident that, with the co-operation of all the members of the Committee, the important tasks that lie ahead will be carried out very successfully.

I am sure that the other Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteur, who, unfortunately, are not with us at this time, share the same feelings. I have no doubt that, with their collaboration and under your leadership, this Committee will achieve great success. If, within my limited abilities, I can make any contribution at all, you may rest assured I shall do so.

Mr. ZAIMI (Morocco) (interpretation from Arabic): Mr. Cherkaoui unfortunately cannot be with us today since his plane has been delayed. However, I know that he will appreciate the trust that the Committee has placed in him by electing him Vice-Chairman. We are certain that his having been chosen represents an honour conferred on the Kingdom of Morocco, which has worked and continues to work

(Mr. Zaimi, Morocco)

assiduously and effectively in the field of disarmament and participates in all the efforts on the international scene aimed at bringing about general and complete disarmament.

On behalf of Mr. Cherkaoui, I should like to thank the First Committee for its trust. I also wish to take this opportunity, Mr. Chairman, to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this Committee and to express our congratulations also to the other officers of the Committee who have been elected and those who preceded them.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Morocco for his kind words addressed to me.

The next meeting of the First Committee, which will deal with the organization of work, will be announced in the Journal.

The meeting rose at 3.55 p.m.