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General Assembly
FORTY-FIFTH SESSION
Official Records

FIRST COMMITTEE
1st meeting
held on
Tuesday, 18 September 1990
at 5 p.m.
New York

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 1st MEETING

Temporary Chairman: Mr. de MARCO (Malta)

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The meeting was called to order at 5 p.m.

ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Rule 103 of the rules of procedure provides that each Main Committee shall elect a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur. Those officers shall be elected on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, experience and personal competence.

The elections shall be held by secret ballot unless the Committee decides otherwise in an election where only one candidate is standing. The nomination of each candidate shall be limited to one speaker, after which the Committee shall immediately proceed to the election.

Furthermore, rule 110 of the rules of procedure provides that 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.

This meeting has been convened for the election of the Chairman of the First Committee. Are there any nominations?

Mr. AGUILAR (Venezuela) (interpretation from Spanish): At the onset, Sir, I should like on behalf of my country, Venezuela, to congratulate you and express our best wishes on your unanimous election to the presidency of the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly, which is a well-deserved tribute to the very constructive contribution your country, Malta, has always made to the work of the United Nations. It is also recognition of your own personal qualities. I offer you my delegation's complete co-operation.

(Mr. Aguilar, Venezuela)

For the Venezuelan delegation and for me, personally, it is an honour and a pleasure to nominate Ambassador Jai Pratap Rana of Nepal to preside over the work of the First Committee at the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly. It is an honour and a pleasure because my country and I myself have special bonds of friendship with Ambassador Rana, who is also accredited as his country's Ambassador to Venezuela.

Ambassador Rana really needs no introduction because he is a very well-known and distinguished figure here at the United Nations. It is fitting, none the less, to recall a few outstanding aspects of his brilliant record of work here. As the Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations since 1985, he has proved himself to be an extraordinarily gifted diplomat on countless occasions, in particular when he represented Nepal in the Security Council, from 1988 to 1989. During that period, in addition to being President of the Council in February 1989, Ambassador Rana was Chairman of the Committee on the application of the arms embargo against South Africa.

We should also recall Ambassador Rana's work in the Special Committee against Apartheid, of which he has been Vice-Chairman since 1985, and his work as Chairman of the working group on the nuclear capacity of South Africa during the 1990 session of the Disarmament Committee.

For the sake of brevity I shall only add that Ambassador Rana has held important government posts within his country and has participated in regular and special sessions of the General Assembly, summit meetings of the Non-Aligned Movement, and many other international gatherings.

(Mr. Aguilar, Venezuela)

Ambassador Rana is rightly considered one of the most distinguished of United Nations diplomats. His noteworthy accomplishments are quite understandable given his solid academic background and his experience both within his country and in its diplomatic service.

He holds a Master's Degree in political sciences and also studied international affairs at London University in the United Kingdom and at the Fletcher School of International Law in the United States.

Ambassador Rana's skills as a diplomat are accompanied by his impressive human qualities - his intelligence, his respect for the opinion of others, and his patience and urbanity.

My delegation trusts that for all the reasons I have given the candidacy of Ambassador Rana, which has been the subject of broad consultations, will be approved by acclamation.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: His Excellency Mr. Jai Pai Pratap Rana of Nepal has been nominated by the representative of Venezuela.

Since only one candidate has been nominated, I propose that under rule 103 of the rules of procedure the Committee decide not to hold a secret ballot.

It was so decided.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: I therefore declare His Excellency Mr. Jai Pratap Rana of Nepal elected Chairman of the First Committee by acclamation.

The meeting rose at 5.05 p.m.