

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION

Official Records



**FIRST COMMITTEE, 1845th
MEETING**

Tuesday, 7 December 1971,
at 3 p.m.

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Chairman: Mr. Milko TARABANOV (Bulgaria).

Organization of work

1. The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): As representatives are aware, we were to start the voting at this meeting on the draft resolutions on disarmament items. Of course, this was arranged without our being able to foresee that the General Assembly would meet to deal with the latest events on the subcontinent of India. Since in other cases in the past we have decided not to hold meetings of the First Committee when the Assembly was discussing important matters, I would consult the Committee as to whether we should, in fact, vote as we had planned or defer the vote until tomorrow. I am in the hands of the Committee.

2. Mr. RABETAFIKA (Madagascar) (*interpretation from French*): While my delegation was ready to vote on the disarmament question this afternoon it realizes that most delegations are now preoccupied with a topic of fundamental importance under discussion in the General Assembly. I must admit that I myself was to speak in the Assembly this afternoon, and I think I am not the only one in that position. I am sure several of our colleagues would like to participate actively in the debate on the painful problem of India and Pakistan, and as far as my delegation is concerned it would wish, if it is possible and if it would not disrupt the First Committee's schedule of work—and we realize we are very behind in our work—for a postponement of the voting on the draft resolutions on disarmament until tomorrow or thereafter.

3. Mr. IGNATIEFF (Canada): Mr. Chairman, you have asked us whether we should proceed to the vote as previously agreed or delay the vote until tomorrow. The representative of Madagascar, with whose plea I am thoroughly sympathetic, should be allowed to speak if he has a statement to make. My only point is that I believe we are faced with having rule 110 applicable. I do not know whether we have a quorum: that question does not even arise. But rule 110 says that the presence of the majority of the members of the Committee is required for a question to be put to the vote. I would, however, hope that we do not apply the principle that we cannot meet if there is to be a meeting of the General Assembly. It was my understanding when we met yesterday that there was a meeting of the

First Committee and a plenary meeting on the Middle East and we fixed the time for the vote. However, today is a very special day, as the representative of Madagascar has said, in that a draft resolution is to be voted upon in the Assembly. I would therefore suggest that we comply with his request and set the time for a meeting tomorrow, at 10 or 10:30 a.m., to proceed to the vote so that everyone knows when the voting is to take place.

4. The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): I take it that the two delegations that have spoken so far are in favour of deferring the vote until tomorrow. Two meetings are scheduled for tomorrow. Therefore if nothing intervenes we should be able to conclude voting then. I would like to know if there is any objection to this procedure.

5. Mr. SCALABRE (France) (*interpretation from French*): Mr. Chairman, I merely wish to draw your attention to the debate which will be held in the Special Political Committee. If the vote in the First Committee were postponed until tomorrow, which I personally do not oppose, I should like to have the assurance that the Special Political Committee will not then be meeting at the same time as the First Committee.

6. The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from French*): The entire question of peace-keeping operations in all its aspects will be discussed in the Special Political Committee tomorrow. But I do not know whether we can take account of all the committees. Only the General Assembly takes precedence over the First Committee, and we must bear that in mind. As members are aware, at the very outset we agreed not to meet when the Assembly was discussing very important questions, and the Committee entrusted the Chairman with contacting the President of the Assembly on this matter. That is why I wanted to put the matter to the Committee and have the Committee decide on this point. A suggestion has been made that we defer the vote until tomorrow. As far as the Special Political Committee is concerned, we cannot always come to an agreement with the chairmen of all Committees.

7. If there is no objection to the proposal made by the representative of Madagascar and supported by the representative of Canada, I shall take it that the Committee is agreed that we should adjourn until tomorrow at 10:30 a.m. and that we shall begin voting then and continue until we have voted on all the draft resolutions concerning disarmament.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 3:30 p.m.