

United Nations GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SIXTEENTH SESSION

Official Records



FIRST COMMITTEE, 1170th
MEETING

Thursday, 19 October 1961,
at 11 a.m.

NEW YORK

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Chairman: Mr. Mario AMADEO (Argentina).

Order of discussion of agenda items (A/C.1/844) (continued)

1. The CHAIRMAN recalled that at the previous meeting the representative of Ghana had proposed that the Committee should examine the question of disarmament and that of the prevention of the wider dissemination of nuclear weapons as the third and fourth items of its agenda respectively. As that proposal had been supported by a fairly large number of delegations, he suggested that, in the absence of objections, it should be regarded as adopted.

It was so decided.

2. The CHAIRMAN invited members of the Committee to state their views on the order in which the other questions referred to the Committee should be examined.

3. Sir Michael WRIGHT (United Kingdom) said that the question of the peaceful uses of outer space was arousing considerable interest throughout the world. He suggested that that item should be the fifth to be examined by the Committee, on the understanding that the question of Algeria would be examined immediately afterwards, in accordance with the Libyan proposal (1169th meeting).

4. Mr. ANUMAN RAJADHON (Thailand) supported the United Kingdom proposal. In addition, the Committee should examine the complaint by Cuba after the question of Algeria. The Korean question would come last, given that the report of the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea would probably not be ready before the end of December.

5. Mr. DIALLO Telli (Guinea) saw no objection to the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space coming fifth on the agenda. He asked the Libyan representative to agree that priority should be given to that question, on the understanding that the question of Algeria would be examined immediately afterwards.

6. Mr. PAZHWAQ (Afghanistan) saw no objection to the question concerning outer space being examined before the question of Algeria, but he could not endorse the reasons given by the United Kingdom representative in support of his proposal. The question of Algeria was also of considerable interest to world opinion.

7. Mr. FEKINI (Libya) agreed, in a spirit of compromise, that the report of the Committee on the Peace-

ful Uses of Outer Space should be examined before the question of Algeria.

8. Mr. MEZINCESCU (Romania) was under the impression that the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space did not yet exist. If that report was not submitted within an appropriate period, it was difficult to see what the Committee would have to consider.

9. Mr. LOUTFI (United Arab Republic) associated himself with the remarks of the Libyan representative.

10. Mr. ZORIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space could present no report because it had not yet met, the Soviet Union and the United States having been unable to agree on the organization of that Committee's work. It accordingly seemed useless for the First Committee to contemplate examining that question; without the participation of the Soviet Union and the United States, nothing productive could be done in that field.

11. He asked, moreover, why the question of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should be given priority at the expense of other items, such as the Korean question, which were of very great importance. Last year, the delegations of the United States and certain other countries had said that the examination of the Korean question was a matter of urgency. That urgency had now increased, and events in South Korea compelled very serious consideration of the question of the speedy withdrawal of the foreign troops stationed in that region, and of the liquidation of the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea, which was concerned merely to approve the military and fascist coups d'état organized in Korea for the benefit of imperialist circles.

12. Finally, the question of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space ought to be examined last of all; in that way it might perhaps be possible for the United States and the Soviet Union to agree on the organization of that Committee's work, so that it could begin to function. Since the delegations which had requested the inclusion of the question of Algeria in the agenda did not consider it necessary for the examination of that question to be expedited, the fifth item of the agenda should be the Korean question. If the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea had not yet submitted its report, consideration of the question of disarmament, which might last a fairly long time, would enable that Commission to complete its work and have its report circulated so that the Korean question might be examined as the fifth item of the Committee's agenda. As for the other items, they could be considered in the following order: question of Algeria, complaint by Cuba, and report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

13. Mr. BELAUNDE (Peru) thought that, in view of its importance, the question concerning the use of outer space should be examined fifth, in accordance with the proposal of the United Kingdom representative. If, despite the placing of that question fifth on the agenda, a report was not submitted in time, the Committee could obviously pass on to another problem.

14. The question of the use of outer space was linked to the problem of disarmament, since it was recognized that outer space should not be used for warlike purposes. The Committee should therefore bring the United States and the Soviet Union to understand that they should reach the relevant agreement without delay. If such agreement was not achieved, two reports could be submitted to the Committee, in which case it would be of considerable interest to the Committee to study those two reports and express its views with regard to them. It should therefore be decided that the question of the use of outer space should be examined immediately after the question of disarmament and that of the prevention of the wider dissemination of nuclear weapons. The Committee could thereafter examine the question of Algeria, then the complaint by Cuba and finally the Korean question, since it was known that the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea could not submit its report before the end of December.

15. In reply to a question from Mr. LOUTFI (United Arab Republic), the CHAIRMAN said it was his understanding that the Libyan representative had implicitly withdrawn the proposal which he had made at the 1169th meeting concerning the priority to be given to the question of Algeria, since he had endorsed the United Kingdom proposal.

16. Mr. FEKINI (Libya) explained that, while he had indeed endorsed the United Kingdom proposal, if it was now contemplated that the Korean question should take the place of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, he would insist that the question of Algeria should be the fifth to be examined.

17. Mr. TARABANOV (Bulgaria) said that the Committee ought to know whether the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space would be available to it in due time, before it assigned a specific place on its agenda to the consideration of that report.

18. The CHAIRMAN confirmed that the Committee had not yet met and, as a result, had not submitted any report.

19. Mr. MEZINCESCU (Romania) said that he could see no justification for a vote on the priority to be given to the examination of a non-existent report.

20. Mr. BURNS (Canada) pointed out that the use made of outer space concerned not only the Soviet Union and the United States but the entire world. The objections to considering that item were not valid; if there was no report, the First Committee should seek the reasons for that situation.

21. Mr. BELAUNDE (Peru) believed that, whether there was or was not a report, the Committee was required to consider an item which had been assigned to it.

22. Mr. ZORIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) expressed his surprise at the assurance with which

the representative of Peru had announced that the report of the Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea would not be available before the end of the General Assembly session. Those who were insisting that the question of outer space should be given urgent consideration were seeking to delay as long as possible the measures which should be taken by the General Assembly to put an end to the events which were taking place in Korea and to strengthen peace in that part of the world. If in the opinion of the Peruvian representative the First Committee could discuss the question of the uses of outer space despite the fact that there was no report, then the USSR delegation would insist that the Korean question should be examined by the Committee even if it had not received the relevant report.

23. He would agree, if the representative of Libya considered that necessary, to the Korean question being taken up after the question of Algeria, inasmuch as the settlement of the question of Algeria affected the fate of an entire people. To give priority, however, to the non-existent report of an inactive committee in preference to the Korean question and the question of Algeria would be an absurd procedure to which he could not subscribe.

24. Mr. BELAUNDE (Peru) pointed out that if the First Committee decided to consider the question of the peaceful uses of outer space after the items concerning disarmament, but then found itself unable to discuss that question, it could simply proceed to the next item, which would probably be the question of Algeria. In that way, the work of the Committee would not suffer any delay.

25. Mr. DE MELO FRANCO (Brazil) believed that, as had been originally proposed by the representative of Libya, the Committee should take up the question of Algeria as the fifth item of its agenda, because the discussion of that item, by contrast with the questions of outer space and of Korea, was not linked with the examination of specific reports.

26. Mr. KALONJI (Congo, Leopoldville) likewise believed that the question of Algeria should be given priority.

27. Sir Michael WRIGHT (United Kingdom) said that his country was sincerely interested in the use of outer space for peaceful purposes. The same was not true of the Soviet Union, if the attitude adopted by its representative was to be taken as a guide. The United Kingdom delegation maintained its proposal, for the reasons already given by the representatives of Canada and Peru.

28. Mr. FEKINI (Libya) said that when he had agreed that the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should be given priority, he had been under the impression that what was involved was a technical question. In view of the fact that that item seemed to give rise to serious difficulties and that the Committee in question had not yet even met, he renewed his initial proposal that the question of Algeria should be taken up as the fifth item of the Committee's agenda.

29. Sir Michael WRIGHT (United Kingdom) said that, in a spirit of compromise, he supported the Libyan representative's request.

30. Mr. RAFAEL (Israel) noted with regret that the Committee had again become enmeshed in a procedural discussion which was causing it to lose time. He proposed that the Committee should postpone its

decision on the order in which the later items before it should be taken up; the important thing was to examine without delay the items whose order had already been agreed upon.

31. Mr. MEZINCESCU (Romania) asked that the Committee should vote solely on the proposals relating to the fifth item of its agenda.

32. The CHAIRMAN stated that two proposals had been submitted to the Committee. The first was the Libyan proposal that the question of Algeria should become the fifth item. The second was the United Kingdom proposal that the fifth item should be the question entitled "Report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space".

33. Mr. TARABANOV (Bulgaria) pointed out that, according to the statements made by the representatives of the Soviet Union, Brazil and the United Kingdom, there was no report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Hence there was nothing to be discussed. He would like to know what would happen if the Committee included that item in its agenda. With regard to the Korean question, he pointed out that at the fifteenth session the First Committee had postponed consideration of that question, even though it had had a report.

34. The CHAIRMAN said that he could not reply to the Bulgarian representative's observation, because it dealt with the substance of the matter. The decision would have to be made by the Committee.

35. Sir Michael WRIGHT (United Kingdom) said that he would like the Committee to come quickly to a decision on its future work. Both the question of the peaceful uses of outer space and the question of Algeria were very important, and the Committee should decide without further delay on the order in which they should be examined. His delegation proposed that the question of Algeria should become the fifth item, and that the question of the peaceful uses of outer space should become the sixth item.

36. Mr. WINIEWICZ (Poland) proposed that the question of Algeria should become the fifth item, and the Korean question the sixth item. He made that proposal because he understood that the report of the Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea was finished and was about to be signed. There would thus seem to be nothing further to do but to print and circulate it.

37. The CHAIRMAN, said that, according to information provided by the Secretariat, an initial re-

port on the Korean question was being printed and would be circulated within about ten days. A supplementary report would soon be drawn up, but there was as yet no way of determining when it could be circulated.

38. He proposed that, in the absence of objections, the Committee should decide to consider agenda item 80 (Question of Algeria) as the fifth item on its agenda.

It was so decided.

39. Mr. URQUIA (El Salvador) said that the Committee could not consider an item without having seen the relevant report. As the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had not yet been drawn up and as the second report of the Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea had not been completed, his delegation moved the adjournment of the debate on the order of discussion of the three remaining items.

40. Mr. WINIEWICZ (Poland) spoke against the adjournment of the debate. Since, according to the information supplied by the Secretariat, the report of the Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea would be ready within not more than a fortnight, that report would be in the Committee's possession long before the examination of the five items already included in the agenda had been completed. Hence the Committee might very well decide, without further delay, that the Korean question should become the sixth item; in that way it would expedite its work. The smaller delegations, having few members and few advisers, would thus have time to prepare for the examination of that item.

41. Mr. QUAISON-SACKEY (Ghana) and Mr. CABBALLERO TAMAYO (Bolivia) supported the motion for adjournment of the debate.

42. Mr. ZORIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) thought that the Committee might very well settle the question of the priority to be given to the Korean question. He supported the Polish representative's proposal that the Korean question should become the sixth item of the Committee's agenda and that the Committee should postpone a decision on the order of the other items.

The motion for adjournment of the debate was adopted by 48 votes to 14, with 22 abstentions.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.