

# GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TWELFTH SESSION

Official Records

Tuesday, 8 October 1957,  
at 3.35 p.m.

NEW YORK

## CONTENTS

	Page
Election of the Vice-Chairman. . . . .	3
Election of the Rapporteur . . . . .	3
Order of discussion of agenda items . . . . .	3

**Chairman:** Mr. Djalal ABDOH (Iran).

## Election of the Vice-Chairman

1. The CHAIRMAN thanked the members of the Committee for the honour they had conferred upon his country and upon him personally by electing him Chairman of the First Committee. He paid a tribute to his predecessor Mr. Belaúnde, the representative of Peru, and expressed his gratitude for the generous terms used by Mr. Belaúnde in nominating him. He also thanked the representative of the Philippines for seconding the nomination. He was certain that the members of the Committee would give him their valuable co-operation and assistance in examining the large number of important questions on the agenda. He paid a tribute to the Secretary-General and was certain that he could, as in the past, count on the full co-operation of the Secretariat. The Committee would continue to have the benefit of the able assistance of Mr. Protitch as Secretary of the Committee and of Mr. Narayanan as Deputy Secretary.

2. He invited the Committee to elect a Vice-Chairman.

3. Mr. GUNewardene (Ceylon) nominated Mr. de Barros (Brazil).

4. Mr. DE LA COLINA (Mexico) supported the nomination.

Mr. de Barros (Brazil) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

5. Mr. de BARROS (Brazil) thanked the Committee members and particularly the representatives of Ceylon and Mexico for the honour they had conferred upon him and his country.

## Election of the Rapporteur

6. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to elect a Rapporteur.

7. Mr. THORS (Iceland) nominated Mr. Matsch (Austria), who had discharged the duties of Rapporteur at the eleventh session.

8. Mr. BELAUNDE (Peru) supported the nomination.

Mr. Matsch (Austria) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

9. Mr. MATSCH (Austria) thanked the members of the Committee and in particular the representatives of Iceland and Peru for the honour they had conferred upon him and his country.

## Order of discussion of agenda items (A/C.1/792 and Add.1)

10. Mr. LODGE (United States of America) recalled that the essential aim of the United Nations was, in the words of the Charter, "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war" and considered that priority should be given to the question of disarmament [item 24\*]; the general debate which had just closed in the plenary meetings of the General Assembly had made its overriding importance abundantly clear.

11. The delegation of the United States therefore proposed that the Committee first consider item 2 of the letter from the President of the General Assembly (A/C.1/792 and Add.1).

12. Mr. ARANHA (Brazil) shared the opinion expressed by the representative of the United States; the regulation, limitation and balanced reduction of all armed forces and all armaments was undoubtedly the most important question before the Committee.

13. He did not think it advisable to fix then and there the order in which the other items on the agenda should be examined; the Committee might later find that it should examine a particular agenda item sooner than now appeared necessary.

14. The Brazilian delegation therefore proposed that the Committee should start by examining item 2 of its agenda, the question of disarmament, and item 3 on the effects of atomic radiation [item 57\*] as the two items were closely related, and leave the decision regarding the order in which the other agenda items should be taken until later.

15. Mr. KUZNETSOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that disarmament was the most important problem and should take first place in the work of the present session. The Soviet delegation supported the proposal made by the United States, and seconded by other representatives, to the effect that the Committee should first examine the question of disarmament. The question of the effects of atomic radiation, which was closely linked to the problem of the discontinuance of tests of atomic and hydrogen weapons, should be examined immediately afterwards.

16. The Soviet delegation would not at this stage press for an immediate decision regarding the order in which agenda items should be studied, but it would in due course propose the examination of the item entitled "Declaration concerning the peaceful co-existence of States" [item 66\*], as the next item.

17. Mr. Krishna MENON (India) recalled that in a

\* Indicates the item number on the agenda of the General Assembly.

letter dated 23 September 1957 the permanent representative of India to the United Nations had requested that priority be given to the question of disarmament. While it agreed with the statements which had been made concerning the importance of other items, his delegation would request the Committee to begin its work with the question of disarmament, a problem whose importance had been clearly brought out by the United States representative. The fact that the representative of the Soviet Union had supported the United States view augured well for the future.

18. Mr. SUBANDRIO (Indonesia) supported the suggestion that priority should be given to the question of disarmament.

19. With regard to the other items on the agenda, the question of West Irian [item 62\*] had been placed before the General Assembly for the fourth time; in view of the anxiety of public opinion in Indonesia to see the problem solved, its examination should not be deferred until the end of the session.

20. His delegation would accordingly propose that the question of West Irian should be discussed after the questions of disarmament and the effects of atomic radiation.

21. Mr. BELAUNDE (Peru) wholeheartedly supported the proposal made by the representative of Brazil. There seemed to be general agreement that the question of disarmament was the most important item on the Committee's agenda. To all the reasons stated for taking that view he could add another of great weight: namely, that public opinion in all countries of the world was expecting the General Assembly to go thoroughly into the question at its current session. It expected a solution to the problem, or at least a recommendation to the great Powers concerning the immediate reduction of armaments.

22. The Brazilian representative's proposal had the great virtue of being designed to avoid wasting time on the long procedural debate which might well occur if the order in which the other questions on the Committee's agenda were to be taken was discussed immediately.

23. Mr. STRATOS (Greece) also supported the Brazilian representative's proposal. With regard to the other items on the agenda, he thought that, during the debate on the question of disarmament, the Chairman and the Secretariat might approach the delegations with a view to preparing a schedule to be submitted to the Committee before it concluded its discussion of items 2 and 3.

24. His delegation could not accept the suggestion made by the representative of Indonesia. It fully ap-

preciated that the question of West Irian was of urgent importance to the Indonesian delegation, but the question of Cyprus [item 58\*] was equally important to the Greek delegation, yet it was not insisting on an immediate decision as to when the question of Cyprus should be discussed.

25. Mr. MALIK (Lebanon) noted that, despite certain differences in their proposals, the representatives of Brazil, India and Indonesia all seemed to think that the question listed as item 2 of document A/C.1/792 was the most urgent and should be taken first. The Committee might accordingly decide at once to take item 2 first, including sub-item (d) appearing in document A/C.1/792/Add.1 (Discontinuance under international control of tests of atomic and hydrogen weapons). The Committee might also, if it saw fit, take a decision on the priority to be given to item 3.

26. He hoped that the representative of Indonesia would not insist on having his proposal put to the vote, and he supported the suggestion made by the representative of Greece.

27. Mr. NISOT (Belgium) noted that delegations were clearly in agreement that the question of disarmament should be discussed first. The Committee would save much time if it considered as settled the question of the first item to be discussed, and deferred until later the discussion of the order in which the other items on the agenda should be examined.

28. Mr. URQUIA (El Salvador) supported the proposal made by the representatives of the United States, Brazil and the Soviet Union, and seconded by other delegations.

29. At the request of the CHAIRMAN, Mr. SUBANDRIO (Indonesia) explained that, although he had proposed that the question of West Irian should be examined as the third item on the agenda, he had had no intention of pressing for a decision on the matter at once. His delegation agreed with all the other members of the Committee that the question of disarmament and that of the effects of atomic radiation should be taken up at once.

30. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there were no objections, he would consider as adopted the Brazilian representative's proposal that the Committee should first of all examine the question of disarmament, and then that of the effects of atomic radiation (items 2 and 3) and should defer until later the discussion regarding the order in which the other agenda items should be taken.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 4.25 p.m.