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CONTENTS

Agenda item 49:

Human rights in armed conflicts:

(b) Protection of journalists engaged in dangerous missions  
in areas of armed conflict: report of the Secretary-  
General

Report of the Third Committee . . . . .

Agenda item 51:

Importance of the universal realization of the right of  
peoples to self-determination and of the speedy granting  
of independence to colonial countries and peoples for the  
effective guarantee and observance of human rights

Report of the Third Committee . . . . .

Agenda item 56:

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for  
Refugees:

(a) Report of the High Commissioner;

(b) Question of the continuation of the Office of the High  
Commissioner

Report of the Third Committee . . . . .

Agenda item 61:

Assistance in cases of natural disaster and other disaster  
situations: report of the Secretary-General

Report of the Third Committee . . . . .

**President: Mr. Stanisław TREPCZYŃSKI (Poland).**

*In the absence of the President, Mr. El Hassen (Mauri-  
tania), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

**AGENDA ITEM 49**

**Human rights in armed conflicts:**

**(b) Protection of journalists engaged in dangerous missions  
in areas of armed conflict: report of the Secretary-  
General**

**REPORT OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE (A/8917)**

1. Mrs. IDER (Mongolia), Rapporteur of the Third Com-  
mittee: I have the honour to present the report of the Third  
Committee on agenda item 49 (b), [A/8917].

2. The Third Committee had a general debate on the draft  
articles of the international convention on the protection of  
journalists engaged in dangerous professional missions in  
areas of armed conflict and the amendments proposed to  
them. During the discussion there was created an informal  
working group composed of the authors of the draft articles  
and the amendments to them and open to all other  
interested delegations. This group held several meetings  
which resulted in the submission by the sponsors of a  
revised version of the draft articles incorporating or  
reflecting a number of the amendments submitted. The

amendments which were not accepted by sponsors re-  
mained for further discussion.

3. A great number of representatives felt that substantial  
progress had been made at the present session, in a broad  
spirit of conciliation, towards the formulation of a satis-  
factory convention. The sponsors wished the Committee to  
adopt all or some of the draft articles at the present session.  
The majority of the representatives, however, were in  
favour of postponing the consideration of the draft articles  
to the next session so that Governments would have  
sufficient time to make a detailed study of the revised text  
as well as the various amendments to it.

4. The Committee adopted the motion moved by the  
representative of Ghana for the adjournment of the debate  
on the item until the twenty-eighth session of the General  
Assembly. Thus, the Third Committee recommends in  
paragraph 16 of its report that the item should be included  
in the provisional agenda of the twenty-eighth session of  
the General Assembly.

5. Mr. PAPADEMAS (Cyprus): The Third Committee  
considered the item 49 (b) at many meetings, and all the  
representatives in the Third Committee felt that this very  
important humanitarian draft convention on the protection  
of journalists could have been adopted had the Third  
Committee had more time. There was commendable work  
done by all representatives and a spirit of conciliation  
prevailed with regard to the differences between amend-  
ments. In this respect we feel that the delegation of France  
should in particular be commended.

6. The Third Committee finally decided to refer the item  
to the twenty-eighth session because of lack of time, and it  
is in this sense that, expressing the common will of the  
Committee, my delegation, which has tried to make its  
humble contribution to this item, is submitting, on behalf  
of Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Senegal and  
Uruguay, an amendment to the recommendation in para-  
graph 16 of the Committee's report. The amendment  
[A/L.689] suggests adding at the end of the recommen-  
dation contained in the report the phrase, "and should be  
considered as a matter of high priority".

7. We feel that all representatives will agree that, since the  
consideration of the revised draft convention reached such  
an advanced stage, it would be only appropriate for the  
item to be given high priority during the twenty-eighth  
session, with a view to adopting such a humanitarian  
convention. We hope that this minor amendment will be  
adopted unanimously by the Assembly.

8. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): We  
shall now proceed to the vote. The recommendation of the

Third Committee appears in paragraph 16 of document A/8917. In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, I shall first submit to the vote the amendment appearing in document A/L.689, and then the recommendation itself, amended or not.

9. If I hear no objection I shall take it that the General Assembly adopts the amendment in document A/L.689.

*The amendment was adopted.*

10. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): I shall now put to the vote the recommendation, as amended. A recorded vote has been requested.

*A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:* Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Khmer Republic, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Republic, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

*Against:* None.

*Abstaining:* Dahomey, Israel.<sup>1</sup>

*The recommendation, as amended, was adopted by 105 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.<sup>2</sup>*

#### AGENDA ITEM 51

**Importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and of the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights**

#### REPORT OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE (A/8936)

<sup>1</sup> The delegation of Israel subsequently informed the Secretariat that it wished to have its vote recorded as having been in favour of the draft resolution.

<sup>2</sup> The delegations of Congo, Mauritius and Zaire subsequently informed the Secretariat that they wished to have their votes recorded as having been in favour of the draft resolution.

#### AGENDA ITEM 56

**Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees:**

- (a) Report of the High Commissioner;
- (b) Question of the continuation of the Office of the High Commissioner

#### REPORT OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE (A/8918)

#### AGENDA ITEM 61

**Assistance in cases of natural disaster and other disaster situations: report of the Secretary-General**

#### REPORT OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE (A/8919)

11. Mrs. IDER (Mongolia), Rapporteur of the Third Committee: I have the honour to introduce the report of the Third Committee on agenda item 51 [A/8936]. The Third Committee considered this item and adopted by an overwhelming majority the draft resolution appearing in paragraph 16 of that report. On behalf of the Third Committee I recommend to the General Assembly this report and the draft resolution therein.

12. The next report that I have the honour of introducing today is that on agenda item 56 [A/8918]. On this item the Third Committee adopted three draft resolutions unanimously. These draft resolutions may be found in paragraph 7 of that report. Draft resolution I sets up certain guidelines for the work directed at a solution of the refugee problem. During the general debate on this item, one representative indicated that, since his Government took exception to certain paragraphs in the report of the High Commissioner for Refugees and the programme of the High Commissioner's Office, he would not participate in the vote on part A of draft resolution I. Draft resolution II relates to the continuation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for a further period of five years, beginning on 1 January 1974. Draft resolution III relates to the question of assistance to Sudanese refugees returning from abroad.

13. The third report which I introduce today deals with item 61 [A/8919]. In connexion with the report on this item, representatives who participated in the general debate expressed their satisfaction with the action taken by the Third Committee at the last session of the General Assembly which had led to the establishment of the office of the Disaster Relief Co-ordinator [resolution 2959 (XXVII)] and with the results achieved by that Office during its eight months of operation. Particular reference was made to the effective role played by the Co-ordinator in the assistance rendered to some areas which had been struck by natural disasters during that period. In connexion with the draft resolution recommended by the Committee to the Assembly and contained in paragraph 7 of the report, some representatives maintained that they were not in favour of increasing the staff of the Co-ordinator's office and observed that for that reason they would abstain in the vote on the draft resolution. On behalf of the Third Committee I recommend to the General Assembly the report and the draft resolution contained therein.

*Pursuant to rule 68 of the rules of procedure, it was decided not to discuss the reports of the Third Committee.*

14. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): I now invite members of the Assembly to turn their attention to the report of the Third Committee on agenda item 51 [A/8936]. I call on the representative of Costa Rica, who wishes to speak in explanation of his vote.

15. Mr. MOLINA (Costa Rica) (*interpretation from Spanish*): My delegation will vote in favour of the draft resolution in document A/8936, but we wish to state explicitly for the record that we do not accept the reference in the second and third paragraphs of the preamble and in operative paragraph 1 to resolutions 2649 (XXV) and 2787 (XXVI), inasmuch as we voted against those resolutions. If a separate vote were to be taken on those paragraphs in this plenary meeting, we would vote against them just as we did in the Committee.

16. With respect to the other points of the draft resolution, we express our explicit acceptance of them because they reflect points of view on problems with which my delegation is in complete agreement.

17. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): We shall now vote on the draft resolution recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 16 of its report; document A/8936. A recorded vote has been requested.

*A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:* Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Barbados, Bhutan, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, Democratic Yemen, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Khmer Republic, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Republic, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

*Against:* France, Israel, Italy, Nicaragua, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

*Abstaining:* Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, El Salvador, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Laos, Luxembourg, Malawi, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Venezuela.

*The draft resolution was adopted by 89 votes to 8, with 18 abstentions (resolution 2955 (XXVII)).<sup>3</sup>*

<sup>3</sup> The delegations of Congo, Mauritius and Zaire subsequently informed the Secretariat that they wished to have their votes recorded as having been in favour of the draft resolution. The delegation of the Dominican Republic subsequently informed the Secretariat that it wished to have its vote recorded as having been against the draft resolution.

18. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): The General Assembly will now consider the report of the Third Committee on agenda item 56 [A/8918]. We shall take a decision on the three draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 7.

19. Draft resolution I is entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees". Since the Third Committee adopted this draft resolution by acclamation, may I take it that the General Assembly adopts it unanimously?

*Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 2956 (XXVII)).*

20. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution II is entitled "Continuation of the Office of the High Commissioner". May I take it that the Assembly also adopts it unanimously?

*Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 2957 (XXVII)).*

21. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution III is entitled "Assistance to Sudanese refugees returning from abroad". May I take it that the Assembly adopts it unanimously?

*Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 2958 (XXVII)).*

22. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): We shall now consider the report of the Third Committee on agenda item 61 [A/8919]. The Assembly will now proceed to the vote on the draft resolution recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 7 of that document.

23. Before I put that draft resolution to the vote I should like to draw the Assembly's attention to the report of the Fifth Committee [A/8948]. In paragraph 5, the Fifth Committee informs the General Assembly that, should it adopt the Third Committee's draft resolution, a new subparagraph would be added to draft resolution II proposed by the Secretary-General in his budget estimates for 1973 dealing with unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for 1973. May I take it that the General Assembly takes note of paragraph 5 of the report of the Fifth Committee?

*It was so decided.*

24. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): I now put to the vote the draft resolution recommended by the Third Committee. A recorded vote has been requested.

*A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:* Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Burma, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Dahomey, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast,

Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Khmer Republic, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Republic, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

*Against:* None.

*Abstaining:* Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

*The draft resolution was adopted by 112 votes to none, with 7 abstentions (resolution 2959 (XXVII)).<sup>4</sup>*

*The meeting rose at 3.35 p.m.*

<sup>4</sup> The delegation of Congo subsequently informed the Secretariat that it wished to have its vote recorded as having been in favour of the draft resolution.