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**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

EIGHTH SPECIAL SESSION

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**1st
PLENARY MEETING**

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President: Mr. Lazar MOJSOV (Yugoslavia).

AGENDA ITEM 1

**Opening of the session by the Chairman
of the delegation of Yugoslavia**

1. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: I declare open the eighth special session of the General Assembly.

AGENDA ITEM 2

Minute of silent prayer or meditation

2. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: I invite representatives to stand and observe one minute of silent prayer or meditation.

The representatives stood in silence.

AGENDA ITEM 3

**Credentials of representatives to the eighth special session
of the General Assembly:**

- (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee

3. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: Rule 28 of the rules of procedure provides that a Credentials Committee, consisting of nine members, shall be appointed at the beginning of each session by the General Assembly on the proposal of the President. Accordingly, and with a view to

expediting the work of the special session, it might be appropriate as suggested in the note by the Secretary-General [A/S-8/2]—if the Credentials Committee were to consist of the same members as those appointed for the thirty-second regular session, namely: Canada, China, Ecuador, Fiji, Madagascar, Nepal, Nigeria, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and United States of America. If there is no objection, I shall consider the Credentials Committee constituted accordingly.

It was so decided (decision S-8/11).

4. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: In this connexion, may I invite the attention of the members of the General Assembly to a note verbale [A/S-8/2, annex] from the Secretary-General, dated 27 March 1978, in which it was stated that the credentials of those representatives who are not already authorized to represent their Governments at all sessions of the General Assembly should be issued in accordance with rule 27 of the rules of procedure.

**Scale of assessments for the apportionment
of the expenses of the United Nations**

5. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: Before turning to the next item on our agenda for this morning, I should like, in keeping with the established practice, to invite the attention of the General Assembly to the letter dated 20 April 1978 addressed to me by the Secretary-General [A/S-8/6] informing the Assembly that six Member States are in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the United Nations within the terms of Article 19 of the Charter.¹

AGENDA ITEM 4

Election of the President of the General Assembly

6. Mr. ROLON ANAYA (Bolivia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Even though we do not have before us any specific proposals concerning the General Committee, as we had when this agenda item was discussed at the previous special session of the General Assembly, at which time there was a recommendation of the Economic and Social Council on the question, the delegation of Bolivia, in its capacity as Chairman of the Latin American Group for the month of April, considers it a high honour to propose to the Assembly that, in keeping with the tradition at other special sessions, Mr. Lazar Mojsov continue as President.

7. The outstanding ability, wisdom and experience with which Mr. Mojsov led the work of the thirty-second session of the General Assembly are guarantees for the success of

¹ See the 2nd plenary meeting, para. 342.

our work and lead me to feel assured that the prolongation of his mandate will be approved by the Assembly by acclamation.

8. The same considerations might apply to the re-election of the Chairmen of the Main Committees, if they should be called upon to perform duties, as well as the Member States that held the vice-presidencies during the preceding session of the General Assembly and whose valuable services will undoubtedly be required if we are to comply fully with the requirements of our task.

9. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: The General Assembly has heard the proposal of the representative of Bolivia. I take it that the proposal is adopted by the Assembly.

It was so decided (decision S-8/12).

10. The PRESIDENT: In accordance with the decision just taken, the President of the thirty-second session will serve as President of the General Assembly at its eighth special session.

11. I should like, first of all, to express my deep appreciation for the confidence you have shown in me by electing me President of the eighth special session of the General Assembly and to say how pleased I am at the opportunity to see you all assembled here again. This reinforces my confidence that we shall deal with the urgent and important problem on our agenda with determination so that our decisions will contribute to the consolidation of peace and security and to the safeguarding of the inalienable right of States Members of the United Nations to territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence, and that the task at hand will be crowned with success.

12. The very fact that the eighth special session of the General Assembly has been convened immediately prior to the opening of the ninth special session, devoted to the question of Namibia, clearly illustrates the importance of—and the two-day duration of the session illustrates the need for—rational and effective deliberations.

13. This special session has been convened in conformity with paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 32/214, entitled “Unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 1978-1979”, in which the Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to convene a special session of the General Assembly before either the thirty-third or the thirty-fourth session of the Assembly in those circumstances when, as a result of a decision of the Security Council, commitments relating to the maintenance of peace and security should arise in an estimated total exceeding \$10 million, so that the Organization might, by obtaining additional financial resources, successfully and effectively perform the task assigned and entrusted to it under Security Council resolution 425 (1978). For the purpose of the study of this problem, the General Assembly has received pertinent reports from the Secretary-General and from the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

14. In performing these functions the General Assembly will, in this particular case, be called upon to exercise its

competence in fulfilling one of its most important objectives for which the peoples of the world 33 years ago established the United Nations—that is, the maintenance of international peace and security. This is an objective to which the founders of the United Nations attached the greatest priority, as is evident from the fact that this principle is inscribed in Article 1, paragraph 1, of the Charter of the United Nations.

15. We once again find ourselves in a situation in which the General Assembly, the most representative organ of the United Nations, is convened so that it may, by exercising its authority as a most democratic forum of the international community, formulate and adopt measures which should enable a Member State to enjoy, without hindrance, its inalienable right to territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence.

16. Because of the intrusion of Israeli forces into the territory of Lebanon, the Security Council, which met at the request of Lebanon, adopted resolution 425 (1978) establishing the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon for the purpose of confirming an urgent and total withdrawal of Israeli forces, restoring international peace and security and assisting the Government of Lebanon in ensuring the return of its effective authority in the area.

17. By its resolution 426 (1978) the Security Council approved the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the decision on the establishment of a United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, comprising 4,000 men of all ranks, and dispatching them to the threatened territory for an initial period of six months, with a proviso that the interim forces should continue in operation thereafter, if required, provided the Security Council so decided.

18. Recognizing that the safeguarding of peace and security is one of the primary goals of the United Nations, for which all Member States are responsible, we should at this session, proceeding from the principle of shared responsibility and aiming at the most economic performance, adopt such a decision as will guarantee the Organization indispensable financial resources for the successful, speedy and effective execution of the task entrusted to it in Security Council resolution 425 (1978)—that is, ensuring the immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanese territory, restoring peace and security and assisting the Government of Lebanon in ensuring the return of its effective authority in the area.

AGENDA ITEM 5

Organization of the session

19. The PRESIDENT: Taking into consideration the practice of the Assembly at previous special sessions, I should like to propose that—as noted by the Secretary-General in document A/S-8/2—the Chairmen of the Main Committees who were elected for the thirty-second session should continue in the same posts for the eighth special session, on the understanding that each Chairman of a Main Committee who is absent from this special session should be replaced by another member of his delegation. In addition, the Vice-Presidents who were elected for the

thirty-second session should continue in the same posts for the eighth special session. That would ensure the representative character of the General Committee. If there is no objection, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides to approve those proposals.

It was so decided.

20. The PRESIDENT: Regarding the Chairmen of the Main Committees, it is my understanding that only the Chairman of the First Committee of the thirty-second session, Mr. Frank Edmund Boateng of Ghana; the Chairman of the Second Committee, Mr. Peter Jankowitsch of Austria; and the Chairman of the Fifth Committee, Mr. Morteza Talieh of Iran, are present at this special session. The following replacements have been communicated to the Secretariat: for the Chairman of the Special Political Committee, Mr. Siegfried Zachmann of the German Democratic Republic; for the Chairman of the Third Committee, Miss Marcella Martinez of Jamaica; for the Chairman of the Fourth Committee, Mr. Taher Al-Hussamy of the Syrian Arab Republic; and for the Chairman of the Sixth Committee, Mr. Alvaro Bonilla of Colombia. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Assembly approves that proposal.

It was so decided (decision S-8/13).

21. The PRESIDENT: The Member States that held the vice-presidencies at the thirty-second session will serve in the same capacity at the eighth special session. They are the following: China, Cyprus, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Ecuador, France, Gabon, Guatemala, Indonesia, Lesotho, Madagascar, the Netherlands, Peru, Sierra Leone, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Assembly approves that proposal.

It was so decided (decision S-8/14).

AGENDA ITEM 6

Adoption of the agenda

22. The PRESIDENT: In order to expedite its work, the Assembly may wish to adopt the provisional agenda for the eighth special session [A/S-8/1/Rev.1] in plenary meeting, without referring it to the General Committee. If there are no objections, I shall take it that the General Assembly agrees to that procedure.

It was so decided.

23. The PRESIDENT: I now ask the Assembly whether there is any objection to the adoption of the provisional agenda as it appears in document A/S-8/1/Rev.1. If there is no objection, I shall declare the agenda adopted.

24. With regard to the allocation of items, I should like to point out that, in connexion with the allocation of agenda item 7, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon", it has been assumed—as indicated in paragraph 3 of document A/S-8/2—that in view of its subject-matter the item should be allocated to the Fifth Committee for consideration and report.

25. I take it that the General Assembly adopts the agenda for the eighth special session and approves the allocation of the item to the Fifth Committee, on the understanding that delegations will have an opportunity to express their views on the basis of rule 66 of the rules of procedure when the Committee's report is considered by the Assembly.

It was so decided (decision S-8/21).

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.