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EIGHTEENTH SESSION

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**SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE, 378th
MEETING**



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Chairman: Mr. Mihail HASEGANU (Romania).

Statement by the Chairman

1. The CHAIRMAN thanked the Committee for the confidence it had shown him in electing him to the Chair. His election was at the same time an honour bestowed upon his own country which, like other peace-loving countries, was striving constantly to promote the spirit of international co-operation and understanding inherent in the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations.

2. As recent events had shown, a sense of responsibility, patience and effort on the part of the international community provided the surest way of establishing the relaxed atmosphere in which mankind's most difficult problems could be solved. The present international situation was favourable for the creation of such a spirit of co-operation, and that itself was an encouraging starting-point for the constructive examination of the many problems on the agenda. His election to the Chair therefore involved a great responsibility, and he would do his utmost to guide the work of the Committee with efficiency and impartiality. Knowing that he could count upon the support and co-operation of the Committee, he was sure that it would be able to complete in good time the somewhat heavy programme allocated to it.

Election of the Vice-Chairman

3. Mr. FUKUSHIMA (Japan) nominated Mr. José D. Ingles (Philippines).

4. Mr. ANUMAN-RAJADHON (Thailand) supported the nomination.

Mr. Ingles (Philippines) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

5. Mr. INGLES (Philippines) thanked the Committee for the honour which it had conferred upon him and his country.

Election of the Rapporteur

6. Mr. LANNUNG (Denmark) nominated Mrs. Huguette Achard (Dahomey).

7. Mr. EL SANOUSI (Sudan) supported the nomination.

Mrs. Achard (Dahomey) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

8. Mrs. ACHARD (Dahomey) thanked the Committee for the honour it had bestowed upon her.

Organization of the Committee's work (A/SPC/78)

9. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to the letter from the President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the Special Political Committee listing the agenda items assigned to the Committee for consideration (A/SPC/78). Under rule 100 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, it rested with the Committee to decide in what order the items would be taken up.

10. Mr. DIALLO Telli (Guinea) thought that the urgency of the first item on the list—the policies of apartheid of the Government of the Republic of South Africa; reports of the Special Committee on the Policies of Apartheid of the Government of the Republic of South Africa and replies by Member States under General Assembly resolution 1761 (XVII)—could not be over-emphasized. The report (A/5497) of the Special Committee set up to study the question, the Chair of which had been held by his delegation, called upon both the General Assembly and the Security Council to give the matter priority so that effective and appropriate steps could be taken while there was still time. Recent reports from South Africa showed that the situation there was continuing to deteriorate, and the United Nations must exert every effort to halt the criminal course of the Government of the Republic of South Africa and its collaborators. He supported the request addressed to the Chairman of the Special Political Committee by the African National Congress that its Deputy President be permitted to make a statement in connexion with the apartheid question.

11. The African delegations also attached particular importance to the fourth item of the proposed agenda—question of the composition of the General Committee of the General Assembly and to the fifth item—question of equitable representation on the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council. It was of the utmost importance that a solution should be found to those problems in the course of the eighteenth session. Elections for the two Councils were normally held in November of each year and it was most desirable that they should not take place until after the Special Political Committee and the General Assembly had discussed the related item. In order not to delay the elections, he proposed that the Committee should discuss the fifth item immediately after the second—effects of atomic radiation: (a) report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation; (b) report of the World Meteorological Organization. The fourth item could remain where it was on the agenda and the third item—report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East—which he understood would not be ready for two or three weeks, could be transferred to the fifth place on the agenda.

12. Mr. PLIMPTON (United States of America) noted that the fourth and fifth items and the sixth item—Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapter XIII (section VI))—were all closely connected and should be considered together. Moreover, since their consideration would benefit from prior consultation among delegations, it would be advisable to keep to the order proposed in document A/SPC/78, and to retain the important question of the Palestine refugees in third place.

13. Mr. DIALLO Telli (Guinea) had no objection to grouping the fourth, fifth and sixth items. However, unless an undertaking could be given that the elections to the Councils would not be held before those items were discussed, he felt that they should be taken up as early as possible.

14. Mr. DICKO (Mali) supported the proposal that the question of apartheid should be given absolute priority. He also felt that the fourth, fifth and sixth items were of great urgency and should be taken up immediately after the first.

15. Mr. AMONOO (Ghana) thought the United States suggestion that the fourth, fifth and sixth items should be grouped together was a good one. He understood that the countries most directly interested in the important question of the Palestine refugees would not object to its being taken up last, and he therefore supported the proposal of the representative of Guinea.

16. Mr. PLIMPTON (United States of America) suggested that as there seemed to be some difference of opinion, the Committee should start its work with the first and second items and decide the order of the rest of its programme after they had been disposed of, by which time the situation in regard to the third item and the fourth, fifth, and sixth items would also have become clearer.

17. Mr. NIELSEN (Norway) agreed with the United States representative that the fourth, fifth and sixth items were matters for consultation between delegations rather than for debate in the first instance. In connexion with the first item, he recalled that in its resolution of 7 August 1963^{1/} the Security Council had requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the situation in South Africa. It might therefore be appropriate for the Committee to limit itself for the time being to a general debate on the matter and postpone any decision or recommendation to the plenary Assembly until the Secretary-General's report was available.

18. Mr. VOLIO JIMENEZ (Costa Rica) believed there was general agreement that the first item should have priority. The fourth, fifth and sixth items were also of great significance and in view of their importance the Committee should take care not to impede their consideration by undue haste. He supported the proposal to defer further discussion of the order of the agenda until the first and second items had been dealt with.

19. Mr. DIALLO Telli (Guinea) thought the Norwegian representative's suggestion valuable, and reaffirmed the gratitude already expressed by the African delegations to the Nordic countries for their stand on the question of apartheid. He hoped, however, that the Secretary-General would make every effort to cir-

culate the report requested by the Security Council as soon as possible. He was ready, in a spirit of compromise, to accept the United States representative's proposal, but he felt that the final order of the items could be decided after the first item had been disposed of.

20. Mr. BUNCHE (Under-Secretary for Special Political Affairs) said that the Secretary-General was aware of the importance of issuing the report called for by the Security Council as soon as possible and was making every effort in that direction. He was at present awaiting a reply to a communication sent to the Government of the Republic of South Africa and expected to be able to submit the report without much more delay.

21. Mr. EL-ZAYYAT (United Arab Republic) supported the Guinean representative's proposal that the Committee should dispose of the first item and then decide the order of priority of the remaining items. He agreed as to the desirability of discussing the fourth, fifth and sixth items together, but there was still another related item which he would have liked to see discussed in the Committee rather than in the plenary Assembly to which it had been assigned, namely, the report of the Committee on arrangements for a conference for the purpose of reviewing the Charter (A/5487).

22. Mr. PLIMPTON (United States of America) agreed with the Guinean representative's proposal.

23. The CHAIRMAN said that as there was no objection, the Committee would take up the first item on its agenda and would afterwards resume discussion on the order of priority of the other items on its agenda.

It was so decided.

24. The CHAIRMAN said that in connexion with the Guinean representative's proposal relating to the first item, he had received a telegram from London from Mr. Oliver Tambo, Deputy President of the African National Congress of South Africa, which read: "Request leave to appear before your Committee during its discussions apartheid policy to make a statement on present political situation in South Africa". If there was no objection, the request would be granted.

There being no objection, it was so decided.

25. The CHAIRMAN said that having taken a decision on its agenda, the Committee was in a position to start its work as soon as circumstances permitted. He reminded delegations of the importance of starting meetings promptly and of preparing statements and draft resolutions well in advance so that meetings could take place as planned. The *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Improvement of the Methods of Work of the General Assembly had recommended in its report (A/5423) that the names of representatives unable to speak in the order in which they were entered on the list of speakers should normally be placed at the end of the list, unless they had arranged to change places with other representatives, and the Committee might usefully adopt that procedure. The *Ad Hoc* Committee had also recommended that each of the Main Committees should establish the approximate schedule of time to be allotted to consideration of the items referred to it, and if there was no objection he would ask the Secretariat to prepare such a schedule.

There being no objection, it was so decided.

^{1/} Official Records of the Security Council, Eighteenth Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1963, document S/5386.

26. Mr. DIALLO Telli (Guinea) said that it was largely at African instigation that the Committee on arrangements for a conference for the purpose of reviewing the Charter had recently set up a sub-committee and that the question of Charter review was very closely linked to that of African representation. He agreed with the representative of the United Arab Republic that the matter ought to be considered at the same time as the fifth item of the Special Political Committee's agenda. Unfortunately, the report of the Committee on arrangements for a conference for the purpose of reviewing the Charter had been assigned

to another body. He suggested that consultations should be held with the Secretariat and perhaps with the General Committee regarding the possibility of placing the item on the agenda of the Special Political Committee.

27. The CHAIRMAN thought that the question would have to be settled by the General Committee and the General Assembly and suggested that the representative of Guinea should bring the question to their attention.

The meeting rose at 4.35 p.m.