



VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 1ST MEETING

Temporary Chairman: Mr. MOJSOV (President of the
General Assembly)

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.1/32/PV.1

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

The meeting was called to order at 6.30 p.m.

ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Rule 103 of the rules of procedure provides that each Main Committee shall elect a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur. These officers shall be elected on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, experience and personal competence. The elections shall be held by secret ballot unless the Committee decides otherwise in an election where only one candidate is standing. The nomination of each candidate shall be limited to one speaker, after which the Committee shall immediately proceed to the election.

Furthermore, rule 110 of the rules of procedure provides that congratulations to the officers of a Main Committee shall not be expressed except by the Chairman of the previous session, or, in his absence, by a member of his delegation, after all the officers of the Committee have been elected.

This meeting has been convened for the election of the Chairman of the First Committee. Are there any nominations?

Mr. JAROSZEK (Poland): As Chairman of the First Committee of the thirty-first session of the General Assembly, I take great pleasure in nominating His Excellency Ambassador Frank E. Boaten of Ghana for election to the post of Chairman of the First Committee for the current session of the General Assembly.

This eminent son of Africa has had an outstanding record in the service of his country, notably in the foreign service.

Having graduated from Prince of Wales College and University College, the former Gold Coast, after three years as a government agent in the Northern Territories of the Gold Coast, in 1955 he was selected as part of the nucleus of Ghana's diplomatic service. His unique abilities, extraordinary diligence and sense of duty have sent him to a succession of diplomatic posts to represent the young Ghana in foreign lands. At independence he was posted to New Delhi as First Secretary of the Ghana High Commission in India, later serving as Embassy Counsellor in Moscow, as Ghana's High Commissioner in Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago and as Ambassador to Cuba and Surinam.

(Mr. Jaroszek, Poland)

In September 1972 he was appointed Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations.

Equally impressive has been his service at home. At various times he has served as Division Director in Ghana's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ultimately becoming the Ministry's Principal Secretary and Head of the Ghanaian Foreign Service. In his capacity as General Secretary of the Accra Assembly he attended numerous non-governmental international conferences all over the world. His unique career also includes a post-graduate course in international relations at the University of London as well as a visiting fellowship at Oxford.

The First Committee of this Assembly, responsible, as it is, for items which have direct relevance to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, indeed needs as Chairman a man of distinguished and dynamic action. The comprehensive subject matter of disarmament, the strengthening of international security and the non-use of force in international relations, as well as the peaceful uses of outer space, which will occupy a prominent place in the work of this Committee, call for a nomination commensurate with the tasks ahead of us.

Having known Ambassador Boaten also as a close associate in his capacity as Vice-Chairman of the First Committee last year, I have no doubt that both his qualifications and his experience augur well for a successful and productive tenure of office.

It is therefore a privilege for me to recommend him for unanimous election to the chairmanship of the First Committee.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: The delegation of Poland has nominated His Excellency Mr. Frank Edmund Boaten of Ghana for the chairmanship of the First Committee. Since only one candidate has been nominated, I propose that under rule 103 the Committee decide not to have a secret ballot.

It was so decided.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Therefore I declare Mr. Frank Edmund Boaten of Ghana elected Chairman of the First Committee by acclamation.

The meeting rose at 6.40 p.m.