

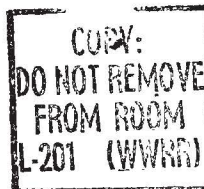
United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**
THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION
*Official Records**



FIRST COMMITTEE
2nd meeting
held on
Wednesday, 29 September 1982
at 3 p.m.
New York

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 2ND MEETING

Chairman: Mr. GBEHO (Ghana)



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ENGLISH

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN: The General Assembly has done my country and me a great honour by electing me Chairman of this august body at this thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly. I thank all delegations most warmly for the confidence they have placed in me. It will be my endeavour to conduct the business of this Committee in a manner which not only will gain the confidence of its members but might also deserve their approval.

Let me say first of all how much I appreciate the very kind and generous words offered by our eminent Chairman of last year, Ambassador Ignac Golob of Yugoslavia, when he presented my nomination at the first meeting of the Committee. It is no exaggeration to say that much of the success of this Committee's work last year was due to his outstanding contribution, engaging personality and negotiating ability. I am certain that I am expressing the sentiments of all members of the Committee when I extend to Ambassador Golob our congratulations and gratitude for the exemplary manner in which he presided over our deliberations last year.

I am fully aware that I am following a line of very distinguished Chairmen who have presided ably and skilfully over the work of this Committee in the last few years. For my part, I shall spare neither effort nor time to bring our work to maximum fruition. In so doing, I count on the constructive co-operation and assistance of the Committee's entire membership. It is gratifying to know that I can count also on the most valuable experience, competence and profound knowledge of my two colleagues to my right and left, the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Security Council Affairs, Mr. Viacheslav Ustinov, and the Secretary of the First Committee, Mr. Naeem Rathore, who have always so ably assisted the officers of the Committee, and to my far right, Assistant Secretary-General, Jan Martenson, whom we all know as the Assistant Secretary-General for the Centre for Disarmament.

(The Chairman)

I am sure that the First Committee will benefit fully from their experience, and we look forward to their co-operation in dealing with the many important issues before the Committee.

Before taking up the items on our agenda, I should like once again to assure members that I will devote my efforts to the service of the Committee, and I will conduct the deliberations in a spirit of dedication and complete impartiality. I realize that we have a long session and a heavy programme of work ahead of us. Yet I firmly believe that in a spirit of conciliation, accommodation and useful dialogue, we can achieve positive results.

I should like to add that the international community and world public opinion expect from our Organization, and especially from this Committee, progress on the items before us dealing with disarmament and international security.

The agenda for today's meeting concerns the election of a Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur, and the organization of work.

If I hear no objection, I shall consider that the agenda is adopted by the Committee.

The agenda was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: Before taking up the items on our agenda, may I draw the attention of the members of the Committee to the decision of the General Assembly, taken at its 1935th meeting on 22 September 1971, concerning the procedure regarding the election of officers of the Main Committees. According to that decision, the nominations of candidates should be limited to one statement for each candidate, after which the Committee should immediately proceed to the election. The Committee will follow this procedure in regard to the items on our agenda for today.

ELECTION OF A VICE-CHAIRMAN

Mr. MORENO-SALCEDO (Philippines): It is the privilege of the Philippines to nominate as Vice-Chairman of the First Committee a diplomat who, in his long and distinguished service to his country in the United Nations, has earned the esteem of his colleagues for his dedication to the cause of world peace.

He is a career foreign service officer, having joined his country's embassies in Peking, Cairo, Manila and Jakarta.

Mr. Tom Eric Vraalsen was Special Adviser in the Norwegian Foreign Ministry in charge of questions regarding Norway's membership in the Security Council from 1979 to 1980. He is also the co-author of a book on the United Nations which is widely used in Norwegian colleges and universities.

As a member of his country's delegation to the United Nations since 1971, he has served both as Chairman of the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly at its thirty-first session and as Vice-Chairman of the Committee of 24 on decolonization. He therefore brings to the First Committee the rich historical insight and perspective of his United Nations experience. I am certain that Mr. Vraalsen will dedicate to this Committee the same keen interest and effort as that devoted by distinguished Scandinavian diplomats to the cause of global disarmament and common security.

We note that Norway was a member of the Independent Commission on Disarmament and Security Issues, chaired by Mr. Olaf Palme of Sweden, which has published the report entitled "Common Security - A Blueprint for Survival".

I have the honour to nominate Mr. Tom Eric Vraalsen, permanent representative of the Kingdom of Norway to the United Nations, as Vice-Chairman of the First Committee, and to propose that he be elected to the post by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN: There being no other nominations, I take it that, in accordance with rule 103 of the rules of procedure and with established practice, the Committee wishes to dispense with the secret ballot and to declare Mr. Vraalsen elected Vice-Chairman of the First Committee by acclamation.

Mr. Tom Eric Vraalsen (Norway) was elected Vice-Chairman of the First Committee by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN: May I express to the Vice-Chairman my warmest congratulations on the distinction that has been conferred upon him and assure him of my confidence that we shall co-operate in a harmonious manner so that we can jointly discharge the responsibilities incumbent upon us.

ELECTION OF THE RAPPORTEUR

Mr. MAKONNEN (Ethiopia): Permit me to extend to you, Sir, the sincere congratulations of the Ethiopian delegation on your election as Chairman of the First Committee. Your election is not only a tribute to our sister African country, Ghana, with which Ethiopia enjoys the bonds of friendship and co-operation, but also an assurance that, given your vast experience and able guidance, the First Committee will successfully discharge the very delicate tasks entrusted to it.

Allow me also Mr. Chairman to express my warmest appreciation to your predecessor, Mr. Golob of Yugoslavia, under whose chairmanship of the First Committee at its last session I had the honour to serve as Rapporteur, for his outstanding and extremely able leadership in one of the Committee's most difficult sessions. I wish also to express my congratulations to the Vice-Chairman, Mr. Tom Eric Vraalsen of Norway, on his election and to wish him success in the discharge of his responsibilities.

(Mr. Makonnen, Ethiopia)

Now I have the honour to nominate as Rapporteur of this Committee at its current session Mr. Luvsangiin Erdenechuluun of the delegation of Mongolia. Mr. Erdenechuluun has been associated with the work of the United Nations for many years and is well known to most members of this Committee.

Born in Ulan Batar, Mongolia, Mr. Erdenechuluun is a graduate of the Moscow Institute of International Relations. He joined the foreign service of his country in 1972 and served in the Department of International Organizations until his assignment in 1980 as First Secretary to the Permanent Mission of the Mongolian People's Republic to the United Nations.

Mr. Erdenechuluun has been a member of the delegation of the Mongolian People's Republic at well over 10 sessions of the General Assembly, including the first and second special sessions devoted to disarmament. He has also participated in a number of sessions of the Committee on Disarmament in Geneva and in other international forums.

In view of his wide experience, close association with the work of the United Nations and personal qualities, I most warmly recommend the election of Mr. Luvsangiin Erdenechuluun of the delegation of Mongolia to the post of Rapporteur of this Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Ethiopia for his nomination of Mr. Erdenechuluun of Mongolia for election to the post of Rapporteur of the First Committee. I am certain that I am expressing the sentiments of the Committee when I offer our thanks to the representative of Ethiopia for his delegation's important contribution to the Committee's work during the last session.

As Mr. Erdenechuluun is the only candidate for the post of Rapporteur, I take it that the Committee wishes to follow the same procedure to dispense with a secret ballot and to declare Mr. Erdenechuluun elected Rapporteur of the First Committee by acclamation.

Mr. Luvsangiin Erdenechuluun (Mongolia) was elected Rapporteur of the First Committee by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN: I wish to express my most sincere and cordial congratulations to Mr. Erdenechuluun upon his election as Rapporteur of the First Committee and I now invite him to take his place on the podium.

I now call on the representative of Yugoslavia, Ambassador Ignac Golob, the Chairman of the First Committee during the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

Mr. GOLOB (Yugoslavia): I had the honour, Mr. Chairman, of nominating you, and today I have special pleasure in extending my warmest congratulations to you on your election as Chairman of the First Committee for the current session of the General Assembly. I also express my warmest good wishes for what I am sure will be very successful and outstanding work on your part.

Your election, Mr. Chairman, to this office of responsibility is not only in recognition of your personal abilities and high professional skill, which all of us know so well. It is also a recognition of your country's commitment to the policy and noble aims of non-alignment, to general and complete disarmament and to the strengthening of the United Nations and international security.

I should like to express my sincere and warm congratulations to the Ambassador of Norway, Mr. Tom Eric Vraalsen, on his election to the responsible post of Vice-Chairman of the Committee. I believe that he will stand you in good stead, Mr. Chairman, since he is widely recognized for his diplomatic know-how and his admirable personal qualities. He has been my friend and esteemed colleague in different posts over the years.

I also wish to congratulate our new Rapporteur, Mr. Luvsangiin Erdenechuluun of Mongolia, on his election to that post, which demands his well-known and particular skills.

Custom stipulates, and honesty demands of me, that I should once again express my gratitude to all members of the Committee for the constructive co-operation that made my work as Chairman an agreeable and rewarding experience. I also thank the officers of the Committee during the past year:

Mr. Alejandro D. Yango, of Philippines, who served as Vice-Chairman;

Mr. Mario Carias, of Honduras, who served as second Vice-Chairman; and

Mr. Alemayehu Makonnen, of Ethiopia, who did an admirable job as Rapporteur.

(Mr. Golob, Yugoslavia)

My particular tribute goes to the Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Viacheslav Ustinov; our Assistant Secretary-General, Mr. Jan Martenson; the Secretary of the Committee, Mr. Naeem Rathore; and other people who served with Mr. Rathore in a spirit that I can describe only as one of dedication and hard work. I thank them very much.

I should now like to say a few words in a personal capacity about the First Committee's work. We have just begun another series of meetings of the Committee devoted to disarmament and international security. It is another opportunity to take a step further towards that goal, which, regrettably, has remained ever more distant during the past few years. I believe that the unprecedented nuclear and conventional arms race calls for more responsibility and more political will in order to liberate the peoples that we represent from the burden, the yoke and the terror of the arms race.

It may be advisable during our debates this year to think back to the public meetings and demonstrations at which the public at large so strongly asked for disarmament, and for the defence of the legitimate right of peoples to life and peace, to security and progress. That may help us, as the Secretary-General, Mr. Perez de Cuellar, put it, to recall us all to the standards and duties which we set ourselves in the Charter of the United Nations.

The problems that we were burdened with last year have multiplied, since the arms race keeps spreading uncontrollably in all its aspects - quantitative, qualitative and geographic - encompassing ever wider regions and involving an ever greater number of countries.

During our meetings last year there was hope in this room that the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament would be a continuation of the successful session that we held a few years earlier and that we would move further in the same direction, but that did not happen. Frankly, the second special session produced no progress; in some ways it represented a step backwards.

(Mr. Golob, Yugoslavia)

Bearing that in mind, I would suggest that in this committee we should beware of the excessive routine that is little by little creeping into our work and pushing us into more formal and less substantive deliberations. We can only try to do better this year.

Disarmament is substantially linked to international security and the security of every individual country. Therefore I would suggest that this issue and the ways of strengthening international security should be given more time and more attention at this year's session of this Committee. Therefore I should like to suggest that a greater number of meetings be devoted to consideration of the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security".

Recent experience in regard to disarmament and international security provides ample proof of the increased necessity to strengthen the role of the United Nations as the universal forum within which the solution of all major problems can be sought and can be built in co-operation with all countries. Therefore we may consider how to redouble our efforts, through the organs of the General Assembly and other bodies in the United Nations system, with a view to a comprehensive review of ways to improve the work of these bodies and organs, so as to provide an adequate place and role for the United Nations in international relations. It is of particular importance to give an additional impetus through the work of the First Committee, to the effective action of the United Nations.

I would point out that different - or even identical - aspects of the strengthening of the United Nations are at present being considered by different Main Committees of the General Assembly. I wonder whether the time has not come to give thought to ways of joining up such work - as it were to join the tracks that run in the same direction. The strengthening of the roles of the United Nations is a political matter and should be given consideration in the political Committees.

(Mr. Golob, Yugoslavia)

I should like to emphasize that last year's resolution on the strengthening of international peace and security makes it incumbent upon us to contribute, through an increased number of meetings and more substantial deliberations and greater concern, to developing co-operation and enhancing security in the Mediterranean, the Indian Ocean and other areas.

Mr. Chairman, I believe I speak for all my colleagues when I say that we are fully confident of your ability to guide our work in response to the challenge and ensure that the work of the Committee for this session will be accomplished with distinction and success. I wish to pledge to you the full support and co-operation of my delegation in the important task that lies before you. I hope you will permit me to conclude on a personal note by expressing my deep appreciation for the very kind and warm sentiments that you and other colleagues have expressed to me in regard to my work at last year's session.

The CHAIRMAN: On behalf of the Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteur of the Committee as well as on my own behalf, I thank Mr. Golob of Yugoslavia for his kind words. I shall indeed seek his co-operation in the discharge of my responsibilities.

Mr. VRAALSEN (Norway), Vice-Chairman: Mr. Chairman, allow me first of all to congratulate you upon your election to your high office. My delegation has complete confidence in you, and we feel certain that you will guide the Committee through the next three months in the very wise manner that has always marked your work in the United Nations.

I should like also on this occasion to thank the representative of the Philippines for nominating me as Vice-Chairman of the Committee and also for the very kind things he said about me personally in that connection.

I should like also to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your kind words to me and also to thank Mr. Golob of Yugoslavia for his very kind words.

(Mr. Vraalsen, Norway)

Finally, I should like to thank the Committee for the confidence it has shown in me through this election. I can assure you, Mr. Chairman, that I am very much looking forward to working with you and all the members of the Committee. I can assure all the members of the Committee that I will spare no effort in my work to ensure the success of the Committee.

Mr. ERDENECHULUUN (Mongolia), Rapporteur of the Committee: I should like to express to all the members my deep appreciation and gratitude for the confidence they have shown in me by electing me Rapporteur of this Committee. I regard my election as an honour to my country, Mongolia. I wish to thank most sincerely my dear colleague, Mr. Makonnen, the representative of Ethiopia, for his very kind words when presenting my nomination.

I pledge to you, Mr. Chairman, and to the Committee my full co-operation and assure you that I shall do my best to justify the trust and confidence the Committee has placed in me.

In warmly congratulating you, Mr. Chairman, I wish to say that it will be a great honour and privilege for me to work with you. I wish to congratulate sincerely our Vice-Chairman, Ambassador Vraalsen of Norway. I should like also to express my deep gratitude to Ambassador Golob of Yugoslavia for his very kind words.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the Rapporteur of the Committee for his generous remarks and his expression of willingness to co-operate with me and the Vice-Chairman of the Committee. I am certain that I am expressing not only my own view but also that of the Vice-Chairman when I say that we are all looking forward to close co-operation with him during the session.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Having elected its officers, the Committee will now proceed to decide on the programme of work for this session.

At the outset, may I draw representatives' attention to document A/C.1/37/1, which contains the letter dated 24 September 1982 from the President of the General Assembly addressed to me informing me of the items that the General Assembly at its 4th meeting decided to allocate to the First Committee.

In order to be able to submit a work programme to the First Committee for approval by all its members, I have taken particularly into account the time limitations that the Committee faces.

According to established practice, the First Committee will start its substantive work only after the end of the general debate in the plenary Assembly, scheduled for 15 October 1982. On the other hand, the Committee should not go beyond the cut-off date suggested by the President of the General Assembly, that is, 10 December 1982. Those limitations allow the Committee the period extending from 18 October to 10 December 1982, during which it should be able to cover its rather heavy work programme. The Committee will have at its disposal a maximum of 80 meetings in which to consider the items allocated to it.

May I suggest to the Committee that we first take up the items relating to disarmament, namely, items 39 to 57, 133 and 136 of this session's agenda. In this respect, I should like to say that it is my intention to follow the practice that has been accepted by the Committee in past years and which has proved very useful, namely, that delegations may address themselves to any or all of the disarmament items in the order they deem appropriate during the general debate. Any delegation may start with any of the items on disarmament regardless of the order in which they appear. Not only may delegations speak on the items in the order in which they wish but they may also make more than one

(The Chairman)

statement. This is the practice that the Committee has followed in the past and which, as I indicated earlier, would be the most productive.

For the consideration of those items I would propose the allocation of 60 meetings during the period from 18 October to 26 November 1982, which should be rather reasonable for their consideration.

I should also like to indicate that of those 60 meetings 28 meetings from 18 October to 4 November would be allotted for a general debate and the remaining 32 meetings from 5 to 26 November for consideration and action upon all draft resolutions submitted under those items. The deadline for the submission of draft resolutions will be announced at an appropriate time, after the Committee starts its substantive work. Representatives are especially urged to submit resolutions with financial resolutions at the earliest possible time.

The Committee will then take up agenda items 58, 59 and 137, and I propose the allocation of 20 meetings during the period from 29 November to 10 December 1982. Thus the Committee would dispose of all the items allocated to it within the available time.

If there is no objection, I shall take it that the Committee agrees with the suggested programme of work and time-table.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: The programme of work just adopted by the First Committee assumes that our deliberations will demand the full utilization of the time available. In that connection, I should like to call upon members of the Committee to submit draft resolutions pertaining to the different items as far in advance as feasible, so as to provide sufficient time for necessary consultations. In order to avoid any possible misunderstanding, the Secretariat has asked me to request members of the Committee to give it in writing all draft resolutions, amendments, sponsorships and requests for accommodations for group meetings.

(The Chairman)

With reference to documentation, I should like to point out that the General Assembly has over the years adopted a number of resolutions on the control and limitation of documentation containing measures designed to make the most effective and economical use of that vital but very expensive element of the services. Those rules have been summarized in document A/INF/136/Rev.1.

I wish to draw the Committee's attention to General Assembly decision 34/401, particularly its provisions dealing with explanations of vote, rights of reply, budgetary and financial questions, and the work of the Main Committees, which I intend to apply, with the co-operation of all members.

In order to utilize fully the time available to the Committee, and to avoid loss of time arising from late starting or early ending of meetings, I should like, with the co-operation of the members, to start the meetings of the First Committee punctually. That will enable us to avoid unnecessary delays in meeting the target date for the conclusion of the Committee's work for the current session. Therefore, I shall open the meetings of the Committee at 10.30 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Meetings of the Committee will be convened only when there is a sufficient number of speakers. I feel that, as a general rule, we should have no fewer than four speakers inscribed for a particular meeting, so that we can use the time and resources available to us in the most efficient manner.

Resources allocated to a meeting cancelled at an appropriate time may be released for other meetings held within or outside the framework of the First Committee.

In order to give ample time and to avoid a rush, I open the list of speakers as of today so that members of the Committee may inscribe their names for statements on any item. I should like to inform representatives that the list of speakers for the general debate on disarmament items will be closed on 29 October at 6 p.m. Therefore I urge delegations to inscribe their names on the list of speakers before the Committee begins its substantive work on 18 October 1982.

(The Chairman)

It would also be appreciated if delegations could provide the conference officers with twelve copies of a speech when a prepared text is to be delivered. I also invite members of the Committee to communicate to the Secretariat the list of their representatives attending the present session of the First Committee. That information would be helpful, not only to the Secretariat, but also to members of the Committee.

I should like to draw your attention once again to rule 110 of the rules of procedure which reads as follows:

"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."

I hope that this rule, as well as other rules pertaining to the Committee's work and proceedings, will be strictly observed by all representatives.

If no delegation wishes to make any observations or remarks at this stage, I propose to adjourn the meeting and we shall meet, as decided, on 18 October 1982 at 10.30 a.m. in this room.

The meeting rose at 4 p.m.