



General Assembly

PROVISIONAL

A/45/PV.36

9 November 1990

ENGLISH

Forty-fifth session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE THIRTY-SIXTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 1 November 1990, at 10 a.m.

President:

Mr. FORTIER
(Vice-President)

(Canada)

- Question of the Comorian Island of Mayotte [27]
 - (a) Report of the Secretary-General
 - (b) Draft resolution
- Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs [15]
 - (a) Election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council
- Credentials of representatives to the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly [3] (continued)
 - (b) First report of the Credentials Committee

/...

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the Official Records of the General Assembly.

Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, within one week, to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Department of Conference Services, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

- Adoption of the agenda and organization of work [8]
 - (a) Letter from the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences
 - (b) Report of the Fifth Committee
- Programme of work

In the absence of the President, Mr. Fortier (Canada), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 27

QUESTION OF THE COMORIAN ISLAND OF MAYOTTE

- (a) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/45/540)
- (b) DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/45/L.13)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I call on the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Comoros, who will introduce the draft resolution.

Mr. MAECHA (Comoros) (interpretation from French): Mr. President, once again our Assembly is seized of the question of the Comorian island of Mayotte. As in the past, our delegation forswears any polemical intention in endeavouring to present all the elements of this matter with the utmost objectivity, placing trust more than ever in our Organization and in its Charter, which declares, inter alia, the determination of

"We the peoples of the United Nations to reaffirm faith in ... the equal rights ... of nations large and small."

In our eyes the international community's support for the principle of the sovereign equality of all its States Members constitutes the first of the guarantees conducive to preserving small States such as ours from the threat or use of force against our integrity and independence.

It is hardly necessary to stress here the consistent determination of the Comorian authorities to continue to benefit from the active contribution of all delegations so as to be able to put an end as soon as possible to the unfortunate dispute that tarnishes our historical relations with France, a founding Member of our Organization and a country respected by all, which only yesterday was in the vanguard of African decolonization.

(Mr. Maecha, Comoros)

Yes, we want to believe that Mayotte is an accident of history that it is high time to remedy. Not once in more than a century of its presence in the Comoros did France dispute or question the fact that Mayotte belonged to the Comoros as a whole. On the contrary, successive Governments in France, basing themselves on history, have emphasized on many occasions the need to respect the territorial unity of our archipelago, in accordance with the conditions set out in article 72 and following articles of its constitution. All the laws and administrative provisions adopted during the colonial period enshrined in the clearest way the unity of our country. Is not that unity, then, well founded? Some wish, purely for administrative convenience, to believe not. But that unity has its origin and its basis in the shared history of the four sister islands that make up the archipelago of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros, namely the islands of Anjouan, Grand Comoro, Mayotte and Moheli.

(Mr. Maecha, Comoros)

That was why, when France was brought to recognize our desire for independence, it was decided, through a French law, that the Comorian people would be consulted on its future. Agreements were then signed, in Paris on 15 June 1973, between the representatives of the French Government and those of the territorial Government of the Comoros. Those agreements provided, first, that a referendum would be held in the Comoros and that, if the majority of the population voted in favour of independence, the results would be accepted as a whole - I stress "as a whole" - for all four islands.

The agreements were to have the effect of giving the Territorial Assembly of deputies then in office the powers of a constituent assembly, while the President of the Council of the local Government would have the competence and prerogatives of a head of State.

Those provisions faithfully reflected the stress laid on the indisputable unity of our country on the eve of its accession to self-determination. Furthermore, they were supported by solemn declarations by the highest French authorities at that time. In this connection, I wish to remind representatives of the statement made by the then President of France, in person, on 24 October 1974, which seemed to dispel any ambiguity:

"Is it reasonable to imagine that part of the [Comoro] Archipelago should become independent while one island, whatever sympathy might be felt for its inhabitants, should retain a different status? I think that today's realities have to be accepted: the Comoros are a unit and have always been a unit. It is natural that they should share the same fate. It is not for us, at the moment of a territory's independence, to propose to shatter the unity of what has always been the united Comoro Archipelago."

(Mr. Maecha, Comoros)

However, this is exactly what happened in the Comoros 15 years ago. Fifteen years ago, when the Comoros voted 95 per cent in favour of independence, the French Government nevertheless passed another law, on 3 July 1975, which challenged the original draft law ratifying self-determination, and demanding the organization of another referendum in which the consultation would take place island by island.

The Comorian people were decidedly distressed and shocked by these new provisions, which ran counter to their deepest aspirations and to the commitments made by France. The French Government had, by this action, violated not only its own domestic law, but also public international law. It had violated the sacrosanct rule, so dear to the French Constitution, of the indivisibility of overseas territories and colonial entities. It had contravened the sacred principle of the inviolability of borders inherited from colonial times.

In the face of this unacceptable about-turn and the clearly expressed desire of the Comorian people, President Ahmed Abdallah Abderemane unilaterally proclaimed the independence of the Comoros on 6 July 1975.

Because our cause was just, there was immediate recognition by the international community, including on 18 July, the Organisation of African Unity. Then, on 12 November, the United Nations admitted the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros as a sovereign State comprising the four islands of the archipelago, including Mayotte, by a unanimous vote of the General Assembly, in accordance with resolution 3385 (XXX). That resolution was based on resolutions 1514 (XV) and 2621 (XXV), concerning the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and thus proclaimed the sovereignty of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros over the whole of the decolonized territory.

Faced with the verdict of our Organization and to legitimize its trial of strength, the French Government then decided to organize two referendums in

(Mr. Maecha, Comoros)

Mayotte, on 8 February and 11 April 1976, citing paragraph 3 of article 53 of the French Constitution, which states:

"No transfer, exchange or addition of territory is valid without the consent of the peoples concerned."

Put this way, the argument was that the people of Mayotte were being enabled to choose their own future. But it is clear to all that in our case there was no question of a transfer or exchange of territory, much less of any addition. It was a clear case of the arbitrary division of a single territory.

Faced with this improper interpretation of the right of transfer, our Organization reacted vigorously, in its resolution 31/4, of 21 October 1976, in which the General Assembly stated that the occupation by France of Mayotte constitutes "a flagrant encroachment on the national unity of the Comorian State" (third preambular paragraph) and

"Condemns and considers null and void the referendums of 8 February and 11 April 1976 organized in the Comorian island of Mayotte by the Government of France and rejects: (a) Any other form of ... consultation which may hereafter be organized on Comorian territory in Mayotte by France". (para. 1)

(Mr. Mascha Comoron)

Following the example of the United Nations, most major international organizations that regularly consider the question of Mayotte did not fail to express a similar view, in particular last July at the summit conference of Heads of State of the Organisation of African Unity and last August at the annual meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

I cannot conclude my remarks on the events that brought us to the present situation and were the source of the distressing problem in Mayotte without emphasizing that as our country suffers this injustice voices are being raised in France vehemently condemning this situation.

Elected members of the Socialist party, the Opposition at that time, including the present President, François Mitterrand, addressed to the Constitutional Council of their country a letter denouncing the anti-constitutionality of the famous law of 3 July 1975.

If one is aware of the homogeneity of the Comorian population and the blood ties that have always existed between the inhabitants of the four islands of our archipelago, one can better understand the great suffering of a socially indivisible people. Fifteen years: that is a very long time, and each day the quest for a solution to the problem of Mayotte becomes more complex.

Let there be no doubt that, in accordance with the recommendations of the United Nations, we have never failed on any occasion to raise the question of Mayotte with the French side, always stressing our readiness to consider any concrete proposal aimed at getting us out of this distressing situation.

Recently, when President François Mitterrand came to the Indian Ocean in June, the Head of the Comorian State, Mr. Said Mohamed Djohar, reminded his French counterpart, within the framework of relations of confidence between our two

(Mr. Mascha, Comoros)

countries, of the urgency of finding a definitive solution to the problem of Mayotte.

His Excellency President François Mitterrand, who has long known our country and who has shown himself to be sensitive to our concerns, once again confirmed France's determination to work in the interests of both sides. This is what he said on that occasion:

"We shall talk about it, but I think that right now we must take measures that will permit communication and constant exchanges between the islands: Mayotte and the others, the others and Mayotte. Let no more barriers be erected - even theoretical ones, for they are difficult to overcome - among Comorians, and let France assist you in recovering your former solidarity. There are many forms of unity, believe me, and we shall seek them."

I need hardly tell the Assembly how many hopes this statement raised in the Comoros and beyond. We wish to assure members that we are ready to entertain all ways and means for a peaceful settlement of the problem of Mayotte through the simple implementation of international law, since we are convinced of the soundness of our claim.

Since he resumed power in March, the Head of the Comorian State, Mr. Said Mohamed Djohar, has been striving to set our country on the difficult but necessary course of democracy and multipartyism. In this new national political context, and desiring not to neglect any possibility of fostering the return of Mayotte to our family, our President is working to convince people of the need for a tripartite commission, including the Maori people, to work to implement a process for the settlement of this dispute. We are well aware that this is a generous idea, there are nevertheless many obstacles to it. In 15 years the gap has widened

(Mr. Maecha, Comoros)

between Mayotte and the rest of the archipelago. It will not be easy to close it, but what can we do, if France does not take the initiative to gather the three parties around the negotiating table?

However, perhaps more than ever, the climate of trust, peace and understanding that underlies the relations between our country and France gives us reason for hope. The political determination of our President to build democracy and the present revision of our Constitution are pledges of a new course likely to lead finally to that long-awaited solution: the restoration of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros. The new constitutional framework we are now studying aims only at protection against the hegemony of one island over another.

At a time when the United Nations is strengthening its credibility, when real solidarity is being built with regard to the crises in the Middle East and the Far East, we cannot believe that only an armed conflict can move the international community to action. May our Organization on the question of Mayotte - as in the face of any violation of a people's sovereignty - ensure once and for all the primacy of international law over force: law and nothing but the law.

Once again we request the good offices of our Organization, whose essential task it is - is it not? - to foster peace and understanding among peoples and nations, to assist us in our quest for the most appropriate ways and means of giving a new impetus - a crucial impetus this time - to the resolution of the case of Mayotte and finally to draft an agreement that will ensure the restitution of that sister island.

(Mr. Maecha, Comoros)

I shall conclude by expressing the deep gratitude of the Government of the Comoros to our Organization for the attention it has constantly paid to the question of Mayotte.

The draft resolution submitted to our Assembly and which is aimed at justifying the present debate is completely in accord with all our earlier recommendations on this subject. Hence we fervently desire its adoption.

Mr. RAZALI (Malaysia): May I offer Malaysia's best wishes and its particular happiness at seeing Mr. de Marco elected as President of this session.

The General Assembly listened just now with rapt attention to the fervent appeal of the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros. The Malaysian delegation extends its full solidarity to that appeal of the Foreign Minister and would commend in particular the determination and steadfastness of the Comoros in the pursuit of its objectives.

For the last 15 years this Assembly has made repeated calls for a peaceful solution to the question of the Comorian Island of Mayotte. Today, with the new international order of co-operation and understanding, there is even more reason to reaffirm such an appeal.

Our interest in this issue lies in the fact that Malaysia is a close friend of both France and the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros. In the spirit of that friendship and continuing co-operation, we place our confidence in an honourable and just political settlement of the problem.

The Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros, comprised of the four main islands of Anjouan, Grand-Comoro, Mayotte and Moheli, is a peaceful, small island-State, struggling to build its nation and committed to enhancing the welfare of its people and its national development. Just as it had assisted in the decolonization of other nations, the United Nations must ensure that the Comorians will succeed in achieving their national aspirations. This is to say that all

(Mr. Razali, Malaysia)

responsible Members of the United Nations must recognize the legitimate rights of the people of the Comoros not only to independence but also to a single integrated entity that will ensure them a peaceful existence and political stability. Decolonization must not be a half-way process; it must be a complete process. As urged by the United Nations, the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and many other individual nations, the colonial Power must carry out its responsibility and obligations in keeping with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, adopted in 1960.

After considering the Comorian referendum held in 1974 whereby 95 per cent of the people voted for independence, Malaysia recognized the sovereignty of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros over the island of Mayotte. The continued separation of Mayotte from the rest of the Islamic Federal Republic creates political instability and will affect the territorial integrity of the Comoros. The present partition must end, for it is to a great degree depriving the Comorians of their already scarce resources, which are vital for the process of nation-building and the well-being of its people.

Despite the Secretary-General's repeated efforts to find a peaceful solution to this problem, there has not been tangible progress so far, as indicated in the Secretary-General's latest report (A/45/540) of 27 September 1990. Malaysia is concerned over this situation. We therefore call upon all the parties involved to resolve this problem as soon as possible so as not to destroy further the national unity of a country whose homogeneous people share the same language, culture and religion.

My delegation pays special attention to the commitment of both parties to continue having a dialogue and intensify their efforts aimed at achieving a political solution. Malaysia hopes that that dialogue will be accelerated and

(Mr. Razali, Malaysia)

result in the affirmation of the territorial integrity of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros.

We would like to express our continuing support for the efforts of the Secretary-General to achieve the aforementioned objective. We also support the mediation and good offices of the OAU in assisting in the resolution of this problem. In the same manner and for the same objective, Malaysia is pleased to support the draft resolution on the question of the Comorian island of Mayotte.

Mr. IBRAHIM (Egypt) (interpretation from Arabic): Egypt's interest in the question of the Comorian island of Mayotte and our desire for a just and speedy solution to be reached thereto stem from the close ties of friendship which bind us to both the Comoros and to France, in addition to our adherence to the resolutions of the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

As always, our position has been based on principles we believe in and upon which the United Nations was founded. Egypt supports the sovereignty of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros over the Comorian island of Mayotte. We have consistently affirmed this position in a number of international and regional forums. It is a position that is supported by all those regional and international forums that are concerned with the question as is seen from the resolutions adopted by the United Nations and the African and Non-aligned summits, all of which call for respecting the unity and territorial integrity of the archipelago.

Through our constant contacts with the two parties concerned, we understand and appreciate the concerns of the Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros which arise from the fact that no tangible progress has been made in finding a just solution to the problem. Nothing new has taken place since 1975 as far as the situation is concerned. We are aware that the persistence of a situation that is akin to a stalemate, carries with it dangers of political

(Mr. Ibrahim, Egypt)

instability, which may adversely reflect on the prevailing climate in the territory as a whole.

As far as we are concerned, however, there is always room for optimism and hope. We still believe that there is a possibility of reaching a just and negotiated solution.

(Mr. Ibrahim, Egypt)

Through our contacts with the two friendly Governments of Comoros Islands and France, we feel that there is a sincere desire to continue the dialogue and to keep the channels of communication between the two Governments open. This demonstrates the good faith of both parties and their intention to intensify the efforts aimed at reaching a political solution that would affirm and maintain the territorial unity of the Comoros Islands and, at the same time, take into consideration the interests of all parties.

We wish to take this opportunity to support the endeavours of the Secretary-General in this connection. We request him to continue his contacts with both parties and commend his readiness to exert efforts in order to reach the desired solution.

We believe that the current international climate which is oriented towards further peace and security in several geographic regions must encourage both parties to believe that with good intentions and persistent endeavours they will achieve tangible and commendable results in the near future.

Mr. DANGUE BEWAKA (Gabon) (interpretation from French): We are meeting today to consider once again the question of the Comorian island of Mayotte. Let us say at the very outset that there have been no developments on this question. And when I say that, I am not saying anything new. Indeed, for too long now the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros has been fighting for the return of Mayotte to the rest of the Comoros; for too long now the General Assembly has been calling upon the Government of France to abide by commitments entered into on the eve of the self-determination referendum held in the Comoros archipelago on 22 December 1974; for too long now the General Assembly has been appealing to France to put into practice the determination it has expressed on more than one occasion to seek a just and lasting solution to the problem of Mayotte.

(Mr. Dangué Rewaka, Gabon)

While there are some encouraging developments on other questions it must be said that in this particular case, despite efforts that have been made since 1977 by the Organisation of African Unity's Ad Hoc Committee of Seven, presided over by my country, the question of Mayotte has been hopelessly bogged down. Nevertheless, the Committee does not intend to give up. Thus, it is contemplating reactivating very soon negotiations with the French authorities in order to speed up the return of the Comorian island of Mayotte to the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros.

The Ad Hoc Committee of Seven of the Organization of African Unity calls upon the General Assembly to adopt unanimously the draft resolution now before it, as a way of lending support and comfort to the Committee as it continues its mission.

Mr. RAHMAN (Pakistan): The question of the Comorian island of Mayotte has been on the agenda of the General Assembly since 1976, soon after Comoros attained independence. Ever since, the resolutions of the General Assembly on this question have, inter alia, underlined the necessity of respecting the unity and territorial integrity of the Comorian archipelago and have reaffirmed that a lasting solution to the problem can be found only in restoration of the disputed island to Comoros. The territorial integrity and unity of Comoros as a whole have also been reaffirmed in resolutions adopted over the years in other international forums such as the Non-Aligned Movement, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Organization of African Unity.

Last year, the General Assembly, in its resolution 44/9, adopted on 18 October 1989, once again reaffirmed the sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of the Comoros over the island of Mayotte and, bearing in mind the wish expressed by the President of the French Republic to seek actively a just solution to that problem, urged the Government of France to accelerate the process of negotiations with the Government of Comoros with a view to ensuring the effective and prompt return of the island of Mayotte to the Comoros.

(Mr. Rahman, Pakistan)

This position was again reflected in the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity held in Addis Ababa in July 1990 and the nineteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held in Cairo from 31 July to 5 August 1990. Such demonstrations of international support leave no doubt regarding the validity of the Comoros claim to the island of Mayotte.

The problem of the Comorian island of Mayotte is not just a bilateral problem between France and Comoros but is essentially a question of decolonization and therefore a matter of concern for the international community. In this context I recall General Assembly resolution 3291 (XXIX), of 13 December 1974; and resolution 1514 (XV), of 14 December 1960, on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples. These resolutions clearly maintain that the granting of independence or of the right to exercise self-determination applies to colonial entities as a whole and not selectively. This principle remains equally applicable to the Comorian archipelago.

In our view, constructive dialogue and peaceful negotiations are the best possible means of resolving differences and disputes. In this context we note with a great deal of satisfaction the close contact maintained by the Secretary-General with all parties and his readiness to make available his good offices in the search for a peaceful solution to the problem.

Pakistan has traditional ties of friendship and co-operation with France and, as a fellow member of the Non-Aligned Movement and of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, enjoys close and fraternal ties with the Islamic Federal Republic of Comoros. A dispute between those two friendly countries is certainly a matter of concern to us.

Pakistan has been following very closely the developments that are taking place on this issue. We are encouraged by the ongoing dialogue between the two

(Mr. Rahman, Pakistan)

Governments at the highest level, particularly the meeting between the Presidents of France and Comoros held in Moroni in June 1990. Such a dialogue, imbued with a spirit of co-operation and understanding and built on the foundations already laid by the relevant General Assembly resolutions, provides the best possibility for a peaceful solution to the problem. This demonstration of political will on both sides must be supported by the international community at large.

(Mr. Rahman, Pakistan)

The draft resolution before us in document A/45/L.13 is both moderate and balanced and reiterates the principled position maintained by various international forums. My delegation supports the draft resolution and expresses the hope that it will accelerate the process of negotiations leading to an early solution of the problem on the basis of the recognized principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

In conclusion, my delegation would also like to avail itself of this opportunity to commend the Secretary-General's efforts towards solving this problem, and to join others in requesting him to continue his efforts and extend his good offices to the Organization of African Unity in the search for a negotiated settlement.

Mr. BLANC (France) (interpretation from French): Once again France is obliged to express regret that the question of the island of Mayotte is an item on the General Assembly's agenda. We shall be compelled to vote against the text before us, in particular because of its operative paragraph 1.

However, my delegation has listened very attentively to the representatives who have spoken on this question. It is clear that everyone wants a just and lasting solution to be found to the question. This is also France's position.

We are committed actively to seek a satisfactory solution to the problem of Mayotte and we rule out no solution in keeping with our Constitution and with the aspirations of the peoples concerned.

With a sense of responsibility and in a spirit of openness, the French Government is continuing a constructive dialogue with the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros. This dialogue is based on the strong ties of friendship and co-operation which exist between our two countries and which were borne out quite recently, at the meeting in June 1990 at Moroni between Presidents Djohar and Mitterrand. We are convinced that this dialogue, continued with an abiding

(Mr. Blanc, France)

determination to seek conciliation and a peaceful solution, can, despite the difficulties, lead to progress in the common search for a just solution.

For its part, France will spare no effort in this endeavour.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution in document A/45/L.13.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: France

Abstaining: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The draft resolution was adopted by 118 to 1, with 30 abstentions (resolution 45/11).*

* Subsequently, the delegation of Congo and Uganda advised the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 27.

AGENDA ITEM 15

ELECTIONS TO FILL VACANCIES IN PRINCIPAL ORGANS

(a) ELECTION OF FIVE NON-PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The PRESIDENT: The General Assembly will now proceed to the election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council to replace those members whose term of office expires on 31 December 1990.

The five outgoing members are: Canada, Colombia, Ethiopia, Finland and Malaysia. Those five States cannot be re-elected and therefore their names should not appear on the ballot papers.

Apart from the five permanent members, the Security Council will include in 1991 the following States: Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Romania, Yemen and Zaire. Therefore, the names of those States should not appear on the ballot papers.

Of the five non-permanent members that will remain in office in 1991, three are from Africa and Asia, one is from Eastern Europe and one is from Latin America and the Caribbean.

Consequently, pursuant to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 1991 A (XVIII) of 17 December 1963, the five non-permanent members should be elected according to the following pattern: two from Africa and Asia, one from Latin America and the Caribbean, and two from Western Europe and other States. This pattern is reflected in a single ballot paper.

In accordance with the established practice, there is an understanding to the effect that of the two States to be elected from Africa and Asia one should be from Africa and one from Asia.

(The President)

I should like to inform the Assembly that the number of candidates, not exceeding the number of seats to be filled, receiving the greatest number of votes and a two thirds majority of those present and voting will be declared elected. In the case of a tie vote for the last seat, there will be a restricted ballot limited to those candidates that have obtained an equal number of votes.

May I take it that the General Assembly agrees to that procedure?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, the election shall be held by secret ballot and there shall be no nominations. Ballot papers are now being distributed.

I request representatives to use only those ballot papers that have just been distributed and to write on them the names of the five Member States for which they wish to vote. As I have indicated, the ballot papers should not include the names of the five permanent members, the five outgoing non-permanent members, or the five non-permanent members that will remain in office in 1991. Votes for more States than the number of seats allocated to each region will be declared invalid and votes for States outside the relevant region will not be counted.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Panov (Bulgaria), Mr. Koukou (Congo), Ms. Jones (Grenada) and Mr. Conny (Ireland) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 11.30 a.m. and resumed at 12.05 p.m.

The **PRESIDENT** (interpretation from French): The result of the voting for the election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council is as follows:

<u>Number of ballot papers:</u>	154
<u>Number of invalid ballots:</u>	0
<u>Number of valid ballots:</u>	154
<u>Abstentions:</u>	0
<u>Number of members voting:</u>	154
<u>Required two-thirds majority:</u>	103
<u>Number of votes obtained:</u>	
Austria	150
Ecuador	149
Zimbabwe	146
Belgium	142
India	141
Sri Lanka	2
Australia	1
Spain	1
Hungary*	1
Islamic Republic of Iran	1
Japan	1
Liechtenstein	1
Mexico	1
Peru	1
United Republic of Tanzania	1
Sweden	1
Venezuela	1
Yugoslavia*	1

* The President had stated before the balloting began that votes for States outside the relevant region would not be counted; consequently, the votes for this Eastern European State should not have been included in the results.

Having obtained the required two-thirds majority, the following States were elected non-permanent members of the Security Council for a two-year period beginning on 1 January 1991: Austria, Belgium, Ecuador, India and Zimbabwe.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I congratulate the States which have been elected non-permanent members of the Security Council, and I thank the tellers for their assistance in this election.

That concludes our consideration of agenda item 15 (a).

AGENDA ITEM 3 (continued)

CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FORTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(b) FIRST REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE (A/45/674)

The PRESIDENT: I should like to inform members that the Permanent Representative of Kuwait, on behalf of the Arab States, has requested that consideration of agenda item 3 (b), concerning the first report of the Credentials Committee be postponed. Unless there is an objection, the Assembly will postpone consideration of that item to a later date, to be announced.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 8 (continued)

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

(a) LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES (A/45/475/Add.2)

(b) REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/45/665)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The Assembly will now turn its attention to document A/45/475/Add.2, which contains a letter dated 18 October 1990 from the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences addressed to the President of the Assembly. As members are aware, the Assembly, in paragraph 7 of its resolution 40/243, section I, decided that no subsidiary organ of the General Assembly may meet at United Nations Headquarters during a regular session of the Assembly unless explicitly authorized by the Assembly to do so.

As indicated in the letter I have just mentioned, the Committee on Conferences has recommended that the General Assembly authorize the International Civil Service

(The President)

Commission to hold a special session from 5 to 9 November 1990. The report of the Fifth Committee on the programme budget implications of this request is contained in document A/45/665.

May I take it that the General Assembly adopts the recommendation of the Committee on Conferences?

It was so decided.

PROGRAMME OF WORK

The PRESIDENT: I should like to inform members of some changes in the tentative programme of work of the Assembly. On Wednesday, 7 November, in the morning, the Assembly will consider agenda item 29, entitled "The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security", as well as agenda item 30, "Co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity", and agenda item 22, "Implementation of the Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace".

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.