

6. United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law: report of the Secretary-General (P.91).

DOCUMENT A/BUR/168/ADD.1

[Original text: English, French and Spanish]
[18 September 1967]

1. The Secretary-General has the honour to draw the attention of the General Committee to resolution 2257 (ES-V), entitled "The situation in the Middle East", adopted by the General Assembly at its 1559th plenary meeting, on 18 September 1967. In that resolution the Assembly decided to place on the agenda of its twenty-second regular session, as a matter of high priority, the question on the agenda of its fifth emergency special session.

2. The following item should, therefore, be added to the draft agenda of the twenty-second session (A/BUR/168):

"96. The situation in the Middle East (A.2)".

DOCUMENT A/BUR/168/ADD.2

[Original text: English, French and Spanish]
[19 September 1967]

1. In connexion with item 61 of the draft agenda (Question of the punishment of war criminals and of persons who have committed crimes against humanity), the Secretary-General has the honour to draw the General Committee's attention to the fact that that item, which was referred to the General Assembly by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1220 (XLII), deals with the consideration and adoption by the Assembly of a convention on the non-applicability of statutory limitation to war crimes and crimes against humanity. A preliminary draft convention on this subject has been prepared by the Secretary-General and it has been discussed by the Commission on Human Rights and by a working group of the Commission.¹⁸

¹⁸ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 6, para. 153.

2. This item is closely connected with human rights questions and presents important legal aspects. In view of the past history of the item, it has been listed in the draft allocation of items among the items to be referred to the Third Committee. However, the General Committee may also wish, in view of the nature of the item and the fact that only a few points of difficulty remain regarding the text of the draft convention, to suggest that the Chairman of the Third Committee might consult with the Chairman of the Sixth Committee concerning the best and most expeditious manner of dealing with the item. In this respect, the two Chairmen may wish to consider the possibility of the item being considered in the first instance by a joint working group to be set up by them. In selecting the members to serve on the joint working group, the Chairmen may wish to bear in mind the composition of the Commission on Human Rights and of its working group on the subject. The joint working group would report to the Main Committee to which the item is allocated by the Assembly. Annex II to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly recommends the establishment of such groups for the drafting of legal texts.

DOCUMENT A/BUR/168/ADD.3

[Original text: English]
[20 September 1967]

1. The Secretary-General wishes to draw the attention of the General Committee to his note dated 20 September 1967 (A/6832) by which he requested the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the twenty-second session.

2. The following item should, therefore, be added to the draft agenda of the twenty-second session (A/BUR/168):

"97. The situation which has arisen between Guinea and the Ivory Coast involving section 11 of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations (A.3)".

DOCUMENT A/BUR/169

Correction to rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly: note by the Secretary-General

[Original text: English and French]
[26 October 1967]

1. At the 171st meeting of the General Committee, on 5 October 1967, an observation made by the representative of Dahomey drew attention to the fact that the English and French texts of rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly contained a discrepancy, in that the English text began with the words "Additional items of an important and urgent character", while the corresponding French text read: "*Des questions nouvelles présentant un caractère d'importance ou d'urgence*". The representative of the United States of America requested that the Secretariat investigate this discrepancy. He also pointed out that only the French text referred to items of an "important or urgent" character, all the other texts quali-

fying such items as being of an "important and urgent" nature.

2. In the light of the request of the representative of the United States, the Secretariat has undertaken a study of the legislative history of rule 15, and this clearly demonstrates that the French text is not correct, in that it fails to take account of an express decision that the rule should refer to items which were "important and urgent", not "important or urgent".

3. The present reference to items of an "important and urgent" character in what is now rule 15 of the rules of procedure originates from discussions which took place in 1947 in the Committee on Procedures and Organization, which had been set up by General

Assembly resolution 102 (I) of 15 December 1946 to recommend measures to economize the time of the General Assembly. A sub-committee of this Committee recommended a text of the rule here concerned, which referred to items of an "important or urgent character".¹⁹ When this text was discussed in the full Committee on 8 October 1947, the United Kingdom proposed that the text be changed to "important and urgent". This amendment was adopted by 9 votes to 3, the French record of the proceedings stating that "*Le Comité décide, par 9 voix contre 3, de recommander l'insertion dans l'article des mots 'important et urgent'*".²⁰ The necessary change was incorporated in the English text of the Committee's recommended formulation of the rule but, undoubtedly as the result of an oversight, was not made in the French text.

4. The report of the Committee on Procedures and Organization,²¹ containing the text of the rule in question, was considered by the General Assembly at its second session and referred to the Sixth Committee. The proceedings of the Sixth Committee indicate that the formulation "important and urgent" is the correct one. This formulation was used by the rapporteur of a sub-committee of the Sixth Committee which considered the matter, the rapporteur explaining to the

¹⁹ See A/AC.12/10.

²⁰ A/AC.12/SR.9, p. 3.

²¹ Official Records of the General Assembly, Second Session, Plenary Meetings, vol. II, annex 4, document A/388, p. 1455.

Sixth Committee²² that the sub-committee had "taken over" the proposal of the Committee on Procedures and Organization that the relevant rule should be limited to items which were "important and urgent". The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics objected in the Sixth Committee to this formulation, and proposed that the words "important and urgent" should be deleted. This amendment²³ was defeated by 17 votes to 12, with 7 abstentions, and the words "important and urgent" were retained. No changes in this respect were put forward in the Assembly, and it adopted the new rules of procedure by its resolution 173 (II) of 17 November 1947. Unfortunately, however, the error in the French text which dates back to the report of the Committee on Procedures and Organization was carried over, the French text of the new rules still referring to items of "*un caractère d'importance ou d'urgence*". All the other texts differ from the French text in that they refer to "important and urgent" items.

5. The above account clearly demonstrates that the present French text of rule 15 is not correct and it is the intention of the Secretary-General to make the necessary change when the next edition of the rules of procedure is issued.

²² Ibid., Sixth Committee, 56th meeting, p. 130.

²³ Ibid., Sixth Committee, annex 4 (g), document A/C.6/186, p. 273.

DOCUMENT A/6840

First report of the General Committee

[Original text: English, French and Spanish]
[22 September 1967]

Verbatim records of the Main Committees

1. At its 165th, 166th and 167th meetings, on 20, 21 and 22 September 1967, the General Committee considered two memoranda by the Secretary-General relating respectively to the organization of the twenty-second session (A/BUR/167) and to the adoption of the agenda and allocation of items (A/BUR/168 and Add.1-3).

2. A summary of the discussion in the Committee appears in the records of the above-mentioned meetings.

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

Schedule of meetings

3. On the proposal of the Secretary-General (A/BUR/167), the General Committee recommends to the General Assembly the following arrangements relating to the schedule of meetings:

(a) Plenary and committee meetings should begin promptly at 10.30 a.m. and 3 p.m.;

(b) A five-day working week should be established, it being understood that meetings on Saturdays, and also night meetings, may be scheduled if necessary.

Closing date for the session

4. The General Committee proposes to the General Assembly, in accordance with rule 2 of the rules of procedure, that the closing date of the twenty-second session should be Tuesday, 19 December 1967.

5. On the proposal of the Secretary-General, the General Committee recommends to the General Assembly that the First Committee should be provided with verbatim services and that the verbatim records should be the official records of that Committee. The General Committee further recommends that the debates of the Special Political Committee should be transcribed from sound recordings upon request, with priority in the distribution given to the records of the First Committee.

Use of the General Assembly Hall by the Main Committees

6. At the suggestion of the Secretary-General, the General Committee proposes that all the Main Committees make full use of the General Assembly Hall when there is no plenary meeting and, in particular, use the voting machine on a rotating basis.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

7. The General Committee considered the draft agenda submitted by the Secretary-General in his memorandum (A/BUR/168, para. 5; A/BUR/168/Add.1, para. 2, and A/BUR/168/Add.3, para. 2). This draft was based on the following documents:

(a) Provisional agenda of the twenty-second session (A/6680/Rev.1);

(b) Supplementary list of items (A/6697);