

United Nations
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY

TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION

Official Records



FIRST COMMITTEE, 1740th
MEETING

Monday, 26 October 1970,
at 10.30 a.m.

NEW YORK

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Chairman: Mr. Andrés AGUILAR M. (Venezuela).

Organization of work

1. The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): The last item on our agenda today is item 32, on measures for the strengthening of international security. I should like to remind the members of the Committee that the general debate on this item was concluded at our last meeting, on 13 October. It will also be recalled that at the end of that meeting the Committee agreed that consultations among the sponsors of the four draft resolutions and the amendments thereto would continue.

2. I should like to inform the Committee that in the interval since 13 October, the day of our last meeting, consultations have indeed taken place among the sponsors of the drafts and the amendments. Unfortunately, however, it was not possible through those consultations to work out a document before the end of the commemorative session, but all the co-sponsors agreed among themselves that consultations should continue, in the hope of submitting if possible, before the end of the current session, a text that will command the overwhelming, if not unanimous, support of the Committee. This is what I wished to tell the Committee concerning this item of our agenda.

3. I call on the representative of the United Arab Republic on a point of order.

4. Mr. EL-ZAYYAT (United Arab Republic): As we all know, this morning the plenary takes up, as a matter of priority, item 22 on its agenda, dealing with the situation in the Middle East. It is an urgent and important item, which, I am sure, occupies the minds and consciences of all representatives here, and I am sure they would all like to devote all their wisdom and energy to seeing this matter concluded as quickly as possible in the plenary. I therefore contacted the President of the Assembly, who has very kindly agreed to postpone that meeting until 11.30 this morning in order to give us the time to conclude the item just mentioned. I therefore formally request that this meeting should be adjourned in order to enable us to attend the plenary meeting.

5. The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): A formal proposal has been made by the representative of the United Arab Republic that this meeting should be adjourned. That motion was made under rule 119 of the rules

of procedure, according to which such motions must be put to the vote immediately without debate.

6. Mr. PHILLIPS (United States of America): I was not clear whether the representative of the United Arab Republic was referring to a suspension of this morning's meeting in order to enable representatives to attend the plenary meeting, or whether his motion referred to a suspension of the work of this Committee beyond this morning's meeting.

7. Mr. EL-ZAYYAT (United Arab Republic): I am very happy to help our colleague from the United States. What I had asked for was a suspension of this morning's meeting. This Committee can meet again this afternoon, but I should like to say that in the afternoon we shall again bring up the subject of the scheduling of meetings of the First Committee while the plenary is discussing political matters. It may be that the best solution that the United States can accept is to bring the matter first to this Committee for discussion, and then to the plenary. But right now my formal request is for a postponement of this morning's meeting.

8. The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): There has been a formal proposal for the adjournment of this meeting. Under rule 119 of the rules of procedure this proposal must be put to the vote immediately without debate.

9. Mr. ANTOINE (Haiti) (*interpretation from French*): My delegation would like to point out that there is a very important meeting of the General Assembly this afternoon at 3 p.m., and rather than meet this afternoon, my delegation would prefer that we meet tomorrow so that members can attend the elections for the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council that are to be held in the plenary this afternoon.

10. The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): We must, however, follow the rules of procedure. The first formal proposal made was that we should adjourn this meeting. This afternoon, if the representative of Haiti or any other member asks for the adjournment of that meeting, which he would be perfectly entitled to do, that proposal would be submitted to the Committee for its consideration. But at the moment what we are dealing with is the proposal made by the representative of the United Arab Republic for the adjournment of this meeting.

11. If I hear no objections I take it that there is no need to put the proposal to a vote, and that the Committee agrees that this meeting should be adjourned.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11.10 a.m.