

The Special Committee feels that the allocation of items to committees might be effected in a less rigid manner and that questions which may be considered as falling within the competence of two or more committees, should preferably be referred to the committee with the lightest agenda.

23. Another means of lightening the task of any given Main Committee would be to consider directly in the plenary meeting, without preliminary reference to committee, certain questions which fall within the terms of reference of the Main Committee. This procedure would moreover have the great advantage of reducing to a notable extent repetition of debate.

It is felt that the amount of time saved by this method would be considerable, especially if the Main Committee and plenary meetings could be held concurrently.

If the Main Committee could not meet at the same time as the plenary meeting, the fact that the Committee was not meeting would enable another Main Committee to meet in its place.

The consideration of questions in plenary meetings would have the benefit of the attendance of leaders of delegations and of greater solemnity and publicity. The slightly higher cost to the United Nations of plenary meetings, due in particular to the distribution of verbatim records of the meetings, would undoubtedly be compensated by the shorter duration of the session.

The General Committee would be responsible for suggesting to the General Assembly which items on the agenda might be dealt with in this manner. The Special Committee recommends that this method should be introduced on an experimental basis at future sessions.

The Special Committee is of the opinion that this procedure would be especially appropriate for certain questions the essential aspects of which are already familiar to Members, such as items which have been considered by the General Assembly at previous sessions and which do not require either the presence of representatives of non-member States or the hearing of testimony.

39. At this point the Special Committee desires to stress once more the importance of the role of the President of the General Assembly and of the Chairmen of committees. The satisfactory progress of the proceedings depends essentially on their competence, authority, tact and impartiality, their respect for the rights both of minorities as well as majorities, and their familiarity with the rules of procedure. The General Assembly, or the committee, as the case may be, is the master of the conduct of its own proceedings. It is, however, the special task of the Chairmen to guide the proceedings of these bodies in the best interests of all the Members.

The Special Committee considers that everything possible should be done to help Chairmen in the discharge of these important functions. The President of the General Assembly and the General Committee should assist the Chairmen of committees with their advice. The Secretary-General should place his experience and all his authority at their disposal.

The Special Committee is happy to note the Secretariat's valuable practice of holding daily meetings of the committee secretaries, under the chairmanship of the Executive Assistant to the Secretary-General, where the procedural questions arising from day to day in the General Assembly and committees are thoroughly examined. Furthermore, the Special Committee

⁶ See *Official Records of the Security Council*, Fourth Year, Supplement for April 1949, document S/1298 and Corr.1.

⁸ See *Official Records of the fourth session of the General Assembly, Annex to the Sixth Committee*, document A/967.

stresses the value of having, as in the past, a legal adviser from the Secretariat in attendance at meetings to give the Chairmen or the committee such advice as they may need for the conduct of their business and the interpretation of the rules of procedure.

363 (IV). Application of Liechtenstein to become a party to the Statute of the International Court of Justice

Whereas the Government of the Principality of Liechtenstein, by a letter⁶ dated 6 March 1949 addressed to the Secretary-General, has expressed the desire to learn the conditions under which Liechtenstein could become a party to the Statute of the International Court of Justice.

Whereas Article 93, paragraph 2, of the Charter provides that a State which is not a Member of the United Nations may become a party to the Statute of the Court on conditions to be determined in each case by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council,

Whereas the Security Council has adopted a recommendation⁸ on this matter,

The General Assembly

Determines, in pursuance of Article 93, paragraph 2, of the Charter and upon the recommendation of the Security Council, the conditions on which Liechtenstein may become a party to the Statute of the International Court of Justice, as follows:

"Liechtenstein will become a party to the Statute on the date of the deposit with the Secretary-General of the United Nations of an instrument, signed on behalf of the Government of the Principality of Liechtenstein and ratified as may be required by the constitutional law of Liechtenstein, containing:

"(a) Acceptance of the provisions of the Statute of the International Court of Justice;

"(b) Acceptance of all the obligations of a Member of the United Nations under Article 94 of the Charter;

"(c) An undertaking to contribute to the expenses of the Court such equitable amount as the General Assembly shall assess from time to time after consultation with the Liechtenstein Government."

*262nd plenary meeting,
1 December 1949.*

364 (IV). Registration and publication of treaties and international agreements

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The General Assembly,

Having considered the report⁷ of the Secretary-General on the registration and publication of treaties and international agreements,

1. *Notes* with satisfaction the progress achieved in regard to the registration and publication of treaties;

⁷ See *Official Records of the fourth session of the General Assembly, Annex to the Sixth Committee*, document A/958.