



President: Mr. Lazar MOJSOV (Yugoslavia).

Statement by the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

AGENDA ITEM 3

Credentials of representatives to the tenth special session of the General Assembly:

(b) Report of the Credentials Committee

1. The PRESIDENT: Since no representative has asked to speak on this item, I invite members to turn their attention to the draft resolution recommended by the Credentials Committee in paragraph 18 of its report [A/S-10/22].

2. In the Committee, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution S-10/1).

3. The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has concluded its consideration of agenda item 3.

Organization of work

4. The PRESIDENT: I should like to consult the Assembly about the date of closure of this session, which had been originally set for today.

5. As members are aware, everybody in the *Ad Hoc* Committee, the working groups, the drafting groups, the informal groups under their co-ordinators, and the Secretariat has been working very hard at all hours of the day and night to reach agreement on the text of the final document. Although substantial progress has been achieved, there is need for further intensive consultations and negotiations. I wish to take this opportunity to ask for the co-operation of all Member States in bringing the session to a successful conclusion, and to appeal to all who take part in the ongoing negotiations to co-operate fully in order to conclude their work in finalizing the remaining parts of the text of the final document.

6. The *Ad Hoc* Committee will meet tomorrow. In view of the fact that the time of the conclusion of its work and the time of finishing its report to the General Assembly are not yet clear, I suggest that we postpone the closure of the session by 24 hours or, if necessary, 48 hours.

7. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides to accept this suggestion.

It was so decided.

8. The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of the United Kingdom, who wishes to make a statement.

9. Sir Derick ASHE (United Kingdom): I have asked to be allowed to speak not in order to comment on the course of our work at this special session, but in order to make a short statement on a related matter which I think will be of interest to representatives and which I hope will be welcomed by them. My remarks will parallel a statement made by my Government in London yesterday.

10. In the draft programme of action which my Government sponsored on 1 February [A/S-10/1, vol. VI, document A/AC.187/96], we included a call on nuclear-weapon States to give appropriate assurances to increase the confidence of non-nuclear-weapon States in their security from nuclear attack.

11. Following that proposal, the United Kingdom discussed this matter with various nuclear and other Powers. In his address to the General Assembly at the 14th meeting of the special session, the British Prime Minister recognized that States which have renounced nuclear weapons are entitled to look for assurances that such weapons will not be used against them. Mr. Callaghan said then that Britain wanted action to meet these expectations. He placed on record the fact that Britain would be prepared to take part, with other nuclear Powers, in giving firm, far-reaching and permanent assurances to the non-nuclear States. During this special session, other nuclear Powers have made statements and given undertakings on this subject of negative security assurances.

12. The United Kingdom is now ready formally to give such an assurance. I accordingly give the following assurance, on behalf of my Government, to non-nuclear-weapon States which are parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons [resolution 2373(XXII), annex] and to other internationally binding commitments not to manufacture or acquire nuclear explosive devices: Britain undertakes not to use nuclear weapons against such States except in the case of an attack on the United Kingdom, its dependent territories, its armed forces or its allies by such a State in association or alliance with a nuclear-weapon State.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.