

**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY****ASSEMBLEE
GENERALE**

PROCEDURES AND ORGANIZATION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(Item 1.6 of the Provisional Agenda of the Second Regular Session)

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PROCEDURES AND ORGANIZATION

Rapporteur: Mr. W. BORBERG (Denmark)

INTRODUCTION

1. On 15 December 1946 the General Assembly approved resolution 102 (I) on measures to economize the time of the General Assembly.
2. The Committee on Procedures and Organization referred to in the resolution met at Lake Success on 9 September 1947 and elected as Chairman, Mr. Escott Reid (Canada), as Vice-Chairman, Mr. Huguin De Lavallee (Peru) and as Rapporteur, Mr. W. Borberg (Denmark).
3. In conformity with the General Assembly's resolution, the Committee had before it a report by the Secretary-General, (document A/316) based on the memoranda submitted by the delegation of Canada to the second part of the first session of the General Assembly, on the suggestions which the Secretary-General received from Members of the United Nations, on the views expressed in the Sub-Committee of the General Committee of the first session of the General Assembly during its consideration of this question, and on the experience acquired and the precedents established during the first session.
4. The Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly contains:
 - (a) A summary of principal suggestions for economizing the time of the General Assembly; proposals with respect to the agenda, suggestions with a view to accelerating the debates and avoiding unnecessary repetitions; and recommendations as to material arrangements which would tend to expedite the work of the Assembly, such as the increased use of simultaneous interpretation, the preparation and the observance of strict schedules of meetings, etc.
 - (b) Proposed re-drafts of a number of the provisional rules of procedure of the General Assembly.
 - (c) Copies of suggestions received from the Governments of the Dominican Republic, Australia, Guatemala, the Netherlands, Argentina, New Zealand, Denmark, the United Kingdom, and Norway.

PART ONE

5. The Committee devoted its first meeting to a discussion of its terms of reference and the organization of its work. The majority of its members considered that the terms of reference prescribed by the General Assembly made the Committee responsible for a review and study of the Provisional Rules of Procedure for the General Assembly on the basis of the Secretary-General's report, as well as of technical and practical measures to economize the time of the General Assembly which had been proposed by Members of the United Nations, the Secretary-General and the members of the Committee themselves. Other members of the Committee, however, were of the opinion that the Committee's responsibilities were limited to a study of methods of work and internal organization of the Assembly with a view to proposing measures which would result in an economy of time. These members felt that the Committee should examine only such rules of procedure as might be instrumental in expediting the work of the Assembly.
6. Part Two of this report consists of a series of suggestions, the adoption of which, would, in the opinion of the Committee, assist considerably in expediting the work of the Assembly and permit the full consideration of important problems on the Agenda without requiring the representatives to stay away from their home countries for inconveniently long periods. Part Three contains a proposed re-draft of the provisional rules of procedure. The Committee felt that every improvement in the rules, which would make debate on procedures unnecessary would result in a definite economy of time. The draft rules prepared by the Secretary-General, and incorporated in document A/316, served as a basis for the discussions of the Committee.
7. The Secretary-General communicated to the Committee a letter from the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, suggesting changes in Chapter VII (Administrative and Budgetary Questions) of the Provisional Rules of Procedure which would alter the title of the Advisory Committee and amend certain rules regarding its standing functions. The Committee took note of the proposed revisions but reviewed Provisional Rules 37 to 40 merely from the point of view of drafting. The opinion was expressed that the Fifth Committee should study the rules contained in Chapter VII from the point of view of substance before their final adoption.
8. The Committee refrained from considering the rules contained in Chapter IX (Languages) and X (Records). The Committee felt that these rules had serious political and financial aspects which should be considered by the appropriate Committees of the Assembly. The Committee was informed that a special study was being made by the Secretariat of the application of the rules on languages and records and that a full report would be made on these matters to the General Assembly.

9. Chapter XVII (Admission of New Members to the United Nations) was not examined by the Committee. A Committee, entrusted with the task of preparing rules governing the admission of new Members, had been established by the General Assembly on 15 December 1946 and had, after consultation with the corresponding Committee of the Security Council, presented its report directly to the General Assembly.

10. In the time allotted to it, the Committee was not able to undertake a detailed study of the probable effect of the application of each of the Revised Provisional Rules of Procedure, and would have desired more time so that it might have prepared the best possible texts.

PART TWO

Agenda

11. The Committee is of the opinion that wherever possible items proposed for inclusion in the Agenda should be submitted in time for inclusion in the provisional agenda which is communicated to Members sixty days in advance of the opening of the session. If this is impossible, every effort should be made to ensure that they are included in the supplementary list.

12. It is recognized that no rigid rules can be established on this question, but the observation of these principles would lead to the saving of time, inasmuch as Member Governments would thus have sufficient notice of proposed agenda items to enable them to prepare more thoroughly for the debate on these items.

13. The Committee discussed the desirability of a suitable time limit for the submission of requests for the inclusion of additional items - for instance the end of the general debate - but decided to make no specific recommendation on this subject.

Documentation

14. The circulation of essential documents well in advance of their discussion in the General Assembly or its committees would greatly facilitate and expedite the work of the Assembly. When items are submitted for inclusion in the Agenda, supporting documentation should be forwarded at the same time or shortly thereafter, whenever possible. While the Committee fully realizes that this is difficult and in some cases impossible, it wishes to call the attention of the General Assembly to the desirability of this principle as an objective.

15. The Secretariat should make the best possible arrangements for a rapid and efficient distribution of documents. It is suggested that special priority be given to the Journal and to the programme of meetings, and that when dispatched by the Secretariat they should bear some distinguishing mark so that delegations, upon the receipt of their documentation, would be

/able to

able to identify these two important documents immediately. The Committee noted that the Secretariat is able to provide individual boxes for delegations at both Flushing and Lake Success where urgent documents circulated during the day may be collected, and suggests that delegations might avail themselves more fully of this service.

Organization of Committees

16. The Committee considered the desirability of suggesting that at future sessions of the General Assembly a start should be made with the work of some, at least of the Main Committees before the close of the general debate, but decided at this stage to make no recommendation on the subject.
17. While it is desirable that as many Main Committees as possible should meet simultaneously, the fact should not be overlooked that too many meetings held at one time may place too heavy a burden on the representatives of the members of the General Assembly, and particularly those members having small delegations. If the debates are to be maintained on the high level necessary for the Assembly to conduct its business wisely and efficiently, the schedule of meetings must be so arranged as to allow the members of delegations attending them the necessary time for study and consultation. Failure to do this would be to underestimate the importance of the deliberations of the General Assembly and of its committees. Nevertheless, the Committee calls attention to the fact that the number of Main Committees meeting simultaneously affects materially the length of the General Assembly. A relatively light schedule of meetings in the early weeks of the Assembly leads inevitably to an unduly heavy schedule in its later stages. The scheduling of meetings should therefore take into account: (1) the capacity of delegations to cope with the work involved; (2) the desirability of establishing a relatively uniform work-load during the entire session; and (3) the relation of the daily schedule to the duration of the Assembly.
18. Every effort should be made by the officers of the Assembly and by the Secretariat to announce the schedule of meetings well in advance, and to avoid as far as possible any modification therein. During the early stages of committee work the schedule of meetings might be announced for one week in advance. However, the establishment of sub-committees, the termination of the work of some of the Main Committees, and the variable load of those still in session may require adjustments in the schedule in the later stages of the work of the General Assembly. It would seem impracticable, during this period, to establish a rigid schedule for more than two or three days in advance.
19. The time lost between the hour scheduled for the beginning of a meeting and the actual opening of the meeting is not inconsiderable. Members of the General Assembly are urged to arrive promptly, and it is suggested that the
/President of the

President of the Assembly and the chairmen of committees open the meetings as soon as a quorum is present.

Limitation of debate

20. The Provisional Rules of Procedure provide that the General Assembly may at any time limit the time allowed to speakers. The Committee recognizes there are occasions on which this rule can be applied in the interest of economizing time without detriment to the rights of any member of the Assembly. The Committee, however, desires to call the attention of the Assembly to the serious difficulties attendant upon any general rule limiting the length of speeches, and it did not consider it advisable to recommend such a time limit.

Establishment of sub-committees

21. The Main Committees should consider carefully at an early stage in their work how their programmes might be expedited by the establishment of sub-committees. It is, of course, impossible to adopt fixed rules on this matter. If the debate in full committee showed that there was general agreement on the question under discussion but disagreement on points of detail, it would clearly be desirable to set up a small drafting committee to prepare a resolution for submission to the Main Committee. Technical questions on which there is no substantial disagreement should be referred to sub-committees as quickly as possible. In some cases the work of sub-committees would be facilitated by working informally, and on occasion, in private.

Conduct of business

22. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the Secretary-General is preparing for the information of members a handbook containing a record of the application of the rules of procedure in this and previous sessions of the General Assembly. If this handbook is completed and placed in use, the Assembly might wish to consider whether it has served to facilitate the conduct of the business of the General Assembly.

23. Continued close collaboration between the Chairmen and the Secretariat is desirable and the assistance of the Committee Secretaries and Legal Advisers should be available at all times.

Distribution of agenda items among committees

24. The reference of the same agenda item to two committees at the same time is as a general rule undesirable and often results in unnecessary duplication of debate. In addition, experience has shown that if an item is referred also to another committee in general terms, that committee does not always limit itself to the consideration of the aspects of the question in regard to which it is especially competent.

25. The Committee suggests that, as a general rule, one Main Committee, or one joint committee (e.g. the Joint Second and Third Committee) be given

/responsibility for

responsibility for reporting on a given agenda item and that, if the opinion of another Committee is needed, the latter be seized only of a precise and limited question. A suggestion, which received some support, was made to the effect that a small advisory committee of jurists should be established to which the first five Main Committees could submit the legal aspects of questions under consideration. Other members of the Committee felt, however, that such a committee was not necessary.

Committee Reports

26. The Committee recommends that rapporteurs' reports and other documents which have been circulated to members in advance should not be read in plenary and committee meetings. This would not, of course, limit the right of members to read such documents or such passages from them as they may consider necessary.

Simultaneous Interpretation

27. The Committee examined the important question of the use by the General Assembly of simultaneously interpretation, which would contribute greatly to economizing the time of the General Assembly and was informed of certain experimental planning which had been carried out by the Secretary-General in this field. As this question is on the Provisional Agenda of the second regular session of the General Assembly, the Committee refrains from conclusions and limits itself to making the observations which follow.

28. It was pointed out to the Committee by several of its members that experience, not only in the United Nations but in other international bodies over a period of years, seems to have demonstrated that although the system of simultaneously interpretation has real merit, its use in all circumstances is not without serious disadvantages. Among the disadvantages mentioned are the following:

(a) The interpreter is obliged to follow the speaker in much the same word order as that in which the original speech is given. While in some languages this creates no insurmountable difficulties, in others it renders translation extremely difficult, especially since the rules of phrasing in certain languages differ so greatly from those in others. In following word for word in a simultaneous interpretation the interpreter is unable, as can the interpreter in a consecutive interpretation, to follow the general line of argument and set it forth clearly for those who are listening.

(b) The interpreter, not knowing in advance what documents will be quoted, is unable to have at hand the official texts cited by the speaker. This creates serious difficulties when the discussion relates to draft resolutions or amendments. In consecutive interpretation, the

/interpreter's colleagues

interpreter's colleagues are able to collect the necessary documents for him during the course of the original speech.

(c) The representative does not hear the interpretation and is unable to control its accuracy or correct the errors of the interpreter.

(d) A physical and psychological barrier is created between the speaker and his colleagues, and representatives miss the opportunity of familiarizing themselves with the habits of thought and the languages spoken by the other representatives.

29. The Committee was in full agreement that the system of simultaneous interpretation can be used to advantage during a general debate in plenary or committee meetings, and that it would result in a considerable shortening of the length of the sessions of the General Assembly, but that it is not suitable when detailed negotiations or the reconciliation of various drafts are necessary.

30. It is clear that the introduction of simultaneous interpretation will make it necessary for the Secretariat to make provisions which would facilitate the passage from simultaneous to consecutive interpretation, and vice versa, during the same meeting, as well as to complement simultaneous interpretation by the occasional use of consecutive interpretation if this should be necessary.

31. The Committee was informed by the Secretary-General that arrangements for simultaneous interpretation into all the official languages have been made for the remaining plenary meetings of the present session of the General Assembly.

Combined consecutive and telephonic interpretation

32. Several members pointed out that, in meetings where consecutive interpretation is used, the mechanism of the telephonic interpretation system can be usefully employed for interpretation into the remaining official languages during consecutive interpretation from one working language into the other.

Drafting of resolutions

33. Experience has shown that the time of the General Assembly is sometimes unnecessarily occupied by the re-drafting, during meetings of committees, of draft resolutions because of unintentional ambiguities in the text. The assistance of the Legal Department of the Secretariat which is available at any time to national delegations may usefully be asked for, to avoid this as far as possible.

34. The Committee considered that the time of the General Assembly would be economized if the final texts of resolutions were drawn up simultaneously in the two working languages and the two versions kept in continuous

/comparison in order

comparison in order to avoid ambiguities in both texts.

35. The General Committee has already been given power under existing Rule 36 of the Provisional Rules of Procedure to "revise the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, changing their form but not their substance". The rule goes on to say "Any such changes shall be reported to the General Assembly for its consideration." Clearly, the General Committee could not itself undertake this task. It was suggested to the Committee that the General Committee might usefully appoint a Drafting Committee which, with the assistance of the Secretariat, could, in the interval between the adoption of a resolution by a Main Committee and the submission of that resolution to the Assembly, examine the French and English texts of the resolution and submit it to the General Committee for transmission to the Assembly with whatever drafting changes in both texts the Drafting Committee might consider necessary. The recommendations for drafting changes could be submitted to the Assembly together with the report as drawn up by the Main Committee.

PART THREE

DRAFT PROPOSED BY THE COMMITTEE

I. SESSIONS

Rule 1

The General Assembly shall meet every year in regular session commencing on the third Tuesday in September.

No Change

Rule 2

The General Assembly may fix a date for a special session.

No change

Rule 3

Special sessions of the General Assembly shall be held within fifteen days of the receipt by the Secretary-General of a request for such a session from the Security Council or of a request from a majority of the Members of the United Nations, or of the receipt of the concurrence of a majority of Members as provided in Rule 4.

COMMENT:

The last phrase has been added to cover special sessions summoned in accordance with the procedure outlined in Rule 4.

/ Rule 4

PROVISIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE

I. SESSIONS

Rule 1

The General Assembly shall meet every year in regular session commencing on the third Tuesday in September.

Rule 2

The General Assembly may fix a date for a special session.

Rule 3

Special sessions of the General Assembly shall also be held within fifteen days of the receipt by the Secretary-General of a request for such a session either from the Security Council or from a majority of the Members of the United Nations.

/ Rule 4

DRAFT PROPOSED BY THE COMMITTEE

rule 4

Any Member of the United Nations may request the Secretary-General to summon a special session. The Secretary-General shall immediately inform the other Members of the United Nations of the request and inquire whether they concur in it. If within thirty days of the date of the communication of the Secretary-General a majority of the Members concur in the request, a special session of the General Assembly shall be summoned in accordance with Rule 3.

COMMENT:

The word, "thereupon" in line 3 has been changed to "immediately".

Rule 5

Sessions shall be held at the headquarters of the United Nations unless convened elsewhere in pursuance of a decision of the General Assembly at a previous session or at the request of a majority of the Members of the United Nations.

No change

rule 6

Any Member of the United Nations may, at least one hundred and twenty days before the date fixed for the opening of a regular session, request that the session be held elsewhere than at the headquarters of the United Nations. The Secretary-General shall communicate the request, together with his recommendations, to the other Members of the United Nations. If within thirty days of the date of the communication a majority of the Members concur in the

/request,

PROVISIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE

rule 4

Any Member of the United Nations may request the Secretary-General to summon a special session. The Secretary-General shall thereupon inform the other Members of the United Nations of the request and inquire whether they concur in it. If within thirty days of the date of the communication a majority of the Members concur in the request, a special session of the General Assembly shall be summoned in accordance with the provisions of Rule 3.

Rule 5

Sessions shall be held at the headquarters of the United Nations unless convened elsewhere in pursuance of a decision of the General Assembly at a previous session or at the request of a majority of the Members of the United Nations.

/rule 6

DRAFT PROPOSED BY THE COMMITTEE

PROVISIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rule 6 (Continued)

request, the session shall be held accordingly.

COMMENT:

This new rule sets forth the procedure to be followed in the case of a request for the holding of a regular session elsewhere than at the Headquarters of the United Nations. It implements the last clause of Rule 5 in respect of regular sessions.

Rule 7

The General Assembly may decide at any session to adjourn temporarily and resume its meetings at a later date.

No change

Rule 8

The Secretary-General shall notify the Members of the United Nations, at least sixty days in advance, of the opening of a regular session.

COMMENT:

Commas have been added after "United Nations" and after "in advance".

Rule 9

The Secretary-General shall notify the Members of the United Nations, at least fourteen days in advance, of the opening of a special session summoned at the request of the Security Council, and at least ten days in advance in the case of a request by a majority of the Members or the concurrence /of a

Rule 6

The General Assembly may decide at any session to adjourn temporarily and resume its meetings at a later date.

Rule 7

The Secretary-General shall notify the Members of the United Nations at least sixty days in advance of the opening of a regular session.

Rule 8

The Secretary-General shall notify the Members of the United Nations at least fourteen days in advance of the opening of a special session convoked at the request of the Security Council, and at least ten days in the case of a request by a majority of the Members.

/Rule 9

DRAFT PROPOSED BY THE COMMITTEE

PROVISIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rule 9 (Continued)

of a majority in the request of any Member.

COMMENT:

Two commas have been added in the second line; the last clause has been added to take account of the procedure outlined in Rule 4.

Rule 10

Copies of the notice summoning each session shall be addressed to all other principal organs of the United Nations and to the specialized agencies referred to in Article 57, paragraph 2, of the Charter.

COMMENT:

It was considered that notices should be sent to the principal Organs only, which would transmit the notices to such of the subsidiary organs as they may consider necessary.

II. AGENDA

Rule 11

The provisional agenda for a regular session shall be drawn up by the Secretary-General and communicated to the Members of the United Nations at least sixty days before the opening of the Session.

COMMENT:

In this chapter provisions concerning regular and special sessions have been separated and each set of

/provisions

Rule 9

Copies of the notice summoning each session shall be addressed to all other organs and commissions of the United Nations and to the specialized agencies referred to in Article 57, paragraph 2, of the Charter.

II. AGENDA

Rule 10

The provisional agenda for a regular session shall be drawn up by the Secretary-General.

COMMENT:

Provisional rule 10 has been incorporated into Rule II.

/Rule 11

Rule 11 (Continued)

provisions has been grouped together.

Rule 11

The provisional agenda for a regular session shall be communicated to the Members of the United Nations at least sixty days before the opening of the session. The provisional agenda of a special session, summoned at the request of the Security Council, shall be communicated at least fourteen days before the opening of the session. The provisional agenda of a special session, summoned at the request of a majority of the Members, shall be communicated at least ten days before the opening of the session.

Rule 12

The provisional agenda of a regular session shall include:

- (a) report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization;
- (b) reports from the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice, the subsidiary organs of the General Assembly, specialized agencies (where such reports are called for under agreements entered into);

/(c) all items

Rule 12

The provisional agenda of a regular session shall include:

- (a) report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization;
- (b) reports from the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice, the subsidiary organs of the General Assembly, specialized agencies (where such reports are called for under agreements entered into);

/(c) all items

Rule 12 (Continued)

- (c) all items whose inclusion has been ordered by the General Assembly at a previous session;
- (d) all items proposed by the other organs of the United Nations;
- (e) all items proposed by any Member of the United Nations;
- (f) all items pertaining to the budget for the next financial year and the report on the accounts for the last financial year;
- (g) all items which the Secretary-General deems it necessary to put before the General Assembly; and
- (h) all items proposed under Article 35, paragraphs 2 and 3, of the Charter by States not Members of the United Nations.

COMMENT:

Items which may be proposed under Article 35 of the Charter by States not Members of the United Nations have been added to the list (see (h)).

Rule 12 (Continued)

- (c) all items whose inclusion has been ordered by the General Assembly at a previous session;
- (d) all items proposed by the other organs of the United Nations;
- (e) all items proposed by any Member of the United Nations;
- (f) all items pertaining to the budget for the next financial year and the report on the accounts for the last financial year; and
- (g) all items which the Secretary-General deems it necessary to put before the General Assembly.

Rule 13*

Any Member or principal organ of the United Nations or the Secretary-General may, at least thirty days before the date fixed for the opening of a regular session, request the inclusion of supplementary items in the agenda. These items shall be placed on the supplementary list, which shall be communicated to the Members of the United Nations at least twenty days before the date fixed for the opening of the session.

COMMENT:

Recognition is given to the fact that circumstances may require the inclusion of items by the other principal organs or the Secretary-General after the provisional Agenda has been circulated. See lines 1 and 2. The word "additional" in line 3 was changed to "supplementary" to eliminate confusion in the use of the word "additional" in connection with items on the supplementary list and items proposed after the closing of the supplementary list.

The rule was adopted by nine votes against three, the representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America, and Yugoslavia dissenting.

Rule 14**

During any regular session of the General Assembly items may be revised or deleted from the agenda, and additional items of an important and urgent character may be placed on the agenda, by a majority of the Members present and voting. Consideration of additional items shall, unless the General Assembly, by a two-thirds majority of the Members present and voting, decides otherwise, be postponed until four days after they have been placed on the agenda, and until a committee has reported upon them.

Dissenting: Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yugoslavia.

Dissenting: Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republic, Yugoslavia.

Reserved its Position: United States of America.

/postponed

Rule 13

Any Member of the United Nations may, at least twenty-five days before the date fixed for the opening of a regular session, request the inclusion of additional items in the agenda. These items shall be placed on a supplementary list, which shall be communicated to the Members of the United Nations at least fifteen days before the date fixed for the opening of the session. The General Assembly shall decide whether items on the supplementary list shall be included in the agenda of the session.

Rule 15

During any regular session of the General Assembly items may be revised, and may be added to or deleted from the agenda by a majority of the Members present and voting. Consideration of additional items shall, unless the General Assembly, by a two-thirds majority of the Members present and voting, decides otherwise, be postponed until four days after they have been placed on the agenda, and until a committee has reported upon them.

/Rule 11

DRAFT PROPOSED BY THE COMMITTEE

PROVISIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rule 14 (continued)

postponed until seven days after they have been placed on the agenda, and until a committee has reported upon them.

COMMENT:

The two changes in the provisional Rule 15 provide, first, that only important and urgent items may be added to the agenda after the circulation of the supplementary list, and second, more time is given to Delegations for the study of these items before discussion.

Rule 15*

The provisional agenda of a special session, summoned at the request of the Security Council, shall be communicated to the Members of the United Nations at least fourteen days before the opening of the session. The provisional agenda of a special session summoned at the request of the Members, or the concurrence of a majority in the request of any Member, shall be communicated at least ten days before the opening of the session.

COMMENT:

Apart from consequential drafting changes, this rule reproduces the text of the second part of provisional Rule 11 to which has been added a reference to special sessions convened in accordance with the procedure set forth in Rule 4.

* Dissenting: Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yugoslavia.

/Rule 16*

Rule 11

The provisional agenda for a regular session shall be communicated to the Members of the United Nations at least sixty days before the opening of the session. The provisional agenda of a special session, summoned at the request of the Security Council, shall be communicated at least fourteen days before the opening of the session. The provisional agenda of a special session, summoned at the request of a majority of the Members, shall be communicated at least ten days before the opening of the session.

/Rule 17

Rule 16*

The provisional agenda for a special session shall consist only of those items proposed for consideration in the request for the holding of the session.

COMMENT:

This redraft of provisional Rule 17 states with more precision the nature of the provisional agenda of special sessions.

Rule 17*

Any Member or principal organ of the United Nations or the Secretary-General may, at least four days before the date fixed for the opening of a special session, request the inclusion of supplementary items in the agenda. Such items shall be placed on a supplementary list which shall be communicated to the Members of the United Nations as soon as possible.

COMMENT:

See Comment to Rule 13.

Rule 18*

During a special session items on the supplementary list and additional items may be added to the agenda by a two-thirds majority of the Members present and voting.

* Dissenting: Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic,
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

/Rule 18* COMMENT

Rule 17

When a special session is called, the agenda for the session shall be confined to the items communicated by the Secretary-General to the Members of the United Nations, unless the General Assembly, by a two-thirds majority of the Members present and voting, decides to include additional items.

Rule 18

Any Member of the United Nations may, at least four days before the date fixed for the opening of a special session, request the inclusion of additional items in the agenda. Such items shall be placed on a supplementary list which shall be communicated to the Members of the United Nations as soon as possible.

Rule 17

When a special session is called, the agenda for the session shall be confined to the items communicated by the Secretary-General to the Members of the United Nations, unless the General Assembly, by a two-thirds majority of the Members present and voting, decides to include additional items.

/Rule 14

DRAFT PROPOSED BY THE COMMITTEE

PROVISIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rule 18* (Continued)

COMMENT:

This rule makes clear that a two-thirds majority is required for inclusion in the agenda of a special session of items on the supplementary list as well as of additional items proposed in the course of the session.

Rule 19*

At each session the provisional agenda and the supplementary list, together with the report of the General Committee thereon, shall be submitted to the General Assembly for approval as soon as possible after the opening of the session.

COMMENT:

Drafting change to bring this rule into conformity with the requirements of Rule 36.

Rule 14

The provisional agenda, together with the supplementary list, shall be submitted to the General Assembly for approval as soon as possible after the opening of the session.

* Dissenting: Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic,
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Rule 20*

No proposal for a modification of the scale of assessments for the time being in force shall be placed on the agenda unless it has been communicated to the Members of the United Nations at least sixty days before the date fixed for the opening of the session.

COMMENT:

Apart from drafting changes, which substitute "scale of assessments" for "allocation of expenses" and "placed on" for "inserted in", the amended rule brings the time-limit into conformity with that required for the circulation of the provisional agenda.

III. DELEGATIONS

Rule 21

The delegation of a Member shall consist of not more than five representatives and five alternate representatives, and as many advisers, technical advisers, experts and persons of similar status as may be required by the delegation.

No change

Rule 22

The credentials of representatives, and the names of members

* Dissenting: Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic,
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

/Rule 22 of a delegation

Rule 16

No proposal for a modification of the allocation of expenses for the time being in force shall be inserted in the agenda unless it has been communicated to the Members of the United Nations at least ninety days before the date fixed for the opening of the session.

III. DELEGATIONS

Rule 19

The delegation of a Member shall consist of not more than five representatives and five alternate representatives, and as many advisers, technical advisers, experts and persons of similar status as may be required by the delegation.

Rule 20

The credentials of representatives, and the names of members

/Rule 20 of a delegation

DRAFT PROPOSED BY THE COMMITTEE

Rule 22 (Continued)

of a delegation shall be submitted to the Secretary-General if possible not less than one week before the date fixed for the opening of the session. The credentials may take the form of a document signed by the Head of the State or of a note signed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs or the principal resident representative to the United Nations.

COMMENT:

It is indicated that signed notes be accepted as credentials and the right of the principal resident representatives to the United Nations to sign such notes has been recognized.

Rule 23

An alternate representative may act as a representative upon designation by the Chairman of the delegation.

No change

Rule 24

Upon designation by the Chairman of the delegation, advisers, technical advisers, experts or persons of similar status may act as members of committees. Persons of this status shall not, however, unless designated as alternate representatives, be eligible for appointment as Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen or Rapporteurs of committees or for seats in the General Assembly.

No change

/IV. CREDENTIALS

PROVISIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rule 20 (Continued)

of a delegation shall be submitted to the Secretary-General if possible not less than one week before the date fixed for the opening of the session. The credentials shall be issued either by the Head of the State or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Rule 21

An alternate representative may act as a representative upon designation by the Chairman of the delegation.

Rule 22

Upon designation by the Chairman of the delegation, advisers, technical advisers, experts or persons of similar status may act as members of committees. Persons of this status shall not, however, unless designated as alternate representatives, be eligible for appointment as Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen or Rapporteurs of committees or for seats in the General Assembly.

/IV. CREDENTIALS

PROVISIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE

IV. CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Rule 25

A Credentials Committee shall be appointed at the beginning of each session. It shall consist of nine members, who shall be appointed by the General Assembly on the proposal of the President. The Committee shall elect its own officers. It shall examine the credentials of representatives and report without delay.

COMMENT:

The word "appointed" replaces "elected" in line 1, to conform with the second sentence and the practice of the General Assembly.

Rule 26

Any representative to whose admission a member has made objection shall be seated provisionally with the same rights as other representatives, until the Credentials Committee has reported and the General Assembly has given its decision.

No change

V. PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENTS

Rule 27

At the opening of each session of the General Assembly the Chairman of that delegation from which the President of the previous session was elected shall preside until the General Assembly has elected a President for the session.

No change

/Rule 28*

IV. CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Rule 23

A Credentials Committee shall be elected at the beginning of each session. It shall consist of nine members, who shall be appointed by the General Assembly on the proposal of the President. The Committee shall elect its own officers. It shall examine the credentials of representatives and report without delay.

Rule 24

Any representative to whose admission a member has made objection shall be seated provisionally with the same rights as other representatives, until the Credentials Committee has reported and the General Assembly has given its decision.

V. PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENTS

Rule 25

At the opening of each session of the General Assembly the Chairman of that delegation from which the President of the previous session was elected shall preside until the General Assembly has elected a President for the session.

/Rule 26

DRAFT PROPOSED BY THE COMMITTEE

Rule 28*

The General Assembly shall elect a President and seven Vice-Presidents, who shall hold office until the close of the session at which they are elected. The Vice-Presidents shall be elected after the election of the Chairmen of the Main Committees on the basis of ensuring the representative character of the General Committee.

COMMENT:

The amended rule stresses the importance of giving to the main Committees the widest possible choice in the election of their chairmen.

Rule 29

If the President finds it necessary to be absent during a meeting or any part thereof, he shall appoint one of the Vice-Presidents to take his place.

No change

Rule 30

If the President is unable to perform his functions, a new President shall be elected for the unexpired term.

No change

Rule 31

A Vice-President acting as President shall have the same powers and duties as the President.

No change

PROVISIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rule 26

The General Assembly shall elect a President and seven Vice-Presidents, who shall hold office until the close of the session at which they are elected. The Vice-Presidents shall be elected on the basis of ensuring the representative character of the General Committee.

Rule 27

If the President finds it necessary to be absent during a meeting or any part thereof, he shall appoint one of the Vice-Presidents to take his place.

Rule 28

If the President is unable to perform his functions, a new President shall be elected for the unexpired term.

Rule 29

A Vice-President acting as President shall have the same powers and duties as the President.

* Dissenting: Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic,
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yugoslavia.

Rule 32

The President, or Vice-President acting as President, shall not vote but shall appoint another member of his delegation to vote in his place.

No change

Rule 33

In addition to exercising the powers which are conferred upon him elsewhere by these Rules, the President shall declare the opening and closing of each plenary meeting of the session, shall direct the discussions in plenary meeting, ensure observance of these Rules, accord the right to speak, put questions and announce decisions. He shall rule on points of order, and subject to these Rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings at any meeting.

COMMENT:

A drafting change has been made which deletes the words "and at such meetings" as they are unnecessary.

VI. GENERAL COMMITTEE

Rule 34

The General Committee shall consist of fourteen members, no two of whom shall be nationals of the same State, and shall be so constituted as to ensure its representative character. It shall comprise the President of the General Assembly, who shall preside, the seven Vice-Presidents, and the Chairmen of the six Main Committees who shall be elected by the Committees on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, experience and personal competence.

/Rule 34 COMMENT:

Rule 30

The President, or Vice-President acting as President, shall not vote but shall appoint another member of his delegation to vote in his place.

Rule 31

In addition to exercising the powers which are conferred upon him elsewhere by these Rules, the President shall declare the opening and closing of each plenary meeting of the session, shall direct the discussions in plenary meeting, and at such meetings ensure observance of these Rules, accord the right to speak, put questions and announce decisions. He shall rule on points of order, and subject to these Rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings at any meeting.

VI. GENERAL COMMITTEE

Rule 32

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DRAFT PROPOSED BY THE COMMITTEE

PROVISIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rule 34 (Continued)

COMMENT:

The phrase "who shall be elected on the basis of ensuring the representative character of the Committee" has been deleted as it is a repetition of a similar phrase in Rule 28. "Nominated and" have been deleted from the last sentence.

Rule 35

If a Vice-President of the General Assembly finds it necessary to be absent during a meeting of the General Committee he may designate a member of his delegation as his substitute. A chairman of a Main Committee shall, in case of absence, designate the Vice-Chairman of the committee as his substitute. A Vice-Chairman shall not have the right to vote if he is of the same nationality as another member of the Committee.

COMMENT:

This rule confirms the practice followed during the preceding sessions of the General Assembly.

Rule 36

The General Committee shall at the beginning of each session consider the provisional agenda, together with the supplementary list, and shall make a report thereon to the General Assembly. It shall consider requests for the inclusion of additional items in the agenda and shall report thereon to the General Assembly. It shall assist the President and the General Assembly in drawing up the agenda for each plenary meeting, in determining the priority of its items, and in the co-ordination of the proceedings of all committees of the General Assembly. Finally, it shall assist the President in the general conduct of the work of the General Assembly which falls within the competence of the President. It shall not, however, decide any political question.

COMMENT:

One drafting change has been made in the second sentence which substitutes "requests" for "application".

Rule 37

A Member of the General Assembly which has no representative on the General Committee, and which has requested the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda, shall be entitled to attend any meeting of the General Committee at which its request is discussed, and may participate, without vote, in the discussion of that item.

No change

Rule 38

Proposals to refer any portion of the report of the Secretary-General to one of the Main Committees without debate shall be decided upon by the General Assembly without previous reference to the General Committee.

No change

Rule 39

Rule 33

The General Committee shall at the beginning of each session consider the provisional agenda, together with the supplementary list, and shall make a report thereon to the General Assembly. It shall consider applications for the inclusion of additional items in the agenda and shall report thereon to the General Assembly. It shall assist the President and the General Assembly in drawing up the agenda for each plenary meeting, in determining the priority of its items, and in the co-ordination of the proceedings of all committees of the General Assembly. Finally, it shall assist the President in the general conduct of the work of the General Assembly which falls within the competence of the President. It shall not, however, decide any political question.

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A Member of the General Assembly which has no representative on the General Committee, and which has requested the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda, shall be entitled to attend any meeting of the General Committee at which its request is discussed, and may participate, without vote, in the discussion of that item.

Rule 35

Proposals to refer any portion of the report of the Secretary-General to one of the Main Committees without debate shall be decided upon by the General Assembly without previous reference to the General Committee.

Rule 36

DRAFT PROPOSED BY THE COMMITTEE

Rule 39

The General Committee may revise the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, changing their form but not their substance. Any such changes shall be reported to the General Assembly for its consideration.

No change

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS

(The Committee, while making the drafting changes indicated below, decided not to consider the substance of Chapter VII. These rules have been renumbered.)

Rule 40

No change

Rule 41

No resolution involving expenditure shall be voted by the General Assembly until the Administrative and Budgetary Committee of the General Assembly has had an opportunity of stating the effect of the proposal upon the budget of the United Nations.

COMMENT:

Provisional Rule 112 has been brought forward from Chapter XVI - Committees.

PROVISIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rule 36

The General Committee may revise the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, changing their form but not their substance. Any such changes shall be reported to the General Assembly for its consideration.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS

Rule 37

The General Assembly shall establish regulations for the financial administration of the United Nations.

Rule 112

No resolution involving expenditure shall be voted by the General Assembly until the Administrative and Budgetary Committee of the General Assembly has had an opportunity of stating the effect of the proposal upon the budget of the United Nations.

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary QuestionsRule 42

No change

Rule 43

The members of the Advisory Committee, no two of whom shall be nationals of the same State, shall be selected on the basis of broad geographical representation, personal qualifications and experience, and shall serve for three years corresponding to three financial years, as defined in the regulations for the financial administration of the United Nations. Members shall retire by rotation and shall be eligible for re-appointment. The two financial experts shall not retire simultaneously. The General Assembly shall appoint the members of the Advisory Committee at the regular session immediately preceding the expiration of the term of the members or, in the case of vacancies, at the next session.

COMMENT:

The change from "re-election" to "re-appointment" in the second sentence and from "elect" to "appoint" corresponds to the practice which has been followed by the General Assembly. The other change in the last sentence results from the establishment of the United Nations financial year which begins on January 1st.

/Rule 45

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary QuestionsRule 38

The General Assembly shall appoint an Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (hereinafter called the "Advisory Committee"), with a membership of nine, including at least two financial experts of recognized standing.

Rule 39

The members of the Advisory Committee, no two of whom shall be nationals of the same State, shall be selected on the basis of broad geographical representation, personal qualifications and experience, and shall serve for three years corresponding to three financial years, as defined in the regulations for the financial administration of the United Nations. Members shall retire by rotation and shall be eligible for re-election. The two financial experts shall not retire simultaneously. The General Assembly shall elect the members of the Advisory Committee at the regular session at which the term of members expires, or, in case of vacancies, at the next session.

/Rule 40

Rule 40

The Advisory Committee shall be responsible for expert examination of the budget of the United Nations, and shall assist the Administrative and Budgetary Committee of the General Assembly. At the commencement of each regular session it shall submit to the General Assembly a detailed report on the budget for the next financial year and on the accounts of the last financial year. It shall also examine on behalf of the General Assembly the administrative budgets of specialized agencies and proposals for financial and budgetary arrangements with such agencies. It shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to it under the regulations for the financial administration of the United Nations.

Committee on ContributionsRule 45

No change

Rule 46

The members of the Committee on Contributions, no two of whom shall be nationals of the same State, shall be selected on the basis of broad geographical representation, personal qualifications and experience, and shall serve for a period of three years corresponding to three financial years, as defined in the regulations for the financial administration of the United Nations. Members shall retire by rotation and shall be eligible for re-appointment. The General Assembly shall appoint the members of the Committee on Contributions at the regular session immediately preceding the expiration of the term of office of the members or, in the case of vacancies, at the next session.

/Rule 46 COMMENT:

Committee on ContributionsRule 41

The General Assembly shall appoint an expert Committee on Contributions, consisting of ten members.

Rule 42

The members of the Committee on Contributions, no two of whom shall be nationals of the same State, shall be selected on the basis of broad geographical representation, personal qualifications and experience, and shall serve for a period of three years corresponding to three financial years, as defined in the regulations for the financial administration of the United Nations. Members shall retire by rotation and shall be eligible for re-election. The General Assembly shall elect the members of the Committee on Contributions at the regular session at which the term of office of members expired, or, in case of vacancies, at the next session.

/Rule 43

Rule 46 (Continued)

COMMENT:

The comment to Rule 43 applies here also.

Rule 47

The Committee on Contributions shall advise the General Assembly concerning the apportionment under Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the expenses of the Organization among Members, broadly according to capacity to pay. The scale of assessments when once fixed by the General Assembly shall not be subject to a general revision for at least three years, unless it is clear that there have been substantial changes in relative capacities to pay. It shall also advise the General Assembly on the assessments to be fixed for new Members; on appeals by Members for a change of assessment; and on the action to be taken with regard to the application of Article 19 of the Charter.

COMMENT:

Drafting changes to reduce the variety of terminology have been made. These are to substitute, in the second sentence "assessments" for "payments"; in the third sentence "assessments to be fixed for" for "contributions to be paid by". The last clause has been deleted.

VIII. SECRETARIAT

Rule 48

When the Security Council has submitted its recommendation on the appointment of the Secretary-General, the General Assembly shall consider the recommendation and vote upon it by secret ballot in private meeting.

No change

/Rule 49

Rule 43

The Committee on Contributions shall advise the General Assembly concerning the apportionment under Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the expenses of the Organization among Members, broadly according to capacity to pay. The scale of payments when once fixed by the General Assembly shall not be subject to a general revision for at least three years, unless it is clear that there have been substantial changes in relative capacities to pay. It should also advise the General Assembly on the contributions to be paid by new Members; on appeals by Members for a change of assessment; and on the action to be taken with regard to the application of Article 19 of the Charter, which deals with Members who are in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the Organization.

VIII. SECRETARIAT

Rule 44

When the Security Council has submitted its recommendation on the appointment of the Secretary-General, the General Assembly shall consider the recommendation and vote upon it by secret ballot in private meeting.

/Rule 45

Rule 49

The Secretary-General shall act in that capacity in all meetings of the General Assembly, its committees and subsidiary organs. He may designate a member of the staff to act in his place at these meetings.

COMMENT:

Minor drafting changes have been made in the last sentence which substitute "designate" for "appoint" and "these meetings" for "meetings of the General Assembly".

Rule 50

The Secretary-General shall provide and direct the staff required by the General Assembly and any committees or subsidiary organs which it may establish.

No change

Rule 51

The Secretary-General shall make an annual report, and such supplementary reports as are required, to the General Assembly on the work of the Organization. He shall communicate the annual report to the Members of the United Nations at least forty-five days before the opening of the session.

No change

Rule 52

The Secretary-General, with the consent of the Security Council, shall notify the General Assembly at each session of any matters relative to the maintenance of international peace and security which are being dealt with by the Security Council, and shall similarly notify the General Assembly, or the Members of the United Nations if the General Assembly is not in session, immediately the Security Council ceases to deal with such matters.

No change

PROVISIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rule 45

The Secretary-General shall act in that capacity in all meetings of the General Assembly, its committees and subsidiary organs. He may appoint a member of the staff to act in his place at meetings of the General Assembly.

Rule 46

The Secretary-General shall provide and direct the staff required by the General Assembly and any committees or subsidiary organs which it may establish.

Rule 47

The Secretary-General shall make an annual report, and such supplementary reports as are required, to the General Assembly on the work of the Organization. He shall communicate the annual report to the Members of the United Nations at least forty-five days before the opening of the session.

Rule 48

The Secretary-General, with the consent of the Security Council shall notify the General Assembly at each session of any matters relative to the maintenance of international peace and security which are being dealt with by the Security Council, and shall similarly notify the General Assembly, or the Members of the United Nations if the General Assembly is not in session, immediately the Security Council ceases to deal with such matters.

/Rule 49

Rule 52 (Continued)

No change

Rule 53

The Secretary-General, or a member of the Secretariat designated by him, may make at any time either oral or written statements to the General Assembly concerning any question under consideration by it.

COMMENT:

The wording used in Provisional Rule 106 has been included in this rule. The words "upon invitation of the President," have been deleted as it was considered that the powers of the President were sufficiently defined in Rule 33.

Rule 54

The Secretariat, acting under the authority of the Secretary-General, shall receive, print, translate and distribute documents, reports and resolutions of the General Assembly, its committees and organs; interpret speeches made at the meetings; draft, print and circulate the summary records of the session; have the custody and proper preservation of the documents in the archives of the General Assembly; publish the reports of the meetings; distribute all documents of the General Assembly to the Members of the United Nations, and, generally, perform all other work which the General Assembly may require.

No change

Rule 55

The General Assembly shall establish regulations concerning the staff of the Secretariat.

No change

/IX. LANGUAGES

Rule 49

The Secretary-General may at any time, upon invitation of the President, make to the General Assembly either oral or written statements concerning any question which is being considered by the General Assembly.

Rule 50

The Secretariat, acting under the authority of the Secretary-General, shall receive, print, translate and distribute documents, reports and resolutions of the General Assembly, its committees and organs; interpret speeches made at the meetings; draft, print and circulate the summary records of the session; have the custody and proper preservation of the documents in the archives of the General Assembly; publish the reports of the meetings; distribute all documents of the General Assembly to the Members of the United Nations, and, generally, perform all other work which the General Assembly may require.

Rule 51

The General Assembly shall establish regulations concerning the staff of the Secretariat.

/IX. LANGUAGES

PROPOSED BY THE COMMITTEE

IX. LANGUAGES

(The Committee decided not to consider this Chapter. These rules have been renumbered).

Rule 56

No change

Rule 57

No change

Rule 58

No change

Rule 59

No change

Rule 60

No change

PROVISIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE

IX. LANGUAGES

Rule 52

Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be the official languages of the General Assembly. English and French shall be the working languages.

Rule 53

Speeches made in either of the working languages shall be interpreted into the other working language.

Rule 54

Speeches made in any of the other three official languages shall be interpreted into both working languages.

Rule 55

Any representatives may make a speech in a language other than the official languages. In this case, he shall himself provide for interpretation into one of the working languages. Interpretation into the other working language by an interpreter of the Secretariat may be based on the interpretation given in the first working language.

Rule 56

Verbatim records shall be drawn up in the working languages. A translation of the whole or part of any verbatim record into any of the other official languages shall be furnished if requested by any delegation.

/Rule 61

/Rule 57

Rule 61

No Change

Rule 62

No Change

Rule 63

No Change

Rule 64

No Change

X. RECORDS

(The Committee decided not to consider this Chapter.
These rules have been renumbered.)

Rule 65

No Change

/Rule 66

PROVISIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rule 57

Summary records shall be drawn up as soon as possible in the official languages.

Rule 58

The Journal of the General Assembly shall be issued in the working languages.

Rule 59

All resolutions and other important documents shall be made available in the official languages. Upon the request of any representative, any other document shall be made available in any or all of the official languages.

Rule 60

Documents of the General Assembly shall, if the General Assembly so decides, be published in any languages other than the official languages.

X. RECORDS

Rule 61

Verbatim records of all plenary meetings shall be drawn up by the Secretariat and submitted to the General Assembly after approval by the President. Verbatim records shall also be made of the proceedings of the Main Committees established by the General Assembly. Other committees or sub-committees may decide upon the form of their records.

/Rule

DRAFT PROPOSED BY THE COMMITTEE

Rule 66

No Change

XI. PUBLICITY OF MEETINGS

Rule 67

The meetings of the General Assembly and its Main Committees shall be held in public unless the body concerned decides that exceptional circumstances require that the meeting be held in private. Meetings of other committees and subsidiary organs shall also be held in public unless the body concerned decides otherwise.

No Change

Rule 68

All decisions of the General Assembly taken at a private meeting shall be announced at any early public meeting of the General Assembly. At the close of each private meeting of the Main Committees, other committees and sub-committees, the Chairman may issue a communique through the Secretary-General.

No Change

/XII. CONDUCT

PROVISIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rule 62

Resolutions adopted by the General Assembly shall be communicated by the Secretary-General to the Members of the United Nations within fifteen days after the termination of the session.

XI. PUBLICITY OF MEETINGS

Rule 63

The meetings of the General Assembly and its Main Committees shall be held in public unless the body concerned decides that exceptional circumstances require that the meeting be held in private. Meetings of other committees and subsidiary organs shall also be held in public unless the body concerned decides otherwise.

Rule 64

All decisions of the General Assembly taken at a private meeting shall be announced at any early public meeting of the General Assembly. At the close of each private meeting of the Main Committees, other committees and sub-committees, the Chairman may issue a communique through the Secretary-General.

/XII. CONDUCT

PROVISIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE

XII. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Rule 69

A majority of the members of the General Assembly shall constitute a quorum.

No change

Rule 70

Subject to the provisions of Rule 14, the General Assembly, unless it decides otherwise, shall not make a final decision upon items on the agenda until it has received the report of a committee on these items.

COMMENT:

Provisional Rule 109 is more appropriately located in this Chapter; the new clause means that this rule applies only to items other than additional items.

Rule 71

No representative may address the General Assembly without having previously obtained the permission of the President. The President shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak. The President may call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

No change

Rule 72

XII. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Rule 65

A majority of the members of the General Assembly shall constitute a quorum.

Rule 109

Unless the General Assembly itself decides otherwise, it shall not make a final decision upon items on the agenda until it has received the report of a committee on these items.

Rule 66

No representative may address the General Assembly without having previously obtained the permission of the President. The President shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak. The President may call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

Rule 67

DRAFT PROPOSED BY THE COMMITTEE

Rule 72

The Chairman and the Rapporteur of a committee may be accorded precedence for the purpose of explaining the conclusion arrived at by their committee.

No change

Rule 73

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may rise to a point of order and the point of order shall be immediately decided by the President in accordance with the Rules of Procedure. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the President. The appeal shall immediately be put to the vote, and the President's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the members present and voting.

PROVISIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rule 67

The Chairman and the Rapporteur of a committee may be accorded precedence for the purpose of explaining the conclusion arrived at by their committee.

Rule 68

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may rise to a point of order and the point of order shall be immediately decided by the President in accordance with the Rules of Procedure. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the President. The appeal shall immediately be put to the vote, and the President's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the members present and voting.

Rule 74

Rule 69

Rule 74

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the debate. In addition to the proposer of the motion, two representatives may speak in favour of, and two against, the motion, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote.

COMMENT:

A drafting change which deletes the second sentence is necessary because of the addition of the new rule 80. A provision has been added to make clear that after the speeches have been made the motion shall be immediately put to the vote.

Rule 75

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move suspension or the adjournment of the meeting. Such motions shall not be debated, but shall be immediately put to the vote.

COMMENT:

The provisional Rules of Procedure do not contain a rule suspension or adjournment of meetings. This rule indicates the procedure to be followed.

Rule 76

The General Assembly may limit the time allowed to each speaker.

No change

/Rule 77

Rule 69

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the debate. Any such motion shall have priority in the debate. In addition to the proposer of the motion, two representatives may speak in favour of, and two against, the motion.

Rule 70

The General Assembly may limit the time allowed to each speaker.

/Rule 71

Rule 77

A representative may at any time move the closure of the debate whether or not any other representative has signified his wish to speak. Permission to speak on the closure of the debate shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing the closure, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote. If the General Assembly is in favour of the closure the President shall declare the closure of the debate.

COMMENT:

Provisional Rules 71 and 72 have been combined. A slight drafting change has been made in the second sentence of Rule 71 and the first sentence of Rule 72 has been deleted.

Rule 78

During the course of a debate the President may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the General Assembly, declare the list closed. He may, however, accord a right of reply to any member if a speech delivered after has declared the list closed makes this desirable.

COMMENT:

This new rule confirms a procedure which has been followed during previous sessions of the General Assembly. The President is authorized to permit a reply to a speech made by one of the speakers the list.

Rule 79*

Subject to Rule 80, any motion calling for a decision on the jurisdiction of the General Assembly to adapt a proposal submitted it shall be put to the vote immediately before a vote is taken on the proposal in question.

issenting: Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yugoslavia. Reserved its position: ited States of America

/A new rule

Rule 71

A representative may at any time move the closure of the debate whether or not any other representative has signified his wish to speak. If application is made for permission to speak against the closure it may be accorded to not more than two speakers.

Rule 72

The President shall take the sense of the General Assembly on a motion for closure. If the General Assembly is in favour of the closure the President shall declare the closure of the debate.

Rule 79 (continued)

A new rule has been added which governs motions regarding the jurisdiction of the General Assembly.

Rule 80

Subject to Rule 73, the following motions shall have precedence in the order named over all other resolutions or motions before the meeting:

- (a) to suspend the meeting;
- (b) to adjourn the meeting;
- (c) to adjourn the debate;
- (d) for the closure of the debate.

COMMENT:

This new rule establishes an order of precedence between the procedural motions referred to in Rules 74, 75 and 77.

Rule 81

Proposals and amendments shall normally be introduced in writing and handed to the Secretary-General, who shall circulate copies to the delegations. As a general rule, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any meeting of the General Assembly unless copies of it have been circulated to all delegations not later than the day preceding the meeting. The President may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of amendments, or of motions as to procedure, even though these amendments and motions have not been circulated or have only been circulated the same day.

COMMENT:

A few minor changes have been made in order to bring the rule into conformity with the existing practice

Rule 73

Resolutions, amendments and substantive motions shall be introduced in writing and handed to the Secretary-General, who shall circulate copies to the delegations. As a general rule, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any meeting of the General Assembly unless copies of it have been circulated to all delegations not later than the day preceding the meeting. The President may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of amendments or of motions as to procedure, without previous circulation of copies.

PROVISIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rule 74

Parts of a proposal may be voted on separately if a representative requests that the proposal be divided.

Rule 75

If two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the General Assembly shall first vote on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment next furthest removed, and so on, until all the amendments have been put to the vote.

Rule 76

When an amendment revises, adds to or deletes from a proposal the amendment shall be voted on first, and if it is adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted on.

DRAFT PROPOSED BY THE COMMITTEE

Rule 82

Parts of a proposal shall be voted on separately if a representative requests that the proposal be divided. The resulting proposal shall then be put to a final vote.

COMMENT:

The right of representatives to ask that proposals should be divided for the purpose of voting has been clarified and a second sentence added to make clear that the vote on the proposal as a whole has to be taken.

Rule 83

When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the General Assembly shall first vote on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment next furthest removed, and so on, until all the amendments have been put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted upon.

COMMENT:

Provisional Rules 75 and 76 have been combined and their texts made more precise in conformity with the practice of the General Assembly.

Rule 84*

If two or more proposals are moved relating to the same question, the General Assembly shall first vote on the most far-reaching proposal, and then on the next most far-reaching proposal, and so on. The General Assembly shall, after each

*Dissenting: Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yugoslavia. Reserved its position: United States of America.

Rule 84 (continued)

vote, decide whether or not it wishes to vote on the next proposal. The most far-reaching proposal means the proposal the adoption of which would result in the greatest change from the existing situation. Amendments to these proposals shall be voted on in accordance with Rule 83.

COMMENT:

It has been considered necessary to insert a new rule on the order in which two or more proposals related to the same subject should be put to the vote, and to define the term "far reaching proposal".

Rule 85

A motion may be withdrawn by its proposer at any time before voting on it has commenced provided that the motion has not been amended. A motion which has thus been withdrawn may be re-introduced by any member.

COMMENT:

This new rule gives the conditions under which a motion may be withdrawn.

Rule 86*

When a proposal has been adopted or rejected it may not be reconsidered at the same session unless the General Assembly, by a two-thirds majority of the Members present and voting, so decides. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing the motion, after which it shall be immediately put to the vote.

*Dissenting: Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic,
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

/COMMENT

/XIII. VOTING

Rule 86 (continued)

COMMENT:

This rule gives the conditions under which a proposal which has been adopted or rejected may be reconsidered.

XIII. VOTING

Rule 87

Each member of the General Assembly shall have one vote.

No change

Rule 88

Decisions of the General Assembly on important questions shall be made by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. These questions shall include recommendations with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security, the election of the non-permanent members of the Security Council, the election of members of the Economic and Social Council, the election of members of the Trusteeship Council in accordance with Article 86, paragraph 1, c, of the Charter, the admission of new Members to the United Nations, the suspension of the rights and privileges of membership, the expulsion of Members, questions relating to the operation of the trusteeship system, and budgetary questions.

No change

Rule 89

Decisions of the General Assembly on questions other than those provided for in Rule 88, including the determination of additional categories of questions to be decided by a two-thirds majority, shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting.

/No change

XIII. VOTING

Rule 77

Each member of the General Assembly shall have one vote.

Rule 78

Decisions of the General Assembly on important questions shall be made by a two-thirds majority of the Members present and voting. These questions shall include recommendations with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security, the election of the non-permanent members of the Security Council, the election of members of the Economic and Social Council, the election of members of the Trusteeship Council in accordance with paragraph 1, c, of Article 86 of the Charter, the admission of new Members to the United Nations, the suspension of the rights and privileges of membership, the expulsion of Members, questions relating to the operation of the trusteeship system, and budgetary questions.

Rule 79

Decisions of the General Assembly on questions other than those provided for in Rule 78, including the determination of additional categories of questions to be decided by a two-thirds majority, shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting.

Rule 89 (continued)

No change

Rule 90*

For the purposes of these rules, the phrase "members present and voting" means members casting an affirmative or negative vote. Members who abstain from voting are considered as not voting.

COMMENT:

It was considered important that the effect of abstentions on the counting of votes should be defined.

Dissenting: Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yugoslavia.

/Rule 91

/Rule 80

DRAFT PROPOSED BY THE COMMITTEE

Rule 91*

The General Assembly shall normally vote by show of hands or by standing, but any representative in plenary or committee meetings of the General Assembly may request a roll-call which shall then be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members, beginning with the member whose name is drawn by lot by the President. The name of each member shall be called in any roll-call and it shall reply "Yes", "No" or "Abstention". The result of the vote shall be inserted in the record in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members.

COMMENT:

Provisional Rules 80 and 81 have been combined. It was considered fairer to all members that the roll-call should start at different parts of the alphabet on each occasion.

Rule 92

After the President has announced the beginning of a vote, no member shall interrupt the vote except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the vote. Explanations of their votes by members may however be permitted by the President either before or after the vote.

COMMENT:

It was considered important that the procedure for conducting votes should be defined with precision.

Dissenting: Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yugoslavia.

PROVISIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rule 80

The General Assembly shall normally vote by show of hands or by standing, but any representative in plenary or committee meetings of the General Assembly may request a roll-call which shall then be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members.

Rule 81

The vote of each Member participating in any roll-call shall be inserted in the record.

Rule 93

All elections shall be held by secret ballot. There shall be no nominations.

COMMENT:

Drafting changes have been made which delete the first phrase of the first sentence, and, in the second phrase, the words "and all decisions relating to tenure of office"; "held" has been substituted for "taken".

Rule 94*

If, when only one person or Member is to be elected, no candidate obtains in the first ballot the majority required in Rule 88 or 89 a second ballot shall be taken, confined to the two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes. If in the second ballot the votes are equally divided, and a majority is required, the President shall decide between the candidates by drawing lots. When a two-thirds majority is required, the balloting shall be continued until one candidate secures two-thirds of the votes cast, provided that after the third inconclusive ballot, votes may be cast for any eligible person or Member.

COMMENT:

Provision to increase the number of eligible persons or Member after a third inconclusive ballot has been added in order to avoid prolonged balloting.

Rule 95*

When two or more elective places are to be filled at one time under the same conditions, those candidates obtaining in the first ballot the majority required in Rule 88 or 89 shall be elected. If the number of candidates obtaining such majority is less than the number of persons or Members to be elected, there shall be additional ballots to fill the remaining places, the voting being restricted to the candidates obtaining the greatest number of

* Dissenting: Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Rule 82

In addition to the provisions for the use of a secret ballot set forth elsewhere in these Rules, all elections and all decisions relating to tenure of office shall be taken by secret ballot. There shall be no nominations.

Rule 83

If, when only one person or Member is to be elected, no candidate obtains in the first ballot the majority required in Rule 78 or 79 a second ballot shall be taken, confined to the two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes. If in the second ballot the votes are equally divided, and a majority is required, the President shall decide between the candidates by drawing lots. When a two-thirds majority is required, the balloting shall be continued until one candidate secures two-thirds of the votes cast.

Rule 84

When two or more elective places are to be filled at one time under the same conditions, those candidates obtaining in the first ballot the majority required in Rule 78 or 79 shall be elected. If the number of candidates obtaining such majority is less than the number of persons or members to be elected, there shall be additional ballots to fill the remaining places, the voting being restricted to the candidates obtaining the greatest number of

Rule 95 (continued)

votes in the previous ballot, the number of candidates being not more than twice as many as the places remaining to be filled; provided that after the third inconclusive ballot votes may be cast for any eligible person or Member.

COMMENT:

The comment on Rule 94 applies here also.

Rule 96

If a vote is equally divided on matters other than elections, a second vote shall be taken at a subsequent meeting which shall be held within forty-eight hours of the first vote, and it shall be expressly mentioned in the agenda that a second vote will be taken on the matter in question. If this vote also results in equality, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

COMMENT:

A change has been made in order to permit that meetings could be held during the forty-eight hours period for purposes other than that referred to in the rule.

XIV. ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF COUNCILS

General Provisions

Rule 97

The General Assembly shall elect the members of Councils by secret ballot. There shall be no nominations.

COMMENT:

The addition of the last sentence clarifies the application of Rule 93.

{No Change

Rule 84 (continued)

votes in the previous ballot, the number of candidates being not more than twice as many as the places remaining to be filled.

Rule 85

If a vote is equally divided on matters other than elections, a second vote shall be taken at the next meeting; this meeting shall be held within forty-eight hours of the first vote, and it shall be expressly mentioned in the agenda that a second vote will be taken on the matter in question. If this vote also results in equality, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

XIV. ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF COUNCILS

General Provisions

Rule 86

The General Assembly shall elect the members of Councils by secret ballot.

/Rule 87

DRAFT PROPOSED BY THE COMMITTEE

Rule 97 (Continued)

No Change

Rule 98

The term of office of members shall begin on 1 January following their election by the General Assembly, and shall end on 31 December following the election of their successors.

No Change

Rule 99

Should a member cease to belong to a Council before his term of office expires, a by-election shall be held separately at the next session of the General Assembly to elect a member for the unexpired term.

No Change

Rule 100

When one seat is to be filled, the General Assembly shall follow the procedure set forth in Rule 94.

No Change

Rule 101

When two or more seats are to be filled, the General Assembly shall follow the procedure set forth in Rule 95.

No Change

/The Security Council

PROVISIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rule 87

The term of office of members shall begin on 1 January following their election by the General Assembly, and shall end on 31 December following the election of their successors.

Rule 88

Should a member cease to belong to a Council before his term of office expires, a by-election shall be held separately at the next session of the General Assembly to elect a member for the unexpired term.

Rule 89

When one seat is to be filled, The General Assembly shall follow the procedure set forth in Rule 83.

Rule 90

When two or more seats are to be filled, the General Assembly shall follow the procedure set forth in Rule 84.

/The Security Council

The Security Council

Rule 102

The General Assembly shall each year, in the course of its regular session, elect three non-permanent members of the Security Council for a term of two years.

No Change

Rule 103

In the election of non-permanent members of the Security Council, due regard shall be specially paid, in the first instance to the contribution of Members of the United Nations to the maintenance of international peace and security and to the other purposes of the Organization, and also to equitable geographical distribution.

No Change

Rule 104

A retiring member of the Security Council shall not be eligible for immediate re-election.

No Change

The Economic and Social Council

Rule 105

The General Assembly shall each year, in the course of its regular session, elect six members of the Economic and Social Council or a term of three years.

No Change

The Security Council

Rule 91

The General Assembly shall each year, in the course of its regular session, elect three non-permanent members of the Security Council for a term of two years.

Rule 92

In the election of non-permanent members of the Security Council, due regard shall be specially paid, in the first instance to the contribution of Members of the United Nations to the maintenance of international peace and security and to the other purposes of the Organization, and also to equitable geographical distribution.

Rule 93

A retiring member of the Security Council shall not be eligible for immediate re-election.

The Economic and Social Council

Rule 94

The General Assembly shall each year, in the course of its regular session, elect six members of the Economic and Social Council for a term of three years.

Rule 106

A retiring member of the Economic and Social Council shall be eligible for immediate re-election.

No Change

The Trusteeship Council

Rule 107

When a trusteeship agreement has been approved and a member of the United Nations has become an administering authority of a trust territory in accordance with Article 83 or 85 of the Charter, the General Assembly shall proceed to such election or elections to the Trusteeship Council as may be necessary, in accordance with Article 86.

COMMENT:

This rule has been redrafted and simplified.

Rule 108

At each session the General Assembly shall, in accordance with Article 86 of the Charter, elect members to fill any vacancies.

No Change

Rule 109

A non-administering member of the Trusteeship Council shall be elected for a term of three years and shall be eligible for immediate re-election.

No Change

/XV. ELECTION

Rule 95

A retiring member of the Economic and Social Council shall be eligible for immediate re-election.

The Trusteeship Council

Rule 96

When a trusteeship agreement has been approved and a member of the United Nations has become an administering authority of a trust territory in accordance with Article 83 or 85 of the Charter, the General Assembly shall determine, in accordance with Article 86, whether a Member which is not an administering authority of a trust territory shall be elected to the Trusteeship Council. If it is determined that an additional member of the Trusteeship Council is required, the General Assembly shall elect a member at the session in which the trusteeship agreement is approved.

Rule 97

At each session the General Assembly shall, in accordance with Article 86 of the Charter, elect members to fill any vacancies.

Rule 98

A non-administering member of the Trusteeship Council shall be elected for a term of three years and shall be eligible for immediate re-election.

/XV. ELECTION

DRAFT PROPOSED BY THE COMMITTEE

XV. ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

Rule 110

The election of the members of the International Court of Justice shall take place in accordance with the Statute of the Court.

No Change

Rule 111

Any meeting of the General Assembly held in pursuance of the Statute of the International Court of Justice for the purpose of the election of members of the Court shall continue until as many candidates as are required for all the seats to be filled have obtained in one or more ballots an absolute majority of votes.

No Change

PROVISIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE

XV. ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

Rule 99

The election of the members of the International Court of Justice shall take place in accordance with the Statute of the Court.

Rule 99a*

Any meeting of the General Assembly held in pursuance of the Statute of the International Court of Justice for the purpose of the election of members of the Court shall continue until as many candidates as are required for all the seats to be filled have obtained in one or more ballots an absolute majority of votes.

* Adopted provisionally by the General Assembly subject to the concurrence of the Security Council.

XVI. COMMITTEES

Rule 112

The General Assembly may set up such committees and subsidiary organs as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

No Change

Rule 113

The Main Committees of the General Assembly are:

- (1) Political and Security Committee (including the regulation of armaments);
- (2) Economic and Financial Committee;
- (3) Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee;
- (4) Trusteeship Committee (including Non-Self-Governing Territories);
- (5) Administrative and Budgetary Committee; and
- (6) Legal Committee.

COMMENT:

The addition to the name of the Fourth Committee has been made in order to express its competence to deal with questions arising under Chapter XI of the Charter.

XVI. COMMITTEES

Rule 100

The General Assembly may set up such committees and subsidiary organs as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

Rule 101

The Main Committees of the General Assembly are:

- (1) Political and Security Committee (including the regulation of armaments);
- (2) Economic and Financial Committee;
- (3) Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee;
- (4) Trusteeship Committee;
- (5) Administrative and Budgetary Committee; and
- (6) Legal Committee

/Rule 102

Rule 114

Each member may be represented by one person on each Main Committee, and on any other committee that may be constituted upon which all Members have the right to be represented. It may also assign to these committees advisers, technical advisers, experts or persons of similar status.

COMMENT:

A drafting change has been made in the first sentence in order to make clear that a member need not be always represented by the person originally designated to serve on a given committee.

Rule 115

Items relating to the same category of subjects shall be referred to the committee or committees dealing with that category of subjects. Committees shall not introduce new items on their own initiative.

No Change

Rule 116*

Each committee shall elect its own Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur. These officers shall be elected on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, experience and personal competence. These elections shall be held by secret ballot. There shall be no nominations.

COMMENT:

Additions have been made to extend the provisions of Provisional Rule 82 to the election of the officers of committees.

* Dissenting: Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

/Rule 117

Rule 102

Each delegation may designate one member for each Main Committee, and for any other committee that may be constituted upon which all Members have the right to be represented. It may also assign to these committees advisers, technical advisers, experts or persons of similar status.

Rule 105

Items relating to the same category of subjects shall be referred to the committee or committees dealing with that category of subjects. Committees shall not introduce new items on their own initiative.

Rule 104

Each committee shall elect its own Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur. These officers shall be elected on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, experience and personal competence.

/Rule 105

Rule 117

If the Chairman finds it necessary to be absent during a meeting or part thereof, the Vice-Chairman shall take his place. A Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman shall have the same powers and duties as the Chairman. If any officer of the Committee is unable to perform his functions, a new officer shall be elected for the unexpired term.

COMMENT:

This rule is an adaptation to Committees of Rules 29, 30 and 31.

Rule 118

The Chairman shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the committee, shall direct its discussions, ensure observance of these Rules, accord the right to speak, put questions and announce decisions. He shall rule on points of order, and subject to these Rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings of the committee.

COMMENT:

This rule is an adaptation to Committees of Rule 33.

Rule 119

Each committee may set up sub-committees, which shall elect their own officers.

No Change

Rule 120

The Secretary-General or a member of the Secretariat designated by him may make to any committee or sub-committee any oral or written statement which the Secretary-General considers desirable.

No Change

/Rule 121

Rule 105

Each committee may set up sub-committees, which shall elect their own officers.

Rule 106

The Secretary-General or a member of the Secretariat designated by him may make to any committee or sub-committee any oral or written statement which the Secretary-General considers desirable.

DRAFT PROPOSED BY THE COMMITTEE

PROVISIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rule 121

A majority of the members of a committee shall constitute a quorum.

COMMENT:

This rule is an adaptation to Committees of Rule 69.

Rule 122

No representative may address the committee without having previously obtained the permission of the Chairman. The Chairman shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak. The Chairman may call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

COMMENT:

This rule is an adaptation to Committees of Rule 71.

Rule 123

The Chairman and the Rapporteur of a committee may be accorded precedence for the purpose of explaining the conclusion arrived at by their committee.

COMMENT:

This rule makes applicable to committees the provisions of Rule 72.

/Rule 124

Rule 124

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may rise to a point of order and the point of order shall be immediately decided by the Chairman in accordance with the Rules of Procedure. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the Chairman. The appeal shall immediately be put to the vote, and the Chairman's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the members present and voting.

COMMENT: This rule is an adaptation to committees of Rule 73.

Rule 125

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the debate. In addition to the proposer of the motion, two representatives may speak in favour of, and two against, the motion, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote.

COMMENT: This rule makes applicable to committees the provisions of Rule 74.

Rule 126

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the suspension or the adjournment of the meeting. Such motions shall not be debated, but shall be immediately put to the vote.

COMMENT: This rule makes applicable to committees the provisions of Rule 75.

Rule 127

The committee may limit the time allowed to each speaker.

COMMENT: This rule is an adaptation to committees of Rule 76.

Rule 128

Rule 126

A representative may at any time move the closure of the debate whether or not any other representative has signified his wish to speak. Permission to speak on the closure of the debate shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing the closure, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote. If the committee is in favour of the closure the Chairman shall declare the closure of the debate.

COMMENT: This rule is an adaptation to committees of Rule 77.

Rule 129

During the course of a debate the Chairman may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the committee, declare the list closed. He may, however, accord the right of reply to any member if a speech delivered after he has declared the list closed makes this desirable.

COMMENT: This rule is an adaptation to committees of Rule 78.

Rule 130

Subject to Rule 80, any motion calling for a decision on the jurisdiction of the General Assembly to adopt a proposal submitted to it shall be put to the vote immediately before a vote is taken on the proposal in question.

COMMENT: This rule makes applicable to committees the provisions of Rule 79.

Rule 131

Subject to Rule 124, the following motions shall have precedence in the order named over all other resolutions or motions before the meeting:

/(a) to suspend

- (a) to suspend the meeting;
- (b) to adjourn the meeting;
- (c) to adjourn the debate;
- (d) for the closure of the debate

COMMENT: This rule makes applicable to committees the provisions of Rule 80.

Rule 132

Proposals and amendments shall normally be introduced in writing and handed to the Secretary-General, who shall circulate copies to the delegations. As a general rule, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any meeting of the General Assembly unless copies of it have been circulated to all delegations not later than the day preceding the meeting. The Chairman may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of amendments, or of motions as to procedure, even though those amendments and motions have not been circulated or have only been circulated the same day.

COMMENT: This rule is an adaptation to committees of Rule 81.

Rule 133

Parts of a proposal shall be voted on separately if a representative requests that the proposal be divided. The resulting proposal shall then be put to a final vote.

COMMENT: This rule makes applicable to committees the provisions of Rule 82.

Rule 134

When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the committee shall first vote on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment next furthest removed, and so on, until all the amendments have been put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted upon.

COMMENT: This rule is an adaptation to committees of Rule 83

Rule 135

If two or more proposals are moved relating to the same question, the committee shall first vote on the most far-reaching proposal, and then on the next most far-reaching proposal, and so on. The committee shall, after each vote, decide whether or not it wishes to vote on the next proposal. The most far-reaching proposal means the proposal the adoption of which would result in the greatest change from the existing situation. Amendments to these proposals shall be voted on in accordance with Rule 134.

COMMENT: This rule is an adaptation to committees of Rule 84.

Rule 136

A motion may be withdrawn by its proposer at any time before voting on it has commenced provided that the motion has not been amended. A motion which has thus been withdrawn may be reintroduced by any member.

COMMENT: This rule makes applicable to committees the provisions of Rule 85.

Rule 137

When a proposal has been adopted or rejected it may not be reconsidered at the same session unless the committee, by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, so decides. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing the motion, after which it shall be immediately put to the vote.

COMMENT: This rule is an adaptation to committees of Rule 86.

Rule 138

Each member of the committee shall have one vote.

COMMENT: This rule is an adaptation to committees of Rule 87.

/Rule 139

/Rule 108

DRAFT PROPOSED BY THE COMMITTEES

Rule 139

Decisions in the committees of the General Assembly shall be taken by a majority of the members present and voting.

(No change)

COMMENT ON PROVISIONAL RULE 109: Provisional Rule 109 has been brought forward and now appears as Rule 70.

Rule 140

For the purposes of these rules, the phrase "members present and voting" means members casting an affirmative or negative vote. Members who abstain from voting are considered as not voting.

COMMENT: This rule makes applicable to committees the provisions of Rule 90.

Rule 141

The committee shall normally vote by show of hands or by standing, but any representative may request a roll-call which shall then be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members, beginning with the member whose name is drawn by lot by the Chairman. The name of each member shall be called in any roll-call and it shall reply "Yes", "No" or "Abstention". The result of the vote shall be inserted in the record in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members.

COMMENT: This rule is an adaptation to committees of Rule 91.

Rule 142

After the Chairman has announced the beginning of a vote, no member shall interrupt the vote except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the vote. Explanations of their votes by members may however be permitted by the Chairman either before or after the vote.

COMMENT: This rule is an adaptation to committees of Rule 92.

/Rule 143

PROVISIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rule 108

Decisions in the committees of the General Assembly shall be taken by a majority of the members present and voting.

Rule 109

Unless the General Assembly itself decides otherwise, it shall not make a final decision upon items on the agenda until it has received the report of a committee on these items.

/Rule 110

Rule 143

If, when only one person of member is to be elected, no candidate obtains in the first ballot the majority required in Rule 68, a second ballot shall be taken, confined to the two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes. If in the second ballot, the votes are equally divided, and a majority is required, the Chairman shall decide between the candidates by drawing lots.

COMMENT:

This rule is an adaptation to committees of Rule 94.

Rule 144

If a vote is equally divided on matters other than elections, a second vote shall be taken at a subsequent meeting which shall be held within forty-eight hours of the first vote, and it shall be expressly mentioned in the agenda that a second vote will be taken on the matter in question. If this vote also results in equality, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

COMMENT:

This rule makes applicable to committees the provisions of Rule 96.

Rule 145

Discussion of a report of a Main Committee in a plenary meeting of the General Assembly shall take place if at least one-third of the members of the Committee consider such a discussion to be necessary.

No change.

Rule 110

Discussion of a report of a Main Committee in a plenary meeting of the General Assembly shall take place if at least one-third of the members of the Committee consider such a discussion to be necessary.

COMMENT ON PROVISIONAL RULE 107:

The Committee agreed* to add to the list of rules mentioned here, certain other rules which, in its opinion, should also apply to the proceedings of committees. These rules, together, with those mentioned in Provisional Rule 107, have been reproduced in the appropriate place in Chapter XVI - Committees, with such drafting changes as their application to committees mutatis mutandis requires.

COMMENT ON PROVISIONAL RULE 111:

This rule has been deleted as it is considered to be unnecessary.

Rule 111

Decisions involving expenditure shall be subject to the regulations for the financial administration of the United Nations.

Rule 107

The procedure set forth in Rules 55 to 76 shall apply to proceedings of committees of the General Assembly.

* Dissenting: Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic,
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

/COMMENT ON PROVISIONAL RULE 112:

/Rule 112

DRAFT PROPOSED BY THE COMMITTEE

COMMENT ON PROVISIONAL RULE 112:

This rule has been brought forward as Rule 41.

XVII. ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS TO THE UNITED NATIONS

COMMENT:

(The Committee decided not to consider this chapter.
These rules have been renumbered.)

Rule 146

No change.

Rule 147

No change.

PROVISIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rule 112

No resolution involving expenditure shall be voted by the General Assembly until the Administrative and Budgetary Committee of the General Assembly has had an opportunity of stating the effect of the proposal upon the budget of the United Nations.

XVII. ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Rule 113

Any State which desires to become a Member of the United Nations shall submit an application to the Secretary-General. This application shall be accompanied by a declaration of its readiness to accept the obligations contained in the Charter.

Rule 114

If the applicant State so requests, the Secretary-General shall inform the General Assembly, or the Members of the

Rule 114 (continued)

United Nations if the General Assembly is not in session, of the application.

Rule 148

No change

Rule 149

No change

XVIII. AMENDMENTS

Rule 150

These Rules of Procedure may be amended by a decision of the General Assembly taken by a majority of the Members present and voting, after a committee has reported on the proposed amendment.

No change

/SUPPLEMENTARY

Rule 115

If the Security Council recommends the applicant State for membership, the General Assembly shall consider whether the applicant is a peace-loving State and is able and willing to carry out the obligations contained in the Charter, and shall decide, by a two-thirds majority of the Members present and voting, upon its application for membership.

Rule 116

The Secretary-General shall inform the applicant State of the decision of the General Assembly. If the application is approved, membership will become effective on the date on which the applicant State presents to the Secretary-General an instrument of adherence.

XVIII. AMENDMENTS

Rule 117

These Rules of Procedure may be amended by a decision of the General Assembly taken by a majority of the Members present and voting, after a committee has reported on the proposed amendment.

DRAFT PROPOSED BY THE COMMITTEE

SUPPLEMENTARY RULE OF PROCEDURE ON THE CALLING
OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES BY THE
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Pending the adoption, under paragraph 4 of Article 62 of the Charter, of definite Rules for the calling of international conferences, the Economic and Social Council may, after due consultation with Members of the United Nations, call international conferences in conformity with the spirit of Article 62 on any matter within the competence of the Council, including the following matters: international trade and employment; the equitable adjustment of prices on the international market, and health.

No change

COMMENT:

This rule has been left unchanged in view of the fact that the Economic and Social Council may be expected soon to adopt Rules for the calling of international conferences.

PROVISIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE

SUPPLEMENTARY RULE OF PROCEDURE ON THE CALLING
OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES BY THE
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Pending the adoption, under paragraph 4 of Article 62, of the Charter, of definite Rules for the calling of international conferences, the Economic and Social Council may, after due consultation with Members of the United Nations, call international conferences in conformity with the spirit of Article 62 on any matter within the competence of the Council, including the following matters: international trade and employment; the equitable adjustment of prices on the international market, and health.

The Committee examined the methods by which the General Assembly might most usefully deal with the present report, and decided to present the following draft resolution (the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Yugoslavia dissenting).

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. ADOPTS provisionally, effective five days hence, for the second session of the General Assembly, the revised provisional rules of procedure recommended by the General Assembly's Committee on Procedures and Organization.
2. ESTABLISHES a Committee on Rules of Procedure on which all members of the General Assembly shall have the right to be represented, to hold its first meeting on 13 October 1947.
3. REFERS to the Committee on Rules of Procedure Part III of the Report of the Committee on Procedures and Organization, containing the revised provisional rules of procedure.
4. REFERS to the Fifth Committee, Chapter VII (Administrative and Budgetary Questions), and any recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions thereon, and instructs the Fifth Committee to submit to the Committee on Rules of Procedure its recommendations for the revision of Chapter VII, so that the Committee on Rules of Procedure may make the rules of this Chapter consistent in form and language with the other rules of the revised provisional rules of procedure.
5. REQUESTS the members of the General Assembly to forward before 13 October 1947 to the Secretary-General for transmission to these committees their proposals for revision of the revised provisional rules of procedure, it being understood that the right of members to present proposals to the Committee would be intact.
6. REQUESTS the Secretary-General to present, as soon as possible, to the Committee on Rules of Procedure for its consideration, his recommendations for the revision of Chapter IX (Languages) and Chapter X (Records), the jurisdiction of the Committee on Rules of Procedure to deal with these Chapters being in no way affected by this request to the Secretary-General.
7. INSTRUCTS the Committee on Rules of Procedure to secure the necessary information on the financial aspects of Chapter IX (Languages) and Chapter X (Records), and any proposals for their revision, from a joint sub-committee of the Fifth Committee and of the Committee on Rules of Procedure.
8. REQUESTS the Secretary-General to make a study of the operation during this session of the revised provisional rules of procedure and to submit to the Committee on Rules of Procedure his proposals for the revision of the revised provisional rules of procedure.

/9. INSTRUCTS

9. INSTRUCTS the Committee on Rules of Procedure to submit to the General Assembly, before the conclusion of the second session, its recommendations for the revision of the revised provisional rules of procedure.

10. REQUESTS its President, in consultation with the General Committee, to consider means of carrying out the recommendations and suggestions contained in Part II of the report of the Committee on Procedures and Organization, and to report to the General Assembly thereon from time to time in his discretion.
