



FIRST COMMITTEE
1st meeting
held on
Tuesday, 16 September 1980
at 5.25 p.m.
New York

UN/SA COLLECTION

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 1ST MEETING

Temporary Chairman: Baron von WECHMAR (President of the General Assembly)

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The meeting was called to order at 5.25 p.m..

ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Rule 103 of the rules of procedure provides that each Main Committee shall elect a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur. These officers shall be elected on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, experience and personal competence.

The elections shall be held by secret ballot, unless the Committee decides otherwise in an election where only one candidate is standing. The nomination of each candidate shall be limited to one speaker, after which the Committee shall immediately proceed to the election.

Furthermore, rule 110 of the rules of procedure provides that congratulation to the officers of a Main Committee shall not be expressed except by the Chairman of the previous session or, in his absence, by a member of his delegation, after all the officers of the Committee have been elected.

This meeting has been convened for the election only of the Chairman of the First Committee. Are there any nominations?

Mr. HEPBURN (Bahamas): Even at the risk of contravening certain rules and regulations of the General Assembly, I wish first of all to extend to you, Sir, my personal and sincere congratulations on your election as President of the General Assembly. The official congratulations on behalf of the Bahamian Government will be conveyed at a more appropriate time.

I should also like to express my appreciation to Ambassador Salim, under whose presidency I had the honour to serve as Chairman of the First Committee, for his expert guidance during the deliberations at the thirty-fourth session.

I welcome this opportunity, in keeping with the tradition of the Organization, to nominate the person who will succeed me as Chairman of the First Committee for the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

Ambassador Niaz Naik of Pakistan, whose performance speaks for itself, is not a stranger to the international community. In fact, he has such a distinguished record that all I need say is that I am honoured to nominate him for the post of Chairman of the First Committee.

(Mr. Hepburn, Bahamas)

Nevertheless, his impressive and enviable career as a diplomat entitles me to underline some of his accomplishments. In summary, Ambassador Naik received his Bachelor of Arts honours degree and his Master of Arts degree from Punjab University in 1946 and 1946 respectively and began his foreign service career in 1949. His capabilities, to which the international community can attest, were soon apparent, for, after a few short years, he was promoted to the rank of Ambassador in Geneva. He received his current appointment in October 1978. He has served as his country's representative, deputy leader and leader of delegation to numerous conferences of the United Nations and specialized agencies. In many instances he has been chairman of a committee. Earlier this year he was instrumental in the reaching of decisions during the emergency special sessions of the Conference of Islamic Foreign Ministers.

It is no wonder that Ambassador Naik has earned the respect and admiration of all who know him. The tribute paid to him, for example, on his leadership ability during the eleventh special session is well deserved. Through patience, skill and firmness tempered with flexibility, Ambassador Naik was able to produce a consensus text on the new International Development Strategy. I am confident that he will employ those same outstanding talents in negotiations on First Committee issues. I was privy to Ambassador Naik's quiet diplomacy last year in helping the work of the Committee to move more smoothly. Needless to say, his wide knowledge of United Nations procedures and of the subject will be invaluable assets in dealing with the onerous tasks that await him during the coming weeks. While reports have shown that very little progress has been made towards the implementation of genuine and complete disarmament, I do not doubt that, under the skilful guidance of Ambassador Naik, the international community will see significant improvement in the field of disarmament.

Of course I am honoured to extol the virtues and qualities of a good and capable man, but I am particularly pleased to nominate Ambassador Naik, who is a friend, and to wish him every success in his new assignment.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: His Excellency Mr. Niaz A. Naik of Pakistan has been nominated by the representative of the Bahamas. Since only one candidate has been presented, I propose that under rule 103 the Committee decide not to have a secret ballot.

It was so decided.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: I therefore declare His Excellency Mr. Niaz A. Naik of Pakistan elected Chairman of the First Committee by acclamation.

The meeting rose at 5.35 p.m.