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Chairman: Mr. Piero VINCI (Italy).

**Organization of work (A/C.1/964 and Add.1;
A/C.1/L.422 and Add.1-3)**

1. The CHAIRMAN: I should like first to apologize to the members of the Committee for opening the meeting a little later than the scheduled time. I shall have to apologize again after the statement I am about to make, because we might have to have a suspension of the meeting.

2. I should like to say the following. First of all, members will recall that the Committee adjourned its meeting last Saturday on the basis of a motion by the representative of India that it should adjourn until the middle of this week and that the Chairman should be authorized to hold consultations with regard to the organization of our work. In this connexion I wish to thank all the members of the Committee for the confidence they have placed in the Chairman.

3. Following upon that decision of the Committee, I have had intensive consultations during the past three days in an effort to enable the Committee to proceed with the important work entrusted to it.

4. I should like to recall in this connexion that in my preliminary statement at the 1584th meeting I said that in view of the limited time at our disposal, we should make an effort to agree without delay on our order of business. That is a point on which I believe we all agree. In fact, in my consultations I detected a general desire for the Committee to decide without further delay the priorities for the consideration of the items referred to us by the General Committee. I think there is also a general desire to have some type of flexible time-table agreed upon so that each delegation may be in a position to notify its own experts and collaborators on specific items about when they will need to be present in New York to take part in the Committee's deliberations. I think that is a consideration which is in the mind of many delegations.

5. Despite the general consensus on the points I have just mentioned, I have come to the conclusion that there are still some differences among delegations as to the order of priority as well as some other aspects of our order of business. I would dare to say that those are minor difficulties, which I hope it will be possible to overcome very soon.

6. Bearing in mind the consultations that I have held and the views expressed in the Committee by the various delegations on the present item of our agenda, I should like to say that some more time is needed to try to reach an agreed solution that will enable the Committee to begin its work as scheduled, which is Monday, 28 October.

7. Therefore, I would propose, if there is no objection, that the meeting be suspended until 12.30 p.m. in order to enable me to continue these consultations and, as I hope, to return to the Committee with a final solution.

8. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia): I do not think that any representative will object to the suspension, but I would request the Chairman to reconvene the Committee at 12 o'clock instead of 12.30. If the parties participating in the consultations are unable to reach an agreement in three quarters of an hour I do not think that another half hour will make much difference. In other words, I should like the Committee as a whole to have a full hour in which to decide this question. If the parties to the consultations cannot finish by 12 o'clock, I think that will mean that they cannot agree, and then the Committee as a whole will have to be consulted. I am not saying this with regard to myself alone, but with regard to every representative who exercises sovereignty on behalf of his Government here. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, although I am mindful of the fact that consultations are very useful, I should like to ask you to set 12 o'clock as the time for ending the suspension, or 12.15 o'clock at the latest.

9. Mr. NABWERA (Kenya): My delegation has a great deal of sympathy for the views expressed by the representative of Saudi Arabia. Much as we would like to accommodate those delegations with differing views on the order of business, we believe that they have been holding up this Committee's work for a long time now and we would like to impose a limit on the amount of time we can give them to try to iron out their differences. My delegation feels that suspending until 12 o'clock will not give them enough time. Would it be possible to give them until tomorrow morning so that we should not have to interrupt our work for the rest of this morning and so that we could come here tomorrow morning knowing that they have resolved their differences? If by then they have not resolved their differences the Committee must itself decide on the order of priority.

10. The CHAIRMAN: In that connexion I should like to remind the Committee that there is a plenary meeting tomorrow, so it will be quite impossible for the First Committee to meet.

11. Mr. PIÑERA (Chile) (*translated from Spanish*): I take the floor at this moment with some diffidence, since I

appreciate that what is most urgent is to support the Chairman's proposal. I do so, of course, whole-heartedly; and endorsing the view of the representative of Saudi Arabia, I urge that the consultations be concluded at the earliest possible moment.

12. I believe that the important thing at this moment—I am speaking for my own delegation but I find the same view expressed in conversations I have had with a number of delegations and with the Chairman, who was kind enough to consult me—is to appeal to the parties most affected to fall in with what seems to be the thinking of the majority in the Committee, so that by 12 noon or 12.30 p.m. a solution to this problem could be reached.

13. The problem is not particularly difficult. The solution which the Chairman is discussing earnestly with the representatives most directly concerned should be satisfactorily found today. That is why Chile, a small country but one which always aims at conciliation, addresses an appeal—modest enough perhaps to have some effect—that those now being consulted by the Chairman, whom again I thank for his courtesy towards me, should produce by noon or 12.30 p.m. a solution to the question of the organization of our work and the order of priorities. I say again, it is not a difficult task provided that the will to find a solution exists on both sides, as I am sure it does.

14. In a word, my purpose is to support whole-heartedly the proposal from the Chair and to appeal to those with whom the Chairman is in consultation to reach agreement. It is not impossible; in fact it is entirely feasible within a short space of time. That is my delegation's view, at any rate.

15. The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representatives of Saudi Arabia, Kenya and Chile for the understanding and spirit of co-operation they have shown towards me in this rather delicate position. To accommodate all the views, I would suggest we should suspend the meeting until 12.15, if that is agreeable.

It was so decided.

The meeting was suspended at 11.25 a.m. and resumed at 12.55 p.m.

16. The CHAIRMAN: I shall again have to start by offering my apologies to all members. They have shown a great deal of patience and a spirit of understanding. I would have been the happiest man on earth to be able to come here and tell the Committee that we had concluded our consultation and that I was in a position to present the final solution. Unfortunately that is not the case. But I would add at once that the time we have consumed actually spares the Committee time, in a way, because the minor differences that still exist have almost been ironed out, and I have the feeling that we are very close to the final solution.

17. I think that, all things considered, we are carrying out a useful effort. I am still counting on the understanding and co-operation of the members of the Committee in giving us some more time to try to come to an agreement acceptable to the Committee as a whole.

18. Now, as we are close to that final settlement, I think the Committee should try to meet as soon as possible. We

are already exploring the possibility of meeting tomorrow before or after one of the meetings of the General Assembly. If it is possible to do so, we shall make an announcement in the *Journal*.

19. If that is acceptable to the Committee, we shall proceed along those lines.

20. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia): I must say, Mr. Chairman, that I commiserate with you and with those who have been meeting with you, for it seems that the consultations have been unduly protracted. It is heartening to hear, though, that the gap is narrowing. But there can always be a slip 'twixt cup and lip. So that, inasmuch as the gap has narrowed, I think those who have been consulting with you owe it to us to let us know, through you, what are the areas of agreement that have already been achieved, so that we may know where we stand. They should also let us know what are the areas in which there has been no agreement. I hope those areas of disagreement are small and that they can be removed tomorrow.

21. You, Sir, are a stickler for finishing our work, and I must say that if we proceed in this manner we shall not be able to cover even half our agenda. We have, perhaps, been dealing silently with the substance, without really touching on it in words; and that may be useful. However, I must draw your attention, Sir, to the fact that I had made a formal proposal, and that out of deference to you—because you were consulting with the parties who had divergent views—and out of deference to the parties themselves, I did not press that proposal of mine to deal with the Korean question. I did amend it; I said I would settle for the item concerning the sea-bed. We were talking, of course, of priorities, not of the substance. On the other hand, I do not think I would settle, like many small Powers, for taking disarmament after the sea-bed, because we would then find ourselves in the same quandary as we have for the last few years. In other words, the Korean question would be relegated to the end, and discussion then would be merely academic.

22. Therefore, in concluding, I would say the following. I have had my own humble consultations—with weak Powers, not with strong ones—and I would say that we should, perhaps, in a spirit of compromise, deal with the sea-bed and ocean floor first; and then, also in a spirit of compromise, in order to give the protagonists—and I do not have to name them—time, we might consider disarmament, with this proviso: that if they come to an agreement meanwhile, we will interrupt the discussion of disarmament. If they come to an agreement, I say; because, after all, disarmament consists of several items that we have, perhaps rightly, put together under one umbrella. But because of the fear that we might be repeating ourselves, producing no results as in past years, I think it would be wise, provided, as I say, the protagonists come to an agreement, that we interrupt our discussion of disarmament and take up the question of Korea in serious fashion, and with the hope that both sides will agree to come to the United Nations so that, at least this year, we may listen to what they have to say. By "both sides" I mean the North and the South.

23. Some have asked me why I submitted a draft resolution [A/C.1/L.424]. It was in order to determine,

once and for all, whether we can deal with this question constructively, by having both parties come before us and tell us about their problems—that is, the Koreans, whether from the North or from the South.

24. It is on that understanding, Mr. Chairman, that we may perhaps adjourn, hoping that the question of the sea-bed will be discussed first; and that, secondly, disarmament will be discussed, in part; and that if those directly concerned in the Korean question come to an agreement, we shall then interrupt discussion of the question of disarmament, and, seriously and in a business-like—not merely an academic—manner, take up the question of Korea, listening to what both the South Koreans have to say and what the North Koreans have to say.

25. I had to make that clarification. Some friends had taken issue with me as to what I meant by my draft resolution. We are not now touching on the substance, but I shall have a great deal to say when we do and when I introduce my draft resolution, which is substantive although it has procedural aspects.

26. The CHAIRMAN: I should like to assure the representative of Saudi Arabia that the Chairman appreciates—as do, I am sure, the main parties involved in the consultations—his understanding. I can assure him also that the views he has expressed will be taken fully into consideration in the forthcoming consultations. I do hope that if we come to a final agreement—as I believe we shall—he will be satisfied with the substance of that agreement.

27. Mr. MISHRA (India): Mr. Chairman, I do not want to go into the order of items, because you have a separate list of speakers for the discussion of that question. But I should like to support the representative of Saudi Arabia in regard to your letting the Committee know what are the areas of agreement and the areas of disagreement. I do so not for the purpose of starting a discussion on this, but because, as all of us know, there are 125 members here and most of them have to make up their mind in regard to any formula that might be worked out. I think it would be of some advantage to let the Committee know what the proposal is and what differences there are on that proposal.

28. The CHAIRMAN: May I just say that it is now late and, if I were to try to give some indication of what we are discussing in the consultations, it would take a good deal of time and perhaps even make those consultations more difficult. Therefore, would the representatives of Saudi Arabia and India be so kind as to leave the matter as it is. If we meet tomorrow—as I hope—and if I am not able to announce an agreement, then I shall try to satisfy the request put to me.

29. Mr. PIÑERA (Chile) (*translated from Spanish*): Mr. Chairman, in view of what you have said and of the lateness of the hour, it is with some reluctance that I again take the floor. But my sense of duty as the representative of a small country obliges me to support both the view expressed by the representative of Saudi Arabia and the suggestion made by the representative of India.

30. In my opinion, if this Committee, with its 125 members, were duly informed of the common ground that

exists and of what I believe are minor points of difference, an agreement could be reached more easily; for the view of the vast majority in this Committee—which I share—is that an agreement must be reached rapidly, so that the work of the Committee can proceed smoothly.

31. On Monday 28 October we are scheduled to begin our work. That has been established, and we are all tacitly in agreement. The representative of Saudi Arabia did not submit a formal proposal; he made a suggestion, which I venture to support. It would appear that there is no objection to this. I have spoken to the representatives of large, medium-sized and small countries, and there appears to be no objection to beginning our work with the discussion of the question of the sea-bed. The reason why I raise this issue is because it is my impression that there is no disagreement about dealing with the sea-bed before we discuss disarmament. Opinions may well differ in some extreme cases, but there is a large majority in favour. That being so, I think we might devote a few days to this item at the end of October and early in November, so as to allow the Second Committee, which is no less important than our own Committee, to take up the question of the resources of the sea about 11 November.

32. Nor do I believe there is any difference of opinion regarding our subsequent discussion of disarmament. Where there do appear to be genuine differences of opinion is about the order of discussion of the question of Korea. Some members of the Committee, and you too, Mr. Chairman, would place this question first. Others for perfectly valid reasons would like it to come third on the list.

33. I shall not discuss the question of outer space because apparently there is a tacit agreement that it should be dealt with at the end.

34. As regards the differences that separate us, there are genuinely divergent views on the Korean question, and there are also differences as to when the various resolutions on invitations are to be discussed. There are at the moment two draft resolutions on the subject, and a third has just appeared. Tomorrow there may be a fourth, because in some quarters there are different views on this point. I should like therefore, Mr. Chairman, to support your proposal that having consulted a very large number of delegations—the fourteen sponsors of one draft and sixteen of the other—the Committee should meet tomorrow, in the hope, the confident hope as far as my delegation is concerned, that you will make every possible effort to reach a solution. My delegation is agreeable to meeting tomorrow, but with the suggestion—I would not like to make it a condition—that whatever the result of the consultations, we take up on Monday 28 October an item which apparently has no complications, that of the sea-bed, provided we are ready to interrupt the debate on the item or even the discussion on disarmament, as the representative of Saudi Arabia wisely suggested, in order to take up the Korean question in all its aspects. These include the question of the invitation to be issued, which some delegations regard as coming within the sphere of organization of work. Thus we must leave the controversial items aside for the moment and embark next Monday on the issue of the sea-bed, provided we all agree.

35. I am confident, Mr. Chairman, that with your skill and your great gifts as a conciliator, and given the spirit of give-and-take of those you have consulted directly, of whom I have the honour to be one, you will find a solution tomorrow, if not a complete one, at any rate one that will enable us to embark on the substance of the sea-bed item on Monday.

36. My choice of this is not dictated by personal reasons based on my country's interests, as is the case with many countries, but simply by the fact that it is an item where there is no argument about discussing it before the question of disarmament and possibly even before that of Korea, always provided that the debate could be interrupted at any convenient moment to take up the Korean question.

37. I am not putting forward a proposal. I am merely making a suggestion intended to back up the exemplary conduct of our Chairman.

38. The CHAIRMAN: I wish to thank the representative of Chile for his understanding and his support. I should like to add that his previous suggestions have been taken into full consideration during the consultations, just as the new views he has expressed also will be taken fully into consideration.

39. One more thing I should like to make clear is that the reason for these efforts is the desire to begin our real work on Monday, 28 October, and I hope that it will be realized.

40. Mr. ASANTE (Ghana): My delegation does not like final solutions, even when they are imminent. However, we find it difficult to disagree with you, Mr. Chairman, and would accept your suggestion. We would request you kindly to be good enough to carry on with your consultations. But we also have noticed that when great minds meet they tend to read complications into simple issues. We have to make daily reports to our Governments as to what goes on here, and for my part I find it difficult to describe what has been taking place. It is difficult to describe it in such a way that they will not think that we are not all right.

41. Therefore, I would suggest that when we meet again we should perhaps, whether you have found a solution or not, consult the rules of procedure to find out how to deal with questions on which we cannot unanimously agree.

42. The CHAIRMAN: Before adjourning, I should now like to fulfil a very pleasant duty. I should like to take a few moments more of the Committee's time to comment on the recent remarkable flight of the United States spaceship, *Apollo 7*.

43. It is pertinent, I believe, for this Committee, which has to deal with outer space activities, to take note of the main

achievements made in this field when they take place. I believe we all applaud the courage and skill of Captain Schirra, Major Eisele and Mr. Cunningham. The astronauts and cosmonauts who preceded them and those who will surely follow in their steps into outer space are truly the envoys of all mankind. In the flight of *Apollo 7* there was an added dimension which, it seems to me, was most significant, dramatizing the very real link between our envoys in space and those of us who are bound to the planet earth. As the Secretary-General of the United Nations stated in his message of congratulations to President Johnson:

“I extend my heartiest congratulations on it [*this flight*] to you, Mr. President, to your Government, to the American people, and particularly to the gallant and skilful but still very human astronauts who, through their telecasts, enabled so many millions of viewers to join them in spirit.”

I believe we all concur with the feelings expressed so eloquently by the Secretary-General.

44. Mr. PEDERSEN (United States of America): Mr. Chairman, I wish to thank you, on behalf of the United States delegation, for your very generous remarks with regard to the success of the United States manned space flight *Apollo 7*. As Ambassador Wiggins said in a recent statement in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space¹ we accept these congratulations as an expression of the satisfaction that all of us have in this voyage, not as the endeavour of one national State alone but as the achievement of the scientific community of the whole world. We must view every triumph in space as a collective effort and an achievement of the whole community of nations, deriving its success from that reservoir of human knowledge which is the inheritance of all mankind.

45. Our delegation will, of course, convey your remarks to the three astronauts involved at the earliest opportunity.

46. The CHAIRMAN: Before adjourning the meeting I should like to say that some explorations have been made to see if we could meet tomorrow. It seems that we might have some difficulty in arranging for a meeting then, since it will be the last day of the general debate. But I should like to assure the Committee that I shall try my best, and to say that should we be unable to meet tomorrow we might meet on Saturday morning, because it is my sincere intent and earnest purpose that we should start on Monday, 28 October, dealing with the item that we agree to take as the first item of our agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.25 p.m.

¹ See A/AC.105/P.V.54 (mimeographed).