



UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



PROVISIONAL

A/C.1/PV.2046  
2 October 1975

ENGLISH

---

Thirtieth Session

FIRST COMMITTEE

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TWO THOUSAND AND  
FORTY-SIXTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Tuesday, 30 September 1975, at 3 p.m.

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. GHORRA	(Lebanon)
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. ARTEAGA ACOSTA	(Venezuela)

- Statement by the Chairman
- Election of the Vice-Chairmen
- Election of the Rapporteur
- Organization of work

---

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches in the other languages. The final text will be distributed as soon as possible.

Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be sent in quadruplicate within three working days to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, Department of Conference Services, Room LX-2332, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

AS THIS RECORD WAS DISTRIBUTED ON 3 OCTOBER 1975, THE TIME-LIMIT FOR CORRECTIONS WILL BE 8 OCTOBER 1975.

The co-operation of delegations in strictly observing this time-limit would be greatly appreciated.

75-71006/A

The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN: I wish to begin my statement by expressing my profound appreciation to the League of Arab States for having nominated me to the Chairmanship of the First Committee, and to the Group of Asian States for having endorsed my candidature. At the same time, I wish to extend to each and every delegation my sincere thanks and gratitude for the honour and privilege bestowed upon me and upon my delegation by electing me as Chairman of this Committee. I consider your action as a tribute paid not to me but to my country, Lebanon, which, since the inception of the United Nations, has been an active Member dedicated to the purposes and principles of the Charter.

It has been my privilege to develop personal friendships with many of my colleagues here and I am sure that I can count on their tolerance to offset any human short-comings I may have in the conduct of the business of the Committee. I know that I am following a lineage of very distinguished Chairmen who have presided ably and skilfully over the work of this Committee for the last few years, and I am delighted to see some of them still among us. I am certain that I can benefit from their advice and presence to advance our work.

In particular, I wish to pay a vibrant tribute to my immediate predecessor, Ambassador Carlos Ortiz de Rozas of Argentina, who is known to be a well-seasoned, tactful, and intelligent diplomat. He has earned the respect and admiration of all delegations for his untiring endeavours, and I am personally grateful to him for the flattering manner in which he presented my nomination at the first meeting of this Committee. Much of the success of this Committee last year was due to his engaging personality and negotiating ability.

I am also especially delighted to have to assist me, on my right and on my left, two old friends on whose experience and skill I shall draw immeasurably in the organization and conduct of these meetings. I am naturally referring to the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Security Council Affairs, Mr. Shevchenko, and the Committee Secretary, Mr. Panerjee. We can all count on their co-operation and on that of their very able and dedicated staff and assistants.

(The Chairman)

It has been my privilege, as Chairman of the Group of Asian States for this past month, to welcome in the General Assembly the new States of Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, and Cape Verde. I wish to reiterate that welcome here on my own behalf, as Chairman, and on that of all members of this Committee. I am confident that these States will make significant contributions to the progress of our work and in the service of the ideals of the United Nations.

I hope as far as I am concerned to be able to justify the confidence you have placed in me. You can rest assured that I will devote my efforts to the service of the Committee and will conduct the deliberations in a spirit of dedication and complete impartiality. I am certain that I can count on your collective and individual collaboration in the performance of my duties. I realize that we have a long session and a heavy programme of work ahead of us. Yet, I believe that in a spirit of conciliation, accommodation, and useful dialogue, we can achieve positive results.

The international community and world public opinion expect from the United Nations, and especially from this Committee, progress on the various items before us, particularly those dealing with Korea, disarmament, international security, and the peaceful uses of outer space.

#### ELECTION OF TWO VICE-CHAIRMEN

The CHAIRMAN: The agenda for today's meeting concerns the election of the Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur. Before taking up the items on our agenda, I would like to draw the attention of the members of the Committee to the decision of the General Assembly, taken at its 1935th meeting on 22 September 1971, concerning the procedure regarding the election of officers of the main committees. According to that decision, the nomination of candidates should be limited to one statement for each candidate, after which the Committee should immediately proceed to the election. The Committee will follow this procedure in regard to the items on our agenda for today.

Mr. ARDIQ (Afghanistan): It is my pleasure, on behalf of the delegation of Afghanistan, to extend to you, Sir, our heartfelt felicitations and good wishes on your election as the Chairman of this Committee. We are all indeed fortunate to have the benefit of your outstanding ability, wide experience and dynamism in directing our deliberations in this Committee during this important session.



(Mr. Siddiq, Afghanistan)

I have the honour and privilege to nominate His Excellency Baron Rüdiger von Wechmar, the Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, as Vice-Chairman of the First Committee at this session.

Ambassador von Wechmar studied journalism and worked in this field first as a correspondent at the German News Service, then as Chief of the United Press Bureau in Bonn, and later as head of the Eastern European Bureau of German Television. In 1958 he joined the government service of the Federal Republic of Germany, in 1959 and 1961 he served as Minister of the Observer Delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany to the fourteenth and sixteenth sessions of the General Assembly. In 1969 he assumed the functions of Deputy Chief of the Federal Press and Information Office, and of Government spokesman. Two years later he was appointed Secretary of State, Chief of the Federal Press and Information Office, and chief government spokesman.

Ambassador von Wechmar was appointed as Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations in July 1974. During his enlightened career, Ambassador von Wechmar has distinguished himself not only as an able journalist but also as an eminent diplomat. During his tenure of office as the Permanent Representative of his country to the United Nations, he has gained the reputation of being a skilled and outstanding diplomat. He is well known to us all and needs no further introduction. His personal qualifications, knowledge and experience in the field of international relations and in the United Nations, assures us that he is fully qualified for the vice-chairmanship of the First Committee.

I am confident that under your leadership in this Committee, Mr. Chairman, all our proceedings will be carried out in the most desirable and successful manner. I therefore venture to most warmly recommend to the Committee the nomination of Ambassador von Wechmar and express the hope that he will be elected unanimously as Vice-Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: There are no other nominations at this stage. I take it that the Committee wishes to declare Ambassador von Wechmar elected Vice-Chairman of the First Committee by acclamation.

Baron Rüdiger von Wechmar (Federal Republic of Germany) was elected Vice-Chairman of the First Committee by acclamation.

Mr. ROSE (German Democratic Republic): First of all, Mr. Chairman, I would like to congratulate you on your unanimous election as Chairman of this important Committee. Your personal qualifications, your impartiality and your ample experience in the work of the United Nations are our best assurances that this Committee, under your chairmanship, will fulfil the urgent tasks before it in the best possible manner. Let me also, on behalf of my delegation, congratulate the Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany on his unanimous election as Vice-Chairman of this Committee.

According to our custom, it is my privilege today to nominate Mr. Patrice Mikanagu of Burundi as Vice-Chairman of our Committee. Mr. Mikanagu, a candidate for a doctor's degree in jurisprudence at the University of Zaire and in social sciences at the University of Burundi, is a diplomat well known to the First Committee. He has held the following functions: Administrative Director at the Office of the President of the Republic of Burundi, Director General for Political and Administrative Affairs at the Office of the President of the Republic of Burundi, First Counsellor at the Embassy of Burundi at Kinshasa, Zaire, First Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Burundi to the United Nations -- a position which he is still holding.

Mr. Mikanagu has participated in numerous international conferences, in particular in several summits of the Organization of African Unity and of the non-aligned countries. He was also Vice-Chairman of the Third Permanent Committee of the United Nations Council for Namibia. He is Vice-Chairman of the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Committee for the World Disarmament Conference, and he has been a representative of Burundi on the First Committee since 1970.

I am convinced that members of the First Committee will find in Mr. Mikanagu a skilled diplomat, acquainted with international practice and having extensive experience. Therefore, I wish most warmly to recommend to the Committee the nomination of Mr. Patrice Mikanagu, First Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Burundi to the United Nations, as Vice-Chairman of the First Committee for this session. I am convinced that the Committee will elect Mr. Mikanagu unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN: As there is no other nomination, I take it that the Committee wishes to declare Mr. Mikanagu elected Vice-Chairman of the First Committee by acclamation.

Mr. Patrice Mikanagu (Burundi) was elected Vice-Chairman of the First Committee by acclamation.

## ELECTION OF THE RAPPORTEUR

Mr. COSTA LOBO (Portugal) (interpretation from French): First of all, Mr. Chairman, permit me to convey to you the warm congratulations of my delegation on your unanimous election to preside over this Committee. Because of the importance of your task, and knowing your intellectual qualities, your talent as negotiator and your knowledge of the subjects we shall be debating, I think we can all rejoice at the choice we have made.

May I also take this occasion to congratulate Ambassador von Wechmar and Mr. Patrice Mikanagu, who have been elected Vice-Chairmen of this Committee. Having already, in plenary, welcomed the admission of the Republic of Cape Verde, the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe and the People's Republic of Mozambique to the United Nations, I am pleased to welcome them now to the First Committee.

The post of Rapporteur which I held during the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly was a source of much satisfaction for me, and I now have the further satisfaction and the privilege to present the candidacy of my colleague and friend, Mr. Arteaga Acosta of the delegation of Venezuela, for the post of Rapporteur of the First Committee.

Mr. Arteaga Acosta, who was born in Coro, Venezuela on 3 October 1948, is the youngest, or certainly one of the youngest, Rapporteurs to serve this Assembly. His professional experience, however, is already considerable, and I am sure that he will make an extremely useful contribution in the exercise of his duties.

Upon completion of his studies at the Faculty of Economics at the Central University of Venezuela, Mr. Arteaga Acosta was named Third Secretary of his country's Permanent Mission to the United Nations, and he has been a member of the Venezuelan delegation to the General Assembly since its twenty-sixth session. He also represented his country at the seventeenth and eighteenth sessions of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, and was a member of the Venezuelan delegation to the third session of the Conference on the Law of the Sea. However, it is in the decolonization field that Mr. Arteaga Acosta has most strikingly demonstrated his professional qualifications. In addition to being a member of the Venezuelan delegation to the Special Committee on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples from 1971 to 1974,

(Mr. Costa Lobo, Portugal)

he occupied the post of Rapporteur of Sub-Committee II in 1973 and, the following year, was elected Rapporteur of the Special Committee.

I have known Mr. Arteaga Acosta for a number of years, and have always appreciated his training, his good sense of humour and his devotion to work -- attributes which clearly qualify him for the post of Rapporteur of this Committee.

I could not end this statement without stressing the excellent relations existing between Venezuela and Portugal, which, along with Mr. Arteaga Acosta's personal qualifications, make it all the more gratifying for me, as representative of Portugal, to submit the candidacy of the representative of Venezuela.

In conclusion, it is my honour to propose the candidacy of Mr. Horacio Arteaga Acosta of the delegation of Venezuela for the post of Rapporteur of the First Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: Members of the Committee have just heard the representative of Portugal nominate Mr. Horacio Arteaga Acosta of Venezuela for the post of Rapporteur. As there are no other nominations, I take it that the Committee wishes to elect Mr. Arteaga Acosta by acclamation.

Mr. Arteaga Acosta (Venezuela) was elected Rapporteur of the First Committee by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN: May I express my cordial congratulations to the representative of Venezuela upon his election as Rapporteur of the First Committee. I invite him now to take his place at the Officers' table.

Before calling on the next speaker, I wish to thank most heartily the representatives of Afghanistan, the German Democratic Republic and Portugal for their kind words about me. They have indeed bestowed many compliments upon me which I certainly do not deserve. I say this not in a spirit of false modesty but rather in the hope that I shall be able to earn those congratulations by successfully serving this Committee.

(The Chairman)

May I now draw the attention of members to rule 110 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, which reads as follows:

"Congratulations 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."

I hope that this rule will be applied and respected today and in the future, and I should be personally grateful to delegations if they could dispense with that customary passage at the beginning of their statements.

Mr. ORTIZ DE ROZAS (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): The rules of procedure give me the privilege of speaking first, as you have just reminded us, Mr. Chairman. Practice and tradition gave me the pleasure and the privilege of submitting your candidacy to the General Assembly. Now it is the rules of procedure which provide me with this opportunity once again. That is why, Mr. Chairman, nothing could make me happier than to congratulate you most warmly on your unanimous election to preside over this Committee.

In spite of the provisions of rule 110 of the General Assembly's rules of procedure, experience shows that in the course of subsequent statements many tributes will be paid to your intelligence, Sir, to your fine qualities as a gentleman and a diplomat, and to your personal and professional qualifications, which have made you one of the most distinguished representatives at the United Nations.

(Mr. Ortiz de Rozas, Argentina)

At this moment, however, knowing from experience the delicate nature of the task of the Chairman of the First Committee, not only do I wish to add my congratulations to those that have already been addressed to you, but very particularly I wish you every success in the difficult undertaking you are beginning this afternoon. And since we must not only express good wishes but offer our co-operation, I now offer you my complete co-operation so that you may successfully discharge your responsibilities, as we know you will. I am sure -- and, exercising the privilege conferred under the rules of procedure, I feel sure that I speak for the First Committee as a whole -- that the conduct of our debates could not be in better hands. So, Mr. Chairman, we most sincerely and warmly congratulate you and wish you every success at the helm of the First Committee.

Permit me also to express these sentiments to the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, my good friend Ambassador Rudiger von Wechmar, my good friend the representative of Burundi, Mr. Patrice Mikanagu, and to the representative of Venezuela, Mr. Horacio Arteaga Acosta, on their election as Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur, respectively, of the First Committee. With this team, Mr. Chairman, your task will be very easy.

With renewed expressions of my best wishes, I am most grateful, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity you have given me to speak on behalf of the First Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank most warmly my dear friend and colleague, Ambassador Ortiz de Rozas, for the very generous comments he made about me. I know he has established a great stature and example here in the First Committee. My only wish is to follow in his footsteps; and, if I am successful, I am sure it will be a credit to him rather than to me.

I wish also to join Ambassador Ortiz de Rozas in congratulating the other officers of the Committee -- His Excellency Ambassador von Wechmar,

(The Chairman)

Mr. Mikanagu and Mr. Arteaga Acosta -- on their unanimous election. I know that with their co-operation and dedication to the service of the Committee and the United Nations we shall perform the task that you have entrusted to us. I look forward to their very active co-operation, and I am sure that I can count on their assistance.

Mr. von WECHMAR (Federal Republic of Germany): Mr. Chairman, may I first congratulate you, on behalf of the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany and on my own behalf, on your unanimous election to the chairmanship of the First Committee of the thirtieth session of the General Assembly. We are certain that under your experienced guidance this Committee will be able to deal with its highly difficult and complex task in a constructive and effective way.

In this context, I should like also to thank the outgoing Chairman of this Committee, my good friend Ambassador Carlos Ortiz de Rozas, for the most distinguished way in which he handled the strenuous office last year.

May I also congratulate the representative of Burundi on his unanimous election as Vice-Chairman of this important Committee and extend my sincere congratulations to the representative of Venezuela on his election as Rapporteur of the Committee.

Permit me to voice my appreciation and thanks to all the representatives in the First Committee for having expressed their confidence in me by this unanimous election to the post of Vice-Chairman, an honour that reflects on my country and the people which I represent.

In particular I should like to thank the representative of Afghanistan, who nominated me for the post and who, like the representatives of the German Democratic Republic and Portugal, found such kind words for me.

Let me assure you, Mr. Chairman, of my full co-operation with you and the other officers of the Committee. I look forward to our working together.



The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, Ambassador von Wechmar, Vice-Chairman, for the kind remarks about me.

Mr. MIKANAGU (Burundi) (interpretation from French): Mr. Chairman, first of all I should like to congratulate you on your unanimous election and to say that the Burundi delegation is very happy to see you presiding over this Committee. We are sure that our Committee could not have had a better Chairman than you.

I should like also to congratulate the Ambassador of Argentina, my friend Mr. Ortiz de Rozas, with whom I have had the honour and privilege of working and from whom I have learned much.

I should like in addition to congratulate the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Rapporteur on their elections.

On behalf of my delegation, I should like to express our warm gratitude to this Committee for the confidence it has shown my country by electing me Vice-Chairman of this important Committee. It is with pleasure that I pledge to do my best to co-operate with it and to justify the confidence placed in me.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): I thank the representative of Burundi, our Vice-Chairman, for the very kind words he addressed to me.

Mr. ARTEAGA ACOSTA (Venezuela) (interpretation from Spanish):

Mr. Chairman, I should like first of all sincerely to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the First Committee at this session of the General Assembly. Your personal merits, which are known to us all, and your vast experience in the United Nations in the service of your great country make you worthy to guide the proceedings of this important Committee.

Permit me also to congratulate Ambassador von Wechmar of the Federal Republic of Germany and Mr. Mikanagu of Burundi, who were elected Vice-Chairmen of the Committee.

Also, I should like to express my gratitude to Mr. Antonio Costa Lobo, the excellent Rapporteur of the Committee last year, for his kindness in nominating me and for his kind words about my country. I am particularly pleased that it was a representative of Portugal, a country with which Venezuela has always enjoyed the best relations, who put my name forward.

It is for me a matter of profound emotion that a representative of Venezuela has been chosen as Rapporteur of the Committee. I should like to thank the members of the Committee for having elected me, which I view as a gesture of confidence and friendship in the country I represent. I should like to assure you, Mr. Chairman, and the other members and officers of the Committee that I shall do my best to perform my duties as effectively as possible in a post regarding which you were good enough to honour Venezuela.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the Rapporteur for the kind and generous words he addressed to me and my country.

Mr. SWEDAN (Libyan Arab Republic) (interpretation from Arabic):

Mr. Chairman, in spite of the rules of procedure, I feel that it is my duty -- and, indeed, a great honour and pleasure for me who knows you personally -- to extend to you the congratulations of my country upon your unanimous election as Chairman of the First Committee. Your election to this post confirms your many qualities, qualities to which all of us who have known you at the United Nations can attest. It is also a recognition of the important role played by your country, Lebanon.

I wish you all success, and, on behalf of my delegation, I wish to reiterate our full co-operation with you in the discharge of your duties.

I should also like to congratulate the other officers of the Committee -- the two Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteur.

I should like to praise the efforts and the role played by His Excellency Ambassador Ortiz de Rozas of Argentina during his chairmanship of this Committee during the last session of the General Assembly.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): I wish to thank the representative of the Libyan Arab Republic for his kind words and congratulations and the sentiments he expressed towards my country.

#### ORGANIZATION OF WORK (A/C.1/1053)

The CHAIRMAN: I should like now to make a general comment on our programme of work.

The list of items allocated to the First Committee by the General Assembly is contained in document A/C.1/1053. In establishing a time-table for the discussion of the items on our agenda, the following limitations imposed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the General Committee should be taken into account.

For the present session, the general debate in the General Assembly is scheduled to end on 8 October, and, according to established practice, the First Committee will start its work only after the end of the general

(The Chairman)

debate in the plenary. On the other hand, the Committee should as much as possible not go beyond the cut-off date suggested by the President of the General Assembly -- that is, 6 December 1975.

These limitations leave the Committee with a period extending from 9 October to 6 December, during which it should be able to complete its heavy workload. The Committee will have at its disposal a maximum of 86 meetings, and I hope that fewer meetings will be required.

The work programme foresees that our deliberations will demand the full utilization of the time available. In this connexion I would at this stage call upon members of the Committee to submit as much in advance as feasible draft resolutions pertaining to the different items so as to provide sufficient time for necessary consultations. I would also urge delegations to inscribe their names on the list of speakers for the various items as early as possible so as to facilitate the task of the Secretariat and the Chairman.

As the Committee knows, we have on our agenda items concerning outer space, Korea, disarmament and the strengthening of international security. The members of the Committee already know the traditions of the Committee. However, requests were made for a change in the order in which these items will be taken up in the Committee. I have conducted very intensive consultations with various delegations and groups and I had hoped to be in a position to give you a definite programme of work today.

I wish to make one preliminary comment, and that is that all delegations seem to be in agreement to start with the items on outer space, that is, items 33 and 34. We intend to devote eight meetings to these items and to begin the debate on 9 October.

Mr. ROSE (German Democratic Republic): As for those other items I would like to make a suggestion. Consultations between our group and members of other groups have not been completed as yet. Therefore, we need some further time to clarify our position concerning the order of items in the programme of work. I would therefore suggest that we have a consensus as far as the first item is concerned, as you have just proposed to us, and to wait a little as far as agreement on the order of the other items is concerned, and to decide on the programme or on the order of the items a little later, perhaps tomorrow or the day after.

I think it would be in the interest of all the members of the Committee to have a consensus on this point.

The CHAIRMAN: As a matter of fact, it was my intention to propose a programme of work as follows: first, we would start with outer space, then we would proceed to the question of Korea and then to the question of disarmament; finally, the question of the strengthening of international security.

However, I have been told privately that further consultations are needed to see whether we can reschedule those items.

Mr. RAHAL (Algeria) (interpretation from French): Mr. Chairman, despite my respect for the rules of the Assembly and of the First Committee, how can I resist the quite legitimate temptation to say how pleased I am to see you presiding over our debate. I also wish to extend my congratulations to the other officers of the Committee. You will recognize that I did not take too long in congratulating you, but my congratulations, for all that, are extremely warm and sincere.

With regard to the organization of our work, I believe that, in fact, there should not be any major difficulties in agreeing very swiftly on the order in which this Committee would like to deal with the main items of its programme. As you so well put it just now, consultations have already taken place

(Mr. Rahal, Algeria)

and I think that in the final analysis there are really no insurmountable difficulties as among the various positions. I should therefore like to submit a proposal. Nevertheless, in spite of what I am going to say, if the proposals I put forward do not meet with unanimous support, I shall go along with the view that we should perhaps suspend our work so as to continue informal consultations, and come back here with proposals which would then meet with the unanimous approval of this Committee.

The proposals I should like to make to the Committee, take account of two facts which are recognized by everyone. The first is that the problem of Korea is so important and has become so ripe for discussion that it would not be wise for our Committee to defer its discussion for too long. It would be appropriate in our view, therefore, and in the view of a number of delegations, for the debate on the Korean problem to take place as early as possible in the time-table of the work of the First Committee. This is the first point I would like to make.

My second point is of a more practical nature. As the Committee is aware, in order to have a delegation from the People's Democratic Republic of Korea attend the debate, an invitation to it must be issued and it must obtain a visa to enter the United States. Therefore, some time must elapse between the time we set a date for the debate on Korea and the date on which we actually begin the debate. Thus, if we were to decide today, as we seem to have agreed already, that the first item taken up will be the one on outer space, to be followed by the discussion of the Korean problem, the Korean delegation would not be able to get here in time.

That is why I would suggest, in the light of the two points I have briefly made -- because I do not think it is necessary for me to dwell on them at any length -- that after outer space the First Committee should consider an item on this agenda which would not take up too much time, such as international security. This, then, would be the second item on our agenda. And then the period of time given to the delegation of the People's Democratic Republic of Korea would be enough for that delegation subsequently to be able to come to New York to attend the debate on Korea in this Committee. After Korea, we should then study the question of disarmament which, of course, covers a number of subitems.

(Mr. Rahal, Algeria)

These are the proposals I would like to make and which I would like to see agreed to by all the representatives here. Because of the explanations I have already had occasion to give to many delegations on this point and also because I have met with a very favourable reception in my contacts, I would hope that the Committee would not take too much time to adopt these proposals. Nevertheless, as I said at the outset, if in spite of this -- and I would very much regret it -- these proposals are not agreed to by everyone, I shall go along with the proposal that there should be a suspension so as to be able to continue discussions to adopt a consensus.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): I thank my friend, the Ambassador, for his warm congratulations.

(continued in English)

I have now heard two suggestions -- I do not say proposals because we do not want to go into that -- one, to suspend the discussion of this item and then have some further consultations about the order in which we shall establish our programme of work; and another suggestion to proceed at this meeting to fix the programme as follows: outer space, strengthening of international security, Korea, and disarmament. I am really in the hands of the Committee regarding this matter. I am open to your suggestions.

Mr. CHOU (China) (interpretation from Chinese): We have just heard the proposal made by the representative of Algeria. The Chinese delegation is of the view that the programme of work proposed by the representative of Algeria is completely reasonable, namely: first, we should discuss the question of outer space, secondly, the "declaration on the strengthening of international security", thirdly, the question of Korea, and lastly, all the disarmament items.

The Ambassador of Algeria has eloquently demonstrated the complete logic of his proposal, which the Chinese delegation fully supports.

(Mr. Chou, China)

Since the question of Korea has already been included in the agenda of the First Committee, invitations should be extended, in accordance with past practice, to both the north and south of Korea to send respective delegations to participate in the discussion in this Committee on the question of Korea. We have heard this idea in the statement of the representative of Algeria.

Therefore, the Chinese delegation submits that our Committee should take a decision on this question immediately, so that the parties concerned can make the necessary preparations in time.

Mr. JOB (Yugoslavia): My congratulations to you, Mr. Chairman, and to the officers of the Committee will be even shorter than the congratulations extended to you by the representative of Algeria, on the assumption that they are taken to be even warmer. My delegation fully agrees with the proposal by the representative of Algeria regarding our time-table of work. It seems to us to be reasonable. It seems that the arguments he adduced are pertinent, both from the point of view of political moment and the substance of those items. Also from the point of view of courtesy that should be extended to anyone who has to arrive in New York, prepare himself for travel -- obtain all the documents etc. -- as the North Korean delegation obviously will have to do. So the proposed order of outer space, international security, Korea and then disarmament would, in our mind, be a reasonable one to adopt here. The fact that disarmament would then be at the end of the list would not mean that it would be relegated to a secondary level. The situation of the armaments race, and the lagging behind of disarmament is dramatic enough. Such meetings as the Lima Conference of the Non-Aligned Countries and the general debate so far at this session of the General Assembly has shown that disarmament is a burning item. So there is every guarantee that when we come to it -- being fourth in the list of items we will discuss -- there would be no dearth of oratory and we would most carefully discuss it, debate it and, we hope, reach a decision.



(Mr. Job, Yugoslavia)

My delegation would, therefore, support the proposal of the representative of Algeria, but if the proposal does not meet with general agreement here in the Committee then we would go along with the other proposal which he also supported. We could postpone our work and meet again shortly -- as suggested by the representative of the German Democratic Republic and in the meantime attempt to work out a consensus, because we believe an agreed solution in the form of a consensus is meaningful and always preferable to any other

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Yugoslavia for his congratulations and kind words about me.

Mr. VERRET (Haiti) (interpretation from French): Speaking in the First Committee for the first time during the thirtieth session of the General Assembly, it is a particular pleasure for me to congratulate you, on behalf of the delegation of Haiti, on your election as Chairman. We also wish to express our congratulations to the Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteur of this Committee, and at the same time to the three new Member States -- Cape Verde, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe -- who joined us this year.

Coming back to the debate, my delegation considers that the purpose of the First Committee, as regards this first meeting of the Committee, is to elect the Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteur and consider the items on our agenda, as submitted to us by the General Committee. This is more or less the traditional procedure which the First Committee has always followed -- a meeting on the organization of work. It remained so until September of last year, at the regular twenty-ninth session, at the meeting on the organization of our work.

It was only at a meeting on 9 December 1974, when we had a substantive discussion on Korea, that a decision was taken at the request of the delegation of Cuba to review the order decided upon on the question of Korea. In the opinion of my delegation, the Committee should not decide to establish priorities at this stage of the debate. Any decision on priority at this time would be premature and would not create an atmosphere conducive to a proper discussion of this contentious question.

(Mr. Verret, Haiti)

First, the proposals on Korea have not yet been distributed as Committee documents. Furthermore, several Member States are already thinking of introducing amendments. Moreover, other proposals may emerge in the course of the debate. For this reason, a decision on priority for the question would be devoid of meaning because we would have a debate without having all the facts before us. This would not be in the interest of the two Koreas.

We quite understand the desire of the delegation of Algeria to have the Korean question properly disposed of, but for our part we are in favour of a normal discussion. We believe it would be a great mistake to raise, at this stage, the question of the priority to be accorded to the proposals on Korea.

The CHAIRMAN: , I thank the representative of Haiti for the kind words he addressed to me.

In order to clear up a possible misunderstanding, may I say that what we are proposing today is the order to be established for the items on our calendar for the few weeks that we have.

It was the intention at one stage to have outer space as an item, and then Korea as an item, followed by all the disarmament questions under one heading, and then the question of the strengthening of international security.

This matter of priority to be established relates only to the order in which these items will be discussed by this Committee in order that the Secretariat will be able to draw up a plan for our guidance.

Since many delegations expect to invite experts and other representatives from various capitals to attend our meetings, it is very important at this stage that the Committee establish a certain order for its work so that we can proceed according to an established plan. I feel sure that the representative of Haiti will co-operate with us, knowing as I do his desire to facilitate the Committee's work.

Hence we could now proceed to establish an order of priority relating to the general headings of the items before us. This would not pertain to the details of those items. Now that we have heard some suggestions and proposals, I wonder if the representative of the German Democratic Republic wishes to make a further comment at this stage.

Mr. ROSE (German Democratic Republic): I think the suggestions made here are not very far apart from each other. At least, I consider the suggestion made by the representative of Algeria to postpone a decision to be in line with my own proposal to defer the matter for a day or two in order that we may have consultations.

I must confess quite frankly that this order of items which you proposed, Mr. Chairman, comes as something new to me; and other delegations are in the same position. We need some time for consultations -- not very much, but one or two days -- after which we can decide on the programme of work and the order of the general headings. Everything should be settled by consensus.

The CHAIRMAN: If I may clear up another possible misunderstanding, as I understood the proposal of the representative of Algeria, our Committee should take a decision today on the order of items. However, the representative of Yugoslavia has perhaps combined the two suggestions by supporting the one made by the representative of Algeria, while at the same time requesting a slight delay for further consultations.

Mr. JOB (Yugoslavia): I should just like to recall that, to the best of my recollection, the representative of Algeria suggested the order of the items, and then said that if there were no agreement on this today we could postpone the matter and perhaps later arrive at a consensus decision on it.

The CHAIRMAN: I see that different opinions have been expressed today on this matter, and I take it that the Committee would like to have perhaps another day or two for further consultations. But I believe that, as I mentioned before, we can now decide that the first items to be discussed by the Committee will be items 33 and 34, relating to outer space, and that we shall commence deliberations on those two items on 9 October. If there is no objection, it will be so decided.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: As far as the other items are concerned, we shall meet again to discuss the order in which the three remaining groups of items will be discussed.

Mr. RAHAL (Algeria) (interpretation from French): I have asked for the floor not to challenge your decision in any way, Mr. Chairman; but in the same context, before we continue our discussion, I should like to make the following suggestion.

The Committee should now decide to send invitations to the representatives of the two Koreas so that they can make the necessary preparations and avoid the difficulties I have already mentioned. I say this because if we wait until 9 October, the date of our next meeting, we shall have lost quite a good deal of time, and, in my view, we should enable delegations to make the necessary arrangements to get to New York -- which is not all that simple for them because of the various formalities, as everybody knows -- and also to prepare themselves for the debate itself.

I make that suggestion in the hope that, unlike my first proposal, it will meet with a favourable reception.

The CHAIRMAN: In answer to the representative of Algeria, it was my precise intention to proceed on this matter.

Mr. ISSRAELYAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Mr. Chairman, as is well known, the Soviet Union has never violated any agreements or treaties, nor has it ever infringed the Charter, or even the rules of procedure. Had we ever broken any rules of procedure, I would of course have taken this opportunity to say many kind words to you -- that you represent a friendly country, for example -- and I would have talked about my satisfaction at reminding everybody here that you, Ambassador Ghorra, successfully represented your country in Moscow, and with great satisfaction would I have said that you were a brilliant diplomat with very deep knowledge and experience. But if I were to do that I would be breaking the rules. Therefore, I will not actually say those words; I shall leave that till next time.

MP/eim

A/C.1/PV.2046

39-40

(Mr. Issraelyan, USSR)

May I therefore endorse the proposal made by the representative of Algeria that we should take a decision today to invite the representatives of the Korean Democratic People's Republic to participate in our discussion of the Korean question in the First Committee. There are indeed a lot of formalities, and our prompt invitation will help them get here in time.

(Mr. Issraelyan, USSR)

I should like to express a second wish. You said that we could determine our final order of work in this Committee at the next meeting, on 9 October. I think that the divergence of views which has emerged here today could easily be overcome and that we could achieve a consensus literally within one or two days. So I should like to say, in the light of the considerations mentioned by the representative of Algeria, that the representatives of Korea would have to know as soon as possible the date on which the discussion will take place. Perhaps we could have an extremely brief meeting of the First Committee to confirm the consensus which we shall without any doubt achieve -- not on 9 October, but instead in two or three days' time; let us say on 2 or 3 October. I hope -- I am practically certain -- that we shall achieve this consensus much earlier than 9 October. Thus the Korean representatives will know the actual date for the discussion of the Korean problem before 9 October. That was the point the Soviet delegation wished to make.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of the Soviet Union very much. I was going to take very strong exception to his breaking the rules, but I know he has done so in good faith and in the spirit of friendship that has always existed between us.

With reference to the question of an invitation, I agree with both the representatives of Algeria and the Soviet Union, and that was precisely what I had intended to do because representatives may recall that when the item on Korea was discussed during the twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth sessions of the General Assembly the Committee decided to invite the representatives of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and of the Republic of Korea to participate in the debate without the right to vote. The First Committee agrees, I believe, that this year similar invitations should be extended to both the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea.

If I hear no objection to this procedure, I shall request the Secretary-General to issue the appropriate invitations.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: With regard to the second point raised by the representative of the Soviet Union, I agree with him that we may proceed to hold a very short meeting -- perhaps within two or three days -- to formalize our consensus regarding the order of priority, whether we should take up the item on international security before Korea or Korea before international security. The point is this: if we take up international security first, the order would be: international security, Korea and then disarmament. If we take up Korea first, the order would be: Korea, disarmament and then international security. So we shall proceed to hold further consultations, with the Committee's agreement, and reconvene within a day or two to formalize this particular aspect.

Mr. MIKANAGU (Burundi) (interpretation from French): When I asked to be allowed to speak it was to support Algeria's proposal. It is perhaps a little late now. I do not know whether it is worth while to support the proposal now, but in any case with respect to the first part, that is, to invite the representatives of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, I think it is logical to allow enough time for those representatives to prepare themselves.

The CHAIRMAN: As we have some time left, perhaps we could use it and so lighten our burden for our next short meeting. I should like to make some remarks about conference services for our deliberations.

With reference to documentation, I should like to point out that the General Assembly has, over the years, adopted a number of resolutions on the control and limitation of documentation containing measures designed to make the most effective and economical use of this vital but very expensive element of the services. These rules have been summarized in document A/INF/136/Rev.1 -- which is available at the documents counter in this room -- and I may from time to time, as specific proposals relating to documentation are made, have to bring one or more of them to the Committee's attention. But, more important, I should like to ask you to exercise restraint in this matter, keeping requests for additional documentation to the minimum consistent with the requirements of our work.



(The Chairman)

The next point relates to interpretation. So that the best possible interpretation of statements can be made, members of the Committee should observe certain rather simple rules: first, please speak slowly; secondly, when representatives have prepared texts, please provide six copies for the interpreters and one for the record-writers; thirdly, whenever possible when quoting from documents please refer to paragraph numbers, not page numbers, because the page numbers are not identical in the texts of the various languages; and fourthly, the normal meeting times are 10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m., for morning meetings, and 3 to 6 p.m., for afternoon meetings.

So that we can make the optimum use of the time assigned the Committee, I urge delegations to be prompt to enable us to start on time -- and I mean prompt, because we are going to be prompt. I am going to have an arrangement with the Vice-Chairmen that at least two of us are here exactly on time so that at least one of us will be here to start the meeting as soon as we have a quorum. So please -- I make a fervent appeal to you -- respect this rule because we have a heavy workload and the First Committee, as you know, does not start its work until after the general debate in the plenary Assembly has been concluded. As a result, we have a very limited period of time in which to finish our work, and I hope that I can count on your co-operation in this particular respect.

I intend, also as a general rule, to end meetings at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. Two and a half to three hours is a reasonable period for a meeting, and in keeping to this schedule I shall be thinking of both the members of the Committee and of the servicing staff. As regards the latter, and in particular the interpreters, any notable extension of a meeting beyond the normal closing hour will require staff replacement. This can be done when there is adequate notice of **not** less than one hour, but it is not possible if a meeting simply continues. That latter type of extension will have to be avoided.

(The Chairman)

I appeal again to the members of the Committee to come to the meetings on time and to inscribe their names on the list early in the discussion, so that we can have a proper schedule for our meetings. I do not intend in any way to cancel any meeting, because we shall see to it that there is a sufficient number of speakers for every meeting. I shall discuss with Mr. Banerjee and members of the Secretariat the best way to ensure that we always have a list of speakers for every meeting so that we shall not have to cancel a meeting for lack of speakers. It has happened so often in the past that this Committee or others have had to cancel meetings merely because delegations at the very last moment said that they were not ready to speak.

I think that the United Nations is under financial strain, and we must help the Organization and our own delegations to have more order and effect some economies in our work. I know that I can depend on the members of the Committee, and I am sure that your co-operation will be most appreciated by all of us.

That concludes our work for today. The next meeting will be convened shortly and the date will be announced in the Journal. That meeting will be held only to settle the question of the priority to be given to the items on the Committee's agenda.

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.