THIRD REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Notes on the Provisional Agenda

The Third Regular Session of the General Assembly will convene on 21 September 1948, at 11:00 a.m., in the General Assembly Hall, Palais de Chaillot, Paris. The Provisional Agenda was dispatched to Member nations on 23 July in accordance with Rule 11 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly. Later items may be submitted by any Member at least 30 days before the opening date of the regular session, and these items, placed on a supplementary list, have to be communicated to Member nations at least 20 days before the opening date. The order in which the items are listed in the Provisional Agenda is not necessarily the order in which they will be taken up by the Assembly.

(Note: The notes on the agenda items given below are unofficial, but are added as background guidance for correspondents.)

1. Opening of the Session by the Chairman of the Delegation of Argentina.

(Note: At the opening of each session of the General Assembly, the Chairman of the 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 of the General Assembly's Rules of Procedure. Dr. Jose Arce of Argentina presided over the special General Assembly held 16 April - 14 May 1948.)

2. Appointment of the Credentials Committee.

(Note: The Credentials Committee is elected at the beginning of each session. It is made up of nine members.)

3. Election of the President.

(Note: The President is elected by secret ballot and simple majority by those present. There are no nominations. The President holds office until the close of the session at which he was elected.)


(Note: The Main Committees 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; (6) Legal Committee.

The General Committee, which acts as steering committee for the Assembly--although it is precluded from deciding any political question--consists of 14 members comprising the President, the seven Vice-Presidents, and the Chairman of the six Main Committees.)

(MORE)
5. Election of Vice-Presidents.

(Note: Rule 27 states that the seven Vice-Presidents shall be elected on the basis of ensuring the representative character of the Committee. The Vice-Presidents are elected by secret ballot without nomination. A simple majority is required.)

6. Notification by the Secretary-General under Article 12, Paragraph 2 of the Charter.

(Note: This Paragraph states: "The Secretary-General, with the concur 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.")

7. Adoption of the Agenda.

(Note: Adoption is by simple majority vote. According to Rule 14, any regular session of the General Assembly items may be amended 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 be postponed until seven days after they have been placed on the agenda, unless the General Assembly, by a two-thirds majority of the Members present and voting, decides otherwise, and until a committee has reported upon them.)


(Note: A printed report of the Secretary-General was issued on 6 Aug. 1948.)


(Note: The following are the main headings of the report: The Czeckoslovakian Question, Control of Atomic Energy, Admission of New Members, Rules Governing Admission of New Members, Voting Procedure in the Security Council, and Military Staff Committee.)


(Note: The following are the main headings of the report: Draft Code on Genocide, Draft Declaration on Human Rights, Continuance of an Aid Programme, a Report on Resettlement of Refugees and Displaced Persons.)


(Note: The report will cover the second and third sessions of the Council. It will deal with (a) the organization of the Council, (b) the provisional questionnaire, (c) the annual reports on the administration of Trust Territories, (d) petitions, (e) visits to Trust Territories, (f) matters related to the city of Jerusalem.)


(Note: The General Assembly Resolution referred to authorizes the Secretary-General to negotiate and conclude on behalf of the United Nations a Re-
agreement with the Government of the United States of America, for an interest-free loan, which would require approval by the Congress of the United States, in an amount not to exceed $85,000,000, to provide for the payment of the cost of construction of the UN Permanent Headquarters.

The loan agreement was signed on 23 March 1948. Authorizing legislation was presented to the US Congress and finally approved on 5 August 1948. Construction of the first building was expected to begin in October 1948.

Admission of New Members.

(a) Report of the Security Council (Resolution 113(II) of 17 November 1947.

(Note: In the Resolution referred to, the General Assembly recommends to the permanent members of the Security Council that they consult with a view to reaching an agreement on the admission to membership of the applicants which have not been recommended hitherto, and submit their conclusions to the Security Council. In accordance with the decision of the Security Council, and following the admission of Burma during the session of the special General Assembly 16 April - 14 May 1948, the Committee on the Admission of New Members met on 29 June to examine the application of Ceylon for membership in the United Nations. The majority of the members of the Committee expressed their support for the application of Ceylon. The representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic declined to comment on the application at the meeting of the Committee and reserved the position of their delegations with respect to the application of Ceylon during the discussion in the Security Council.

(b) Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice. (Resolution 113(II) of 17 November 1947).

(Note: The General Assembly Resolution referred to requested the International Court of Justice to give an advisory opinion on the following question: Is a Member of the United Nations which is called upon, in virtue of Article 4 of the Charter, to pronounce itself by its vote, either in the Security Council or in the General Assembly, on the admission of a State to membership in the United Nations, juridically entitled to make its consent to the admission dependent on conditions not expressly provided by paragraph 1 of the said Article? In particular, can such a Member, while it recognizes the conditions set forth in that provision to be fulfilled by the State concerned, subject its affirmative vote to the additional condition that other States be admitted to membership in the United Nations together with that State?

On the 28th of May, the Secretary-General received from Mr. E. Hambro, Registrar of the International Court of Justice at the Hauge, the Court's opinion. This states inter alia that the Court, by 9 votes to 6, is of the opinion that a Member of the United Nations which is called upon to pronounce itself by its vote on the admission of a State to membership to the United Nations is not juridically entitled to make its consent to the admission dependent on conditions not expressly provided by Paragraph 1 of Article 4 of the Charter, and that a Member of the Organization cannot, while it requires the conditions set forth in that provision to be fulfilled by the State concerned, subject its affirmative vote to the additional condition that other States be admitted to membership in the United Nations together with that State.)

(c) Admission to the Organization of Italy and all those States whose applications for membership have obtained seven votes in the Security Council; item proposed by Argentina.

(Note: The following States have obtained the seven votes: Austria, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Portugal and Transjordan.)

MORE
15. Threats to the Political Independence and Territorial Integrity of the Report of the UN Special Committee on the Balkans (Resolution 109 (II) of 21 October 1947.)

(Note: By this resolution the General Assembly established a Special Committee consisting of the representatives of Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Mexico, Netherlands, Pakistan, United Kingdom and the United States (seats being held open for Poland and the USSR) which, with principal headquarters in Salonika, and with the cooperation of the Governments concerned (Albania, Bulgaria, Greece and Yugoslavia) was to perform its functions in such places and in the territories of the States concerned as it may deem appropriate, and render a report to next regular session of the General Assembly. The main task of the Special Committee (UNSCOG) was to observe the compliance by the four Governments with the Assembly's recommendation that they cooperate in the peaceful settlement of their disputes and the Assembly's call to Albania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia to do nothing which could furnish to the guerrillas fighting against the Greek Government. UNSCOG was also to be available to assist the four Governments in implementation of the Assembly's recommendations.)


(Note: In this resolution the General Assembly, recognizing that the problem of the independence of Korea is primarily a matter for the Korean people itself, resolves that elected representatives of the Korean people be invited to take part in the consideration of the question, and approves that in order to facilitate such participation, there be forthwith established a United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea, consisting of representatives of Australia, Canada, China, El Salvador, France, India, Philippines, Syria, Ukrainian SSR, to be present in Korea, with the right to travel, observe, and consult throughout Korea. The Commission shall report to the General Assembly and may consult with the Interim Committee.)


(Note: On 14 November 1947, by its resolution 112 (II), the General Assembly established the United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea, which resolved, in paragraph 5 of the second part of that resolution, that the Commission thus established "may consult with the Interim Committee with respect to the application of this resolution in the light of developments." The Interim Committee gave the following advice to the Temporary Commission on Korea: "That in its view it is incumbent upon the United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea, under the terms of the General Assembly resolution of 14 November 1947, and in the light of developments in the situation with respect to Korea since that date, to implement the program as outlined in resolution II, in such parts of Korea as are accessible to the Commission." Therefore, the Commission limited its activity to that portion of Korea south of the 36th parallel (American Zone of Occupation).)


(b) Convocation of a General Conference under Article 109 of the Charter in order to study the question of the veto in the Security Council item proposed by Argentina.
(Note: The General Assembly in this resolution requests the permanent members of the Security Council to consult with one another on the problem of voting in the Security Council in order to secure agreement among them on measures to ensure the prompt and effective exercise by the Security Council of its functions. The Interim Committee which was asked to consider the problem, recommends to the General Assembly to consider at its third regular session whether the time has come or not to call a General Conference, as provided for in Article 109 of the Charter. This Conference would essentially deal with the suppression or limitation of the right of veto enjoyed by the five permanent members.)


(To be continued)

(End of text)

(Note: This report deals with the administration of South West Africa, a territory held under mandate by the Union of South Africa. The General Assembly has recommended that South West Africa be placed under the International trusteeship system. The Union of South Africa has not complied with the recommendation but has submitted a report on its administration of the territory. The Trusteeship Council, authorized by the General Assembly, has examined that report. The result of its examination will be included in the Report of the Council to the General Assembly.)

23. Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories.

(a) Summary and analysis of information transmitted under Article 73(e) of the Charter: report of the Secretary-General (Resolution 66 (I) of 14 December 1946).

(b) Information transmitted under Article 73(e) of the Charter: Report of the Special Committee (Resolution 146(II) of 3 November 1947).

(Note: Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted during 1947 has been summarized and analyzed by the Secretary-General. The Special Committee on Information Transmitted under Article 73(e) of the Charter, which will meet on 2 September 1948 at Geneva, will examine the information, together with the summary and analysis, and submit reports thereon for the consideration of the General Assembly.)


(a) Application of Finland for membership in the International Civil Aviation Organization: Item proposed by the Secretary-General.

(b) Approval of supplementary agreements with specialized agencies concerning the use of United Nations leaser-passers: report of the Secretary-General.


(Items 25 and 26 are on the Agenda of the Seventeenth Session of the Economic and Social Council, presently meeting at Geneva. The report on these items is therefore not yet available.)

27. Election of Six Members of the Economic and Social Council.

(Note: The Economic and Social Council consists of 18 Member nations serving for three years. Six retire each year, but are eligible for immediate election.)

MORE
The six whose terms expire at the end of this year are: Canada, Chile, China, France, Peru and the Netherlands.

Election of members of the Economic and Social Council is by secret ballot of the General Assembly, a two-thirds majority of those present and voting being required.)

20. Election of Five Members of the International Court of Justice (Article 13, Paragraph 1 of the Statute of the Court.)

(Note: The Members of the Court are elected for nine years, and may be re-elected, provided, however, that of the judges elected at the first election, the terms of five judges shall expire at the end of three years and the terms of five more judges shall expire at the end of six years.)


(Note: The members of the International Law Commission shall be elected at the third regular session of the General Assembly as provided by the resolution referred to.)

30. Registration and Publication of Treaties and International Agreements: report of the Secretary-General.


(a) Headquarters Agreement

(b) General Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations


(Note: The Economic and Social Council, meeting presently in Geneva, will report on this particular item to the General Assembly).


34. Installation of the Assistant Secretary-General in Charge of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General and General Coordination.

(Note: The appointment of Robert G.A. Jackson of Australia to this post was announced in January of this year.)

35. Financial Administration of the United Nations:

(a) Financial report and accounts for the financial period ended 31 December 1947, and report of the Board of Auditors.

(b) Supplementary estimates for the financial year 1948: report of the Secretary-General.

(c) Budget estimates for the financial year 1949.

(d) Unforeseen and extraordinary expenses: report of the Secretary-General (Resolution 166(II), B of 20 November 1947).

(e) Reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

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(f) Report of the Committee on Contributions.

(g) International Children's Emergency Fund: Annual audit of the accounts of the Fund: report of the Secretary-General.

36. Appointments to Fill Vacancies in the Membership of Subsidiary Bodies of the General Assembly:
   (a) Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, (b) Committee on Contributions, (c) Board of Auditors, (d) Investments Committee.

37. United Nations Joint Staff Pension Scheme.

38. Tax Equalization: proposed staff assessment plan: report of the Secretary-General (Resolution 160(II) of 20 November 1947).


41. Transfer of the assets of the League of Nations: report of the Secretary-General (Resolution 24(1) of 12 February 1946).

42. Composition of the Secretariat and the principle of geographical distribution: report of the Secretary-General (Resolution 153(II) of 15 November 1947).

43. Proposal for the adoption of Spanish as one of the working languages of the General Assembly: report of the Secretary-General (Resolution 154 of 15 November 1947).

44. Violation by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics of Fundamental Human Rights, Traditional Diplomatic Practices and Other Principles of the Charter: items proposed by Chile.

(Note: The Secretary-General received from the Government of Chile on 23 June 1948 and communicated to the members of the General Assembly the following statement to be included as an item in the provisional agenda:

1. Violation by the Soviet Union of fundamental human rights in preventing the Russian wives of foreign nationals from leaving the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics either in connection with their husbands or in order to rejoin them, action which could impair friendly relations among nations and violate the principles of the Charter. This is in accordance with Article 4(e) of the United Nations Charter.

2. Violation by the Soviet Union of fundamental human rights, traditional diplomatic practices and other principles of the Charter in refusing to allow a member of the family of the Ex-Ambassador of Chile to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to leave the country in company with the Ambassador. This is in accordance with Article 14 of the United Nations Charter.)

45. Treatment of Indians in the Union of South Africa: item proposed by India.

(Note: This question was brought to the attention of the Secretary-General by India in June, 1946. On 8 December 1946 the General Assembly carried a resolution stating that because of the treatment of Indians by the Union of South Africa friendly relations between the two Member States...)
had been impaired and were likely to be further impaired unless a satisfactory settlement was reached, expressing the opinion that treatment of Indians in the Union should conform to international obligations under agreements concluded between the two Governments and relevant provisions of the Charter, and requesting the two Governments to report at the next session of the Assembly the measures adopted to this effect. Both Governments reported to the Second Session of the General Assembly, in the fall of 1947, but a resolution on the subject carried by the Political and Security Committee during that session failed to obtain the required two-thirds majority in plenary meeting of the Assembly.)


18. Increase to Twenty-Four of the Number of Member States represented in the Economic and Social Council: item proposed by Argentina.

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