Chairman: Mr. Charles T. O. KING (Liberia).

AGENDA ITEMS 19, 20 AND 21

Question of amending the United Nations Charter, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 108 of the Charter, to increase the number of non-permanent members of the Security Council and the number of votes required for decisions of the Council (continued)

Question of amending the United Nations Charter, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 108 of the Charter, to increase the membership of the Economic and Social Council (continued)

Question of amending the Statute of the International Court of Justice, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 108 of the Charter of the United Nations and Article 69 of the Statute of the Court, with respect to an increase in the number of judges of the International Court of Justice (continued)

1. Mr. BEELEY (United Kingdom), replying to a statement made by the Mexican representative at the 132nd meeting, said that in comparing the representation of the different regional groups in the Economic and Social Council, the Mexican representative had drawn a distinction between members of the British Commonwealth in Africa and Asia and those in other parts of the world. The United Kingdom delegation could not accept such a distinction. It regarded the Commonwealth as a single entity, and on that basis the twenty-five African and Asian countries outside the Commonwealth were presented in the Council by four members and the ten Commonwealth countries by two members. In other words, the Commonwealth was slightly less well represented in the Council than Eastern Europe.

2. Mr. Taieb SLIM (Tunisia) said his delegation believed that the membership of the Organization's main bodies should reflect the recent increase in United Nations membership. Twenty African and Asian countries had been admitted to the United Nations, yet their representation in the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council had not changed, and he supported Ceylon's appeal (131st meeting) to the great Powers for fairer geographical representation. He regretted that the USSR was not prepared to reconsider its attitude to a revision of the Charter, thus depriving African and Asian countries of the right to make a full contribution to the work of the two Councils. His delegation favoured the suggestion that the Security Council's membership should be increased to fifteen, in order to avoid a recurrence of the present deadlock over the election of non-permanent members. As the Economic and Social Council dealt with problems of great interest to the less developed countries of Africa and Asia, its membership should be increased immediately, to ensure proper representation for those countries. The suggestion of the Philippines representative (131st meeting) that a temporary expedient might be sought on the basis of Article 69 of the Charter was an interesting one, but he felt that political considerations should not be allowed to prevent the necessary revision of the Charter. His delegation believed that there was no urgent need to increase the number of judges of the International Court of Justice but would not oppose such a measure if it had substantial support.

3. Mr. URQUIA (El Salvador) said he would submit his delegation's draft resolution (A/SPC/L.32) at the next meeting, when he would also reply to certain points raised by the Colombian representative.

4. Sir Claude COREA (Ceylon) proposed the adjournment of the meeting until the following day, to enable members to study the text of a resolution which was being drafted by a group of delegations including his own, and also the draft resolution to be submitted by El Salvador.

5. Mr. URQUIA (El Salvador) supported the proposal.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.