PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEVOTED TO DISARMAMENT

Third session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 20TH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 9 September 1977, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. ORTIZ de ROZAS (Argentina)

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Draft progress report (continued)

This record is subject to correction.

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Any corrections to the records of the meetings of this session will be consolidated in a single corrigendum, to be issued shortly after the end of the session.

77-56540
The meeting was called to order at 11.10 a.m.

DRAFT PROGRESS REPORT (A/AC.187/R.1) (continued)

1. Mr. VRAALSEM (Norway), commenting on paragraph 3, said that the question of the size and composition of the Preparatory Committee had been discussed at length during the thirty-first session of the General Assembly and subsequently. The discussion had been reflected in two communications, only one of which was mentioned in the draft report. The other was a letter of 27 January 1977 to the President of the General Assembly from his delegation, acting as Chairman of the Group of Western European and Other States. It stated that "the selection of candidates from the Group has taken place on the definite understanding that there will be no change in the following agreed distribution of seats to the various regional groups: Africa, 14; Asia, 11; Eastern Europe, 6; Latin America, 10, and Western Europe and Others, 13." That quotation should appear in full in the summary record of the meeting, which would be annexed to the report.

2. It was so decided.

3. Mr. JAROSZEK (Poland) observed that that did not preclude the possibility that the General Assembly would adopt other decisions at its thirty-second session. However, in stressing the right of the Eastern European Group to enlarge its representation to 8, that Group was not opposing modifications in the composition of the Committee with regard to the representation of other regional groups.

4. Mr. BROWN (Australia) said that, in raising the point originally, he had not intended to preclude the question of greater representation for the Eastern European Group but had simply wished to make known the position of the Western European Group. It was apparent that the views expressed on the question of membership had not related only to the Eastern European Group. He therefore proposed that the last sentence in paragraph 3 should begin as follows: "Views on the question of membership of the Committee were also expressed ...".

5. Mr. VRAALSEM (Norway) supported the amendment. He agreed that his proposal did not preclude the adoption of other decisions on the size and composition of the Preparatory Committee by the General Assembly.

6. Mr. JAROSZEK (Poland), although not objecting in principle to the Australian amendment, suggested that the sentence should start as follows. "Views to that effect and on other aspects of the question of membership of the Committee ...".

7. It was so decided.

8. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the word "that" in the penultimate line should read "this".

9. Mr. GARCIA ROBLES (Mexico) drew attention to an omission in the Spanish text. The fifth line of paragraph 25 should read as follows: "que podrian ser sustituidos por miembros de sus delegaciones o ...".

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10. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the draft report, as amended, was adopted by consensus.

11. It was so decided.

12. After an exchange of courtesies, the CHAIRMAN declared the session closed.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.