General Assembly

Thirty-ninth session
FIRST COMMITTEE

REARRANGEMENT OF THE AGENDA OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

working paper by the Chairman

Pursuant to my statement at the 34th meeting of the First Committee on 9 November, I consulted with the bureau of the Committee and with individual delegations on the restructuring of the annual agenda. As a result of those consultations, the Vice-Chairmen of the Committee, Ambassadors Miloš Vejvoda and Henning Wegener, presented me with their written contributions on the matter. Through the Rapporteur, I also received a paper from Ambassador Dubey, Co-ordinator of the group of non-aligned and other countries of the First Committee.

It is my considered opinion that any rearrangement of the Committee's agenda should aim at providing a more clear organization and presentation of the issues to be considered by the Committee, without prejudging their substance.

Such a rearrangement is necessarily conditioned by two factors which lie beyond the purview of the Committee: previous decisions of the General Assembly to inscribe individual items on the agenda and the right of every delegation to request the inclusion of new items.

Since the agenda is adopted by the Assembly, and items from it allocated to the Main Committees, it is obvious that no Committee can itself reformulate the wording of individual items. They may, however, and I believe the First Committee should, suggest to the Assembly a more rational structure than the present one, according to which the agenda may be rearranged. In that manner, the Assembly would allocate to the First Committee items already organized under a new structure. This would, in turn, facilitate the organization of work by the Committee at the start of each session.

The following is the result of my endeavours, as Chairman of the First Committee at the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly, to present to the Committee my own ideas and suggestions on this question, under the two basic criteria set above: organizational clarity and absence of prejudgement of the substance of the issues.

I suggest that this material be transmitted to capitals with the comments of delegations and that the Committee take up the matter again at the fortieth session with a view to reaching appropriate decisions.

* Reissued for technical reasons.
Rearrangement of the agenda of the First Committee

(Thirty-ninth session)

The following is an example of rearrangement of the items included in the agenda of the First Committee at the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly. Formulation of individual items was in some cases simplified, but no existing item was excluded and no new item was included. Titles of the sections indicated by capital letters were formulated in the most synthetic form, in order to avoid prejudging the substance of the issues. Such titles are intended as indicative only, so as to provide a general formula under which existing formulations could be grouped. Figures and small letters appearing after the formulation of each item indicate the numbering or said item in the 1984 agenda.

A - General and complete disarmament

Comprehensive programme of disarmament (item 59 (i))

B - Prevention of nuclear war

Prevention of nuclear war (item 59 (f))

C - Cessation of the nuclear-arms race and nuclear disarmament

(a) Nuclear-test ban (items 46, 47 & 56)
(b) Prohibition of use of nuclear weapons (item 60 (f))
(c) Freeze on nuclear weapons (items 60 (b) & (e))
(d) Bilateral nuclear-arms negotiations (item 59 (k))
(e) Unilateral nuclear disarmament measures (item 59 (h))
(f) Prohibition of the nuclear neutron weapon (item 59 (d))
(g) Prohibition of the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes (item 65 (t))

D - Nuclear-weapon-free zones

(a) Study of the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all its aspects (item 65 (a))
(b) Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East (item 48)
(c) Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia (item 49)
(d) Implementation of the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa (item 57 (a) & (b))
(e) Signature and ratification of Additional Protocol I of the Treaty of Tlatelolco (item 45)

/...
E - Security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons

F - Outer space

(a) Prevention of an arms race in outer space
(b) Use of outer space exclusively for peaceful purposes for the benefit of mankind

G - Other weapons of mass destruction

(a) Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons
(b) New types of weapons of mass destruction
(c) Radiological weapons

H - Conventional disarmament

(a) Study on conventional disarmament
(b) Curbing the naval arms race
(c) Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons

I - Regional disarmament

(a) Regional disarmament
(b) Israeli nuclear armament

J - Disarmament and development

(a) Relationship between disarmament and development
(b) Military research and development

K - Reduction of military budgets

L - Confidence-building measures

(a) Guidelines for confidence-building measures
(b) Information on military capabilities

(items 51 & 52)

(item 54)

(item 142)

(item 64 (a) & (b))

(item 58)

(item 65 (e))

(item 50)

(item 65 (c))

(item 65 (g))

(item 50)

(item 60 (h))

(item 53)

(item 55)

(item 65 (b))

(item 61 (a) & (b))

(item 60 (a))

(item 65 (d))
M - Reports of multilateral organs

(a) Report of the Conference on Disarmament (item 59 (b) & (g) (ii))
(b) Report of the Disarmament Commission (item 59 (a) & (g) (i))

N - Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace (item 62)

O - Machinery and institutional matters

(a) World Disarmament Campaign (item 60 (d))
(b) Disarmament Week (item 59 (j))
(c) Programme of fellowships (item 60 (c))
(d) United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (item 59 (l) (ii))
(e) World Disarmament Conference (item 63)
(f) Contribution of specialized agencies (item 65 (h))
(g) Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies (item 59 (l) (i))
(h) Status of multilateral disarmament agreements (item 59 (c))