VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 1st MEETING

Temporary Chairman: Mr. Garba (President of the General Assembly)

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- ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN
The meeting was called to order at 4.15 p.m.

ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Rule 103 of the rules of procedure provides that each Main Committee shall elect a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur. Those officers shall be elected on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, experience and personal competence.

The election shall be held by secret ballot, unless the Committee decides otherwise in an election where only one candidate is standing. The nomination of each candidate shall be limited to one speaker, after which the Committee shall immediately proceed to the election.

Furthermore, rule 110 of the rules of procedure provides that 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.

This meeting has been convened for the election of the Chairman of the First Committee.

Are there any nominations?

Mr. FORTIER (Canada): It is a great honour for me, Sir, to be the first speaker following your unanimous election as President of the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly. During the past year I have had occasion to admire your great wisdom, your sense of leadership and your diplomatic skills in many different situations. Your considerable experience and outstanding qualities are for me and for my delegation the best possible guarantee of a highly successful session of the Assembly. I wish to assure you of my full co-operation and of that of my delegation throughout the session.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my immense admiration and appreciation, as well as that of my Government, for the most effective
leadership that your predecessor, His Excellency Dante Caputo of Argentina, provided during the forty-third session of the Assembly, which ended yesterday.

My country had the honour last year to see an eminent Canadian, Ambassador Douglas Roche, elected Chairman of the First Committee. It is today a privilege and a pleasure for me, on behalf of my colleague, Ambassador Roche, to propose the candidacy of His Excellency Ambassador Adolfo Taylhardat of Venezuela for the position of Chairman of the First Committee at the Assembly's current session.

Ambassador Taylhardat is currently Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Office of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies in Geneva. He is also Venezuela's representative to the Conference on Disarmament, where he has served with great distinction for more than 10 years. In addition he has accumulated considerable experience in multilateral negotiations through more than 20 regular and special sessions of the General Assembly and many other bodies, such as the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and a number of multilateral conferences. He has also served his country in a variety of other diplomatic positions, including those of Ambassador to Haiti, to Cuba and to the European Economic Community. Ambassador Taylhardat is also a highly respected scholar in law and international relations. It is my deep conviction that Ambassador Taylhardat will bring an outstanding combination of experience and talent to this important position.

It is therefore with great pleasure that I put forward the candidature of Ambassador Adolfo Taylhardat as Chairman of the First Committee at the forty-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: His Excellency Mr. Adolfo Taylhardat of Venezuela has been nominated by the representative of Canada. Since only one
(The Temporary Chairman)
candidate has been nominated, I propose that under rule 103 of the rules of
procedure the Committee decide not to hold a secret ballot.

It was so decided.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: I therefore declare His Excellency
Mr. Adolfo Taylhardat of Venezuela elected Chairman of the First Committee by
acclamation.

The meeting rose at 4.20 p.m.