Twentieth Session

FIRST COMMITTEE

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE THIRTEEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY-SECOND MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 22 September 1965, at 10.55 a.m.

The Temporary Chairman: Mr. FANFANI (Italy)
Chairman: Mr. CSATORDAY (Hungary)

Election of the Chairman

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ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): Rule 105 of our rules of procedure provides that each Committee shall elect its own chairman, bearing in mind equitable geographical distribution and the experience and personal competence of the candidates concerned. Are there any nominations for the office of Chairman of the First Committee?

Mr. de BEUS (Netherlands): Mr. President, I hope you will allow me in the first place, on behalf of the Netherlands delegation, to congratulate you on your appointment to your very high office. We rejoice about that, not only because of your great personal qualities, which we heard extolled here yesterday, but also because of the very close ties which my country has with yours, ties which go back two thousand years. We, too, have had the privilege of being colonized by Rome, but it did not last very long because even in those days we were in the forefront of the decolonization movement. However, today we are again close to our former mother country and we can say that now Italy is one of our very closest friends in the European Common Market and in other organizations. We are, therefore, extremely happy to see Italy and its Foreign Minister play this important role in this Assembly.

I have asked for the floor this morning to present a candidate for the position of Chairman of the First Committee, and I wish to present, on behalf of my delegation, the candidacy of Ambassador Károly Csatorday, Permanent Representative of Hungary to the United Nations.

It is an old tradition that the delegation which has last occupied the Chair of a Committee proposes a candidate for the new session, but this year my delegation has far more weighty reasons for proposing Mr. Csatorday for this important position at this session of the General Assembly.
We are today on the threshold of the twentieth session of the General Assembly, and for these twenty years the position of Chairman of the First Committee, one of the most important after the Presidency, has hardly ever been occupied by a representative of an East European country. My delegation believes that the requirements of fairness, equitable geographical distribution and rotation of important positions require that we should this year, at the beginning of this jubilee session, elect a representative of an East European country to this important post.

A second reason is that, as we all know, the nineteenth session of the General Assembly was paralysed by the threatening clouds of an East-West confrontation and antagonism. I think it would be a good symbol of co-operation for this twentieth session of the General Assembly that now a West European country should nominate a representative from an East European country for this important post.

Our third reason lies in the personal qualities of Ambassador Csatorgyay. He has been with us for several years and most of the representatives to the General Assembly know his great personal qualities. But for those who do not know him, I may perhaps briefly repeat that he entered the Hungarian Foreign Service in 1948, that he filled posts first in The Hague -- which I, of course, think is a great compliment -- and after that in Peking, Hanoi and Tokyo. In the beginning of 1962 he became Permanent Representative to the United Nations. In those years he was first Rapporteur of the First Committee, and then Vice-Chairman of the First Committee at the eighteenth session. He has therefore a great knowledge of matters concerning the First Committee. We have all come to know his qualities of tact, good chairmanship and fairness. In addition, I might say, he moves through our Assembly halls like a walking ray of sunshine -- a great quality for a Chairman.

I hope therefore that all the representatives will be convinced that Ambassador Csatorgyay is an excellent candidate for Chairman of the First Committee. But if there should be anyone who still doubts it, I have a surprise in store, and that is that Ambassador Csatorgyay speaks fluent Dutch, which will, of course, greatly enhance the efficiency of the meetings of the First Committee. I hope that at the beginning of this General Assembly we will display a sign of harmony by unanimously electing Ambassador Csatorgyay as Chairman of the First Committee.
Mr. BARNES (Liberia): Mr. President, it is my great privilege to offer you in the name of the Government of Liberia our warmest congratulations on your election to the high office of President of the General Assembly. Your election indeed is another of the many attestations to your eminent qualities and your very rich experience in the field of international affairs. It is a tribute to your great and famous country, Italy, the Queen of the Mediterranean, which has made valuable and constructive contributions to international peace and understanding and the development of friendly relations among nations, a country that has contributed to world civilization in law, diplomacy, science, literature and statesmanship -- all of which are reflected in your distinguished person.

The First Committee could not be better served than by Ambassador Csatorday of Hungary as its Chairman, and I now have the honour and privilege to support his nomination, proposed by the representative of the Netherlands. Ambassador Csatorday comes from a country with culture, with very rich traditions, marked by the life-work of great scholars and artists. This distinguished diplomat is a gentleman of quiet dignity with a deep sense of duty and a conscientious and unshakeable devotion to the aims and principles of the United Nations.

He entered upon his brilliant diplomatic career in the Foreign Service of his country in 1948 and served as the representative of his country in many capitals in Europe and in Asia. His meritorious services won for him the position of Permanent Representative of his country to the United Nations. In the course of his services here he served the First Committee as Rapporteur at the seventeenth session of the General Assembly and as Vice-Chairman at the eighteenth session. The objective, competent and impartial manner in which he discharged his duties earned for him the respect and admiration of the First Committee. Ambassador Csatorday's ability, experience and knowledge of the wide range of subjects with which the First Committee will have to deal eminently qualify him for the high office of Chairman. It is for these reasons that my delegation is pleased and honoured to support his nomination to the office of Chairman of the First Committee.
Mr. PACHACHI (Iraq): It gives me very great pleasure to have the privilege of seconding the nomination of His Excellency Ambassador Csatornday of Hungary to the important position of Chairman of the First Committee during the twentieth session of the General Assembly.

Ambassador Csatornday came to this House nearly four years ago and it has been my distinct privilege to count myself among his friends. He has exhibited, both in the First Committee, where he occupied successively the posts of Rapporteur and Vice-Chairman, as well as in other organs and bodies of the United Nations, a great ability and a marked devotion to the principles of the United Nations. His well-known qualities of tact, impartiality and good humour will no doubt help him in guiding the deliberations of the First Committee. I think we are very fortunate to have a man of his stature to occupy this exalted position.

The representative of the Netherlands informed us of the great linguistic ability of Ambassador Csatornday. However, I have a reservation. He speaks a dozen languages, perhaps, but unfortunately Arabic is not one of them. It is our hope, knowing Ambassador Csatornday, that he will do his best to rectify the situation. I want him to know that our support for his candidacy is not necessarily linked with this hope that one day he will become a scholar in the Arabic language.
Mr. WALDHEIM (Austria): Mr. President, may I take this opportunity of offering you the sincere congratulations of the Austrian delegation upon your election as President of the twentieth session of the General Assembly. You have a wide reputation as an eminent scholar and outstanding statesman who has served his country successfully in the most responsible functions. You represent a country whose remarkable culture and civilization have greatly influenced many other countries throughout the centuries. The history of our two countries is interwoven by innumerable links. We are therefore glad to have a President with your qualifications, and we look forward to working under your leadership, trusting that your able guidance will be of great assistance in achieving fruitful results during the twentieth session of the Assembly.

It is a great pleasure and privilege for me, on behalf of my delegation, to second the nomination of Mr. Csatornay, Permanent Representative of the Hungarian People's Republic at the United Nations to the Chairmanship of the First Committee at this session. The representatives of the Netherlands, Liberia and Iraq have already described most ably the outstanding personal and professional qualifications of Mr. Csatornay for this high office, and I should like to add that I, personally, am convinced that his experience in the work and activities of the United Nations and his devotion to the cause of international co-operation and mutual understanding provide an excellent background for his election as Chairman of the First Committee.

Furthermore, my delegation takes great pleasure in supporting, in the person of Mr. Csatornay, the representative of a neighbour country with which Austria maintains good and friendly relations.

It is, therefore, my earnest hope that Mr. Csatornay will be elected unanimously to the high office of Chairman of the First Committee of the twentieth session of the General Assembly.
The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (interpretation from French): The candidacy of Mr. Csatorday of Hungary has been proposed by the representative of the Netherlands and supported by the representatives of Liberia, Iraq and Austria. Since only one candidate has been proposed, in accordance with established practice I declare Mr. Csatorday of Hungary to be elected Chairman of the First Committee. May I offer him my congratulations and my hopes for success in his work.

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.