Twenty-ninth Session

FIRST COMMITTEE

PROVISOINAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SEVENTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 25 September 1974, at 4 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Ortiz de Rozas (Argentina)
Rapporteur: Mr. Costa Lobo (Portugal)

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74-71006/A
STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): At the very outset of our meeting today I feel it is appropriate for me to express my gratitude to all delegations for the honour and privilege they have conferred on me by electing me Chairman of this Committee. My thanks go to each and every delegation, but in particular, by your leave, I should like to thank the delegations of the sister republics of Latin America which in putting forward my candidacy on behalf of the Latin American region made it possible for me to be elected by other delegations later. I consider this distinction a very moving tribute and I trust that, in the course of time, my own performance will show whether I have deserved the confidence you have placed in me. I can assure you that I shall make every endeavour to guide the work of this Committee with total devotion and impartiality; and, of course, at the same time I shall try to be efficient.

I am well aware that in the discharge of my responsibilities I can count on the co-operation of all members of the Committee, who have honoured me with their friendship. That co-operation will be the most effective way successfully to carry out the tasks entrusted to this Committee.

I believe it is most auspicious that at the beginning of the work of the First Committee at this twenty-ninth session we should have among us Mr. Otto Borch of Denmark. The hazards of diplomacy compel us all to travel about the world in the discharge of our missions and the happy circumstance of Mr. Borch's occupying the seat of Denmark at this first meeting of the First Committee is due to this. I am sure I am speaking on behalf of all members of the Committee in expressing to him our most cordial congratulations and our special gratitude for the manner in which he presided over this Committee last year. It was largely owing to his tact, skill, intelligence and energy that we were able to do work which I would venture to describe as highly prolific.
In the same way, I wish to express my gratitude to our distinguished colleague Mr. Hans Tabor of Denmark for the very generous introduction -- an introduction that I would almost call excessively full of praise -- when he presented my candidacy before the Committee.

It is also my privilege as Chairman, representing all of you, to welcome cordially the delegations of Bangladesh, Guinea-Bissau and Grenada, which have this year joined the United Nations. In their co-operation and in the valuable contribution their ideas will make in the work of our Committee we shall, I am sure, find a great source of inspiration, enabling us to fulfil our responsibilities.

Even though most members are veterans and well acquainted with the Secretariat staff, I should like to say that in the discharge of my duties I shall have the very valuable and effective assistance of the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Security Council Affairs, Mr. Shevchenko and of the Committee Secretary Mr. Banerjee. They and the other members of the Secretariat assigned to this Committee will doubtless be most efficient assistants.
ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIRMEN

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): We shall now proceed to the election of the two Vice-Chairmen of the First Committee.

Mr. RABETAFIGA (Madagascar) (interpretation from French): According to our custom, it falls to my lot today to nominate two distinguished colleagues for the vice-chairmanships of our Committee. I discharge this duty with particular pleasure because these colleagues come from two countries which in their respective groups have always made an outstanding contribution, and because we have much in common with them, both with regard to politics and to our attachment to certain ideals and objectives.

I have the honour and privilege of nominating Mr. Bernhard Neugebauer, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, Deputy Permanent Representative of the German Democratic Republic and Mr. Abdul Wahab Siddiq, Acting Chargé d’affaires of Afghanistan, for the vice-chairmanships of the First Committee at this session.

A graduate of the Academy of Political and Juridical Science, Mr. Neugebauer has had a long and diverse career. The distinguished posts he has occupied in the Foreign Ministry of his country have given him a particular interest in international organizations and thus, from 1968 until 1973 he was a member of the delegation of the German Democratic Republic at sessions of the World Health Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the International Labour Organisation and the Universal Postal Union, and in Geneva, where for many years he was a member of the Board of Observers of the German Democratic Republic to the United Nations. His vocation in the service of the international community was further demonstrated when he agreed to be Vice-Chairman of the Economic Committee of the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-sixth session.

I am convinced that the members of the First Committee would find in Mr. Bernhard Neugebauer a confirmed diplomat well acquainted with international practice and of extensive experience, which will make it easy for him to switch from one field to another. I would describe him as a universalist, a highly desirable quality in a Committee which is supposed to be the political reflection of international thinking in areas as far apart as outer space and the sea-bed.
As for Mr. Abdul Wahab Siddiq, he is not unfamiliar to us. He was among us from 1966 until 1969. Furthermore, he has been a member of the Afghanistan delegation ever since the twenty-first session of the General Assembly. He is a career diplomat, a graduate of the Faculty of Law of the University of Kabul and the Economic and Scientific Institute of London. His ties with the United Nations have been continuous. His first post was in New York, and in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs he headed the Office of the United Nations and International Relations. His legal training has made it possible for him to represent his country, for example, in the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly at three successive sessions and in the Conference on the Law of Treaties in Vienna in 1969.

And that is not the end of the list of his qualifications. We have already heard him here in the First Committee, speaking from the seat of Afghanistan. And those of us who belong to the non-aligned movement have heard him at the Fourth Summit Conference of Non-Aligned Countries in 1973, in Algiers.

It seems we, the members of the First Committee, have a tendency to consider only the political aspects of problems. Nevertheless it is true that politics should not be lost in vain speculation. We must moderate this with a certain objectivity and rigour, a certain sense of continuity and permanence which I believe is an attribute of jurists. Given his legal training and the diplomatic experience he has acquired in various international bodies, we can be assured that Mr. Abdul Wahab Siddiq will make a valuable contribution to the work of this Committee.

Mr. Chairman, according to our rules of procedure, the time-limit for congratulations has now been exceeded, but I should just like to express the hope that under your leadership, which is so generous and enlightened, and on the strength of your counsel as the statesman we know you are -- we have learned to come to respect you for that -- it is my hope that Mr. Neugebauer and Mr. Siddiq will be helpful in supporting you and co-operating fruitfully with you so that the work of our Committee can go forward in the atmosphere of understanding and useful and frank exchange that has always characterized it.

For all those reasons, as Vice-Chairman of the First Committee at the last session, and in complete agreement with my colleague Mr. Mehdi, who also is a
former Vice-Chairman of this Committee, I venture most warmly to recommend to the Committee the nominations of Mr. Neugebauer, Deputy Permanent Representative of the German Democratic Republic, and Mr. Siddiq, Chargé d'affaires of Afghanistan, for the vice-chairmanships of the First Committee at this session.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I thank the representative of Madagascar for his very eloquent nomination of candidates for the vice-chairmanships. I also thank him for the generous words he was kind and courteous enough to address to me.

Since there are no other nominations, I declare Mr. Neugebauer of the German Democratic Republic and Mr. Siddiq of Afghanistan elected Vice-Chairmen of the First Committee by acclamation.

Mr. Neugebauer (German Democratic Republic) and Mr. Siddiq (Afghanistan) were elected Vice-Chairmen of the First Committee by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): May I express to the two Vice-Chairmen my warmest congratulations on the distinction that has been conferred upon them and tell them of my certainty that we shall co-operate in a harmonious manner so that we can jointly discharge the responsibilities incumbent upon us.
ELECTION OF THE RAPPORTEUR

Mr. de SOTO (Peru) (interpretation from Spanish): Mr. Chairman, in order to comply with the rules of procedure I shall refrain from congratulating you and the two Vice-Chairmen. I feel sure that the Chairman of my delegation will wish to reserve to himself the pleasure of transgressing the rules of procedure in that respect.

I am pleased to present the candidacy of Mr. António da Costa Lobo of Portugal for the post of Rapporteur of the First Committee. I have known Mr. Costa Lobo for several years. Other members of the First Committee can like myself bear witness to his qualities as a skilled diplomat, as a student of the political and security problems which are being considered in this Committee.

Mr. Costa Lobo is a graduate of the Faculty of Law of the University of Coimbra. In the same university, he took a post-graduate course in historico-legal sciences.

He entered the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of his country in 1956. Since then he has held diplomatic posts in Cuba, the Netherlands and the United States. In Havana he was Chargé d'affaires, and in San Francisco he was Consul-General. More recently, from 1971 to 1973, he was Chief of the Division of International Economic Organizations in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Lisbon.

He has participated in several meetings on economic subjects such as those of EFTA, and the European Economic Community, and also the Third United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Santiago, Chile.

Furthermore, Mr. Costa Lobo has been a member of the delegation of his country to the General Assembly since the twenty-fifth session in 1970. At present he is Counsellor to the Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations.

After this rather factual recital of the curriculum vitae of Mr. Costa Lobo, I should like to give the Committee what I may describe as a political assessment which will enable me to go into the substance of our work a little ahead of time.

Certainly, the post of Rapporteur is an eminently personal one. But I cannot forget the fact that Mr. Costa Lobo represents Portugal and with this Portuguese candidacy history is being made in this Committee. We cannot ignore, rather we should emphasize that doubtless this is the first time for many years that Portugal has been a
candidate to an elective post in the United Nations. In any case, if I am not mistaken, it is the first Portuguese candidacy since the General Assembly, in 1960, adopted the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, that is, resolution 1514 (XV).

Having given the Committee this assessment, which I consider to be significant, I wish to reiterate that I feel sure that Mr. Costa Lobo has the necessary qualifications to be an excellent Rapporteur of this Committee. It is my hope that the First Committee will elect him unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I thank the representative of Peru, Mr. de Soto, and former Rapporteur of the First Committee for his eloquent presentation of Mr. Antonio Léal da Costa Lobo of Portugal for the post of Rapporteur of the First Committee. There being no other candidates for this post and assuming that the First Committee will have no objections, I shall declare Mr. Costa Lobo elected Rapporteur of the First Committee.

Mr. Costa Lobo (Portugal) was elected Rapporteur of the First Committee.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): May I express my most cordial congratulations to the representative of Portugal and Rapporteur of the First Committee. I invite him to take his place at the Officers' table.

Mr. BORCH (Denmark): Allow me first to thank you for your gracious and all too flattering words; they boost one's ego in a pleasant manner. Allow me then, however, to utilize the privileges of rule 110 of the rules of procedure and to extend to you, Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the full Committee, our warm congratulations on your election as Chairman of this Committee. Your personal qualifications, your impartiality, your ample experience in the work of the United Nations, is our best assurance that this Committee, under your chairmanship, will have excellent guidance which, I am sure, will allow it to complete in the best possible manner the tasks that are before it at this, the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly.
It is moreover my privilege, on behalf of the Committee, to extend our most sincere congratulations to Mr. Neugebauer of the German Democratic Republic and to Mr. Siddiq of Afghanistan on their election to the vice-chairmanships of the First Committee.

Also, to Mr. Costa Lobo of Portugal, our Committee expresses its warm congratulations on his election to the post of Rapporteur.

Their experience and dedication, I am sure, will be of the utmost importance for the work of the Officers and will assist us in the conduct of the work of the Committee.

You, Mr. Chairman, and Officers of the Committee, may be assured of the full co-operation of this Committee in your future work.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I thank the representative of Denmark for his most encouraging words and his very kind remarks about me. I too am particularly pleased that his statement, made in accordance with rule 110, has served to remind us that greetings to the Chairman and other Officers of the Committee are made by the outgoing Chairman of the Committee. If we apply this rule 110 we may save ourselves valuable time so as to go ahead with our work.
Mr. NEUGEBAUER (German Democratic Republic): Vice-Chairman. I should like first to take this opportunity on behalf of the delegation of the German Democratic Republic and also on my own behalf, most sincerely to congratulate you upon your election as Chairman of the Political Committee of the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly. We are convinced in expressing these congratulations that the Committee under your experienced leadership this year will make a positive contribution to the performance of the most important political tasks of the United Nations, thus meeting the hopes and aspirations of the peoples of the world that peace will be strengthened, that international security will be consolidated, that there will be a further easing of tension and that the results of that détente will be irreversible.

Permit me to thank all the representatives, particularly the Ambassador of Madagascar, who nominated me for the post of Vice-Chairman of this Committee. I believe that this is an honour and an expression of confidence in my own State, the German Democratic Republic, and in its policy of peace. Permit me to assure you that I shall do everything in my power to co-operate effectively with the members of the Committee so as to bring about positive results in this Committee's work in strict compliance with the functions that will be incumbent upon me.

I also take particular pleasure at having the opportunity to congratulate Mr. Siddiq upon his election as Vice-Chairman, and Mr. Costa Lobo upon his election as Rapporteur. Our joint work as officers of the Committee will, I am sure, be steeped in the ideals of constructive cooperation.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I thank the representative of the German Democratic Republic, one of our Vice-Chairmen, for his very generous words.

May I at the same time mention, as I did earlier, that I count on his valuable co-operation, and I am very grateful to him for the co-operation which he has so kindly offered.
Mr. SIDDIQ (Afghanistan) (Vice-Chairman): Mr. Chairman, may I first congratulate you, on behalf of the Afghan delegation, on your unanimous election to the chairmanship of the First Committee. We are certain that you, Sir, as a distinguished diplomat from Argentina, will guide our Committee through its momentous tasks in an eminently wise and judicious manner.

I should also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the representative of the German Democratic Republic on his unanimous election as Vice-Chairman of this important Committee. I also wish to extend my sincere congratulations to the representative of Portugal upon his election as Rapporteur of this Committee.

I should like to express my appreciation and thanks to the Ambassador of Madagascar for having nominated me and for his kind words about me and my country, Afghanistan. This honour you have done me reflects on the country I represent and on its policy and on the people and the Government of Afghanistan. I thank all the representatives of the First Committee for having expressed their confidence in me by this unanimous election to the post of Vice-Chairman. It will be my privilege to serve this Committee and to offer you my full cooperation.

Mr. Chairman, may I assure you of my full cooperation with you, Sir, and the other Officers of the Committee, and I look forward to our work together.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I am most grateful to the representative of Afghanistan, Vice-Chairman of the First Committee, for his cordial words, and to him too I wish to say that I count on his co-operation. With the assistance of all the Officers of the Committee, I am sure that we shall succeed in our work.

Mr. COSTA LOBO (Portugal) (Rapporteur) (interpretation from French): Mr. Chairman, I should like to extend my congratulations to you upon your election to the chairmanship of our Committee and to express my satisfaction at thus being able to embark upon a working relationship with you, which, I am sure, will be a very enriching experience for me.
I should also like to convey my congratulations to Mr. Neugebauer of the German Democratic Republic and Mr. Siddiq of Afghanistan upon their election to vice-chairmanships of the First Committee.

I should like to thank my colleague and friend, Mr. de Soto, for having nominated me and for his very kind words about me. He was so eloquent at times that I thought perhaps he was referring to someone else.

I should like to say a few words to the Committee. I am aware that the Committee, in endorsing my nomination, was really addressing itself more to my country than to my person and that I was just the intermediary of this gesture of confidence and friendship towards Portugal. This makes me all the happier, but of course it also makes me very conscious of my responsibilities. So I shall bear this very much in mind in discharging my functions.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I thank our Rapporteur for his kind words. At the same time, I wish to assure him that the delicate tasks entrusted to a Rapporteur in this case will be of great value to all of us for the very reasons he has himself expressed. I am sure that because of these very circumstances this Committee's support of him as the representative of Portugal will be complete and so he will be able to work as our Rapporteur in the very best conditions.

We have thus concluded the first and second items of our agenda today, namely the election of the Vice-Chairmen and the election of the Rapporteur.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK (A/C.1/1044)

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): In connexion with this item, may I draw the Committee's attention to document A/C.1/1044, dated 24 September 1974, containing the letter dated 21 September 1974 addressed to me by the President of the General Assembly informing me that the General Assembly at its 2236th plenary meeting decided to allocate certain items to the First Committee for consideration and report.
A brief analysis of the items allocated to this Committee shows us that this is a full programme. The agenda contains almost all the items considered by the Committee last year. I say almost all, because the item on the law of the sea will not be considered by this Committee this year. With this single exception we have all the items we had on our agenda last year, plus five. One of those, item 24 of the agenda of the General Assembly, was considered in the plenary Assembly last year. Its title is "Reduction of the military budgets of States permanent members of the Security Council by 10 per cent and utilization of part of the funds thus saved to provide assistance to developing countries" and it is listed as the eleventh item of the First Committee's agenda. The subitems under this item are: (a) Report of the Special Committee on the Distribution of the Funds Released as a Result of the Reduction of Military Budgets; (b) Report of the Secretary-General. This item, which, as I said earlier, was considered by the General Assembly in its plenary meeting last year has now been transferred for consideration and report to the First Committee.

We have also four new items: item 100 is listed as the twelfth item of the Committee's agenda in document A/C.1/1044 from which I have just quoted and is entitled "Implementation of General Assembly resolution 2286 (XXII) concerning the signature and ratification of Additional Protocol I of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco)." Item 101, the thirteenth item of our agenda, is entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon free zone in the region of the Middle East." Item 103, the fourteenth item of our agenda, is entitled: "Prohibition of action to influence the environment and climate for military and other purposes incompatible with the maintenance of international security, human well-being and health." Finally, item 107, the sixteenth item of our agenda, is entitled: "Declaration and establishment of a nuclear-free zone in South Asia."

These five items will be discussed for the first time in the First Committee. Apart from these items, I need hardly emphasize that there are other matters of great significance and importance, namely all the other items relating to disarmament which the First Committee will have to analyse as it has in past years. Our programme of work also includes questions concerning outer space and the question of Korea.
In order to be able to submit a work programme to the Committee, one that naturally will be subject to approval by all members of the First Committee, I have taken particularly into account the time limitations we face. As members know, the First Committee does not start its debates until the general debate in the plenary Assembly is over. In accordance with the programme prepared for the General Assembly, the general debate will in principle end on 10 October. This means that that will be our starting point. Our ending point is implied in the wish expressed by the President of the General Assembly that, so far as possible, we should not go beyond the date of 6 December in considering all the items allocated to the First Committee. Accordingly, taking into account the limitations of services and the distribution of services among the various committees of the General Assembly, the First Committee in principle will have available to it 76 meetings in which to consider all the items before it. With an appeal to the experience of the Secretariat and weighing all the items on our programme, I have tried to put before you a realistic work programme allocating to each item the number of meetings that I consider should be sufficient for a proper analysis of each item and that should give delegations a full opportunity to state their views.

To begin with, I suggest to the Committee that we take up the two items related to outer space listed as items 6 and 7 of the Committee's agenda in document A/C.1/1044, namely, item 32, "International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space" and item 33 -- "Preparation of an international convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space".
(The Chairman)

I propose to the Committee that we start with these two items, because all the documents that are to be considered and that are the basis for our work are ready in the working languages and have been distributed to delegations. In principle, I believe that 10 meetings should be ample, more than sufficient, for a thorough consideration of these two items. I even believe that we may possibly conclude them in less time, but if we assign 10 meetings to them, then in the opinion of the Chairman and the Secretariat we could conclude them. Depending of course on the conclusion of the general debate in the plenary Assembly, the Committee could start its work on outer space on 11 October and conclude it at the latest on 18 October.
The following Monday, that is to say 21 October, we would consider the disarmament items, that is, all the items that were considered by the Committee last year, plus the five items I mentioned earlier that have been added. Certainly if we could conclude the items on outer space before 18 October, we would then advance the beginning of the debate on disarmament in the same measure.

A more or less realistic analysis of the full disarmament agenda for the Committee leads us to believe that we should allocate 40 meetings for all the disarmament items. We might, therefore, depending, as I said, on when the general debate in the plenary Assembly ends and on the date when we conclude consideration of the outer space items, begin discussion of these items at the latest on 21 October and conclude discussion of them on 22 November. Of course, it goes without saying in this case also that if we were to conclude consideration of the disarmament items earlier, we would advance in the same measure the consideration of the next two items.

With respect to disarmament, I should like to make it clear that I intend to follow the practice that has been accepted by the First Committee in past years, namely, that delegations may refer to each or all of the disarmament items in the order they deem appropriate. Any delegation can start with any of the items on disarmament, regardless of the order in which they appear. Not only may delegations speak on the items in the order in which they wish, but they may also speak as often as they deem it appropriate to refer to other disarmament items. This is the practice we followed in past years, and I believe it is the one that is most productive.

In putting this tentative programme before the Committee, I also wish to specify that this is my proposal as to how we should carry out our work on disarmament.

Immediately after concluding consideration of the items on disarmament we would consider the item which appears as the fifteenth on our agenda, namely:
"Question of Korea (item 104):

"(a) Withdrawal of all the foreign troops stationed in South Korea under the flag of the United Nations;

"(b) Urgent need to implement fully the consensus of the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly on the Korean question and to maintain peace and security on the Korean peninsula."

In accordance with the tentative plan for dealing with this item, we would allocate a maximum of 18 meetings for its consideration, beginning on 22 November. As I stated with respect to the items on outer space and disarmament, if the time taken up is less -- and that would be most desirable -- we could also advance consideration of the Korean item. If we conclude consideration of the two prior items earlier, we would then begin consideration of the Korean item earlier than 22 November.

Lastly, the Committee would take as its final item the item on international security which appears as the tenth on our agenda in document A/C.1/1044, and is entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security: report of the Secretary-General". We would allocate between eight and 10 meetings for the consideration of this item.

Now I should like to make some additional comments. The first and most important is that I assume, as was the case last year, that when the First Committee comes to the consideration of the question of Korea it would wish to invite the delegations of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and of the Republic of Korea to be represented in the debate with the right to participate, but without the right to vote. This is a decision which I believe the First Committee could take now.

Since there were no objections last year, may I consider that there are no objections this year either?

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): Accordingly the two delegations will be invited to participate when the Committee deals with the question of Korea.
The other remarks that I wish to make to the Committee -- and I crave the indulgence of representatives because, as I said at the beginning, you are mostly veterans who are only too well acquainted with the procedures of the First Committee -- are for the benefit of those who are not veterans. I should like to make clear certain of our rules of procedure which will greatly facilitate the discharge of our duties.

In the first place, I should like to draw the attention of representatives to document A/INF/136/Rev.1, which summarizes the provisions regarding documentation. May I particularly appeal to members to take these provisions into account. If I were to summarize my thinking, I should make an appeal at the outset to all members strictly to limit any requests for additional documents. This is necessary, as you are all aware, because of the tremendous pressures on the Secretariat during the General Assembly to proceed with the preparation, typing, translation and distribution of documents.
If we limit ourselves to what is strictly essential, I am sure that, with its characteristic goodwill, the Secretariat will be able to fulfil such requests as are essential.

Secondly, I also wish to appeal for your co-operation so that we may be able to organize our work properly. I am a hedonist and so I believe that we can very well finish our work without wasting our time or anyone else's if on each item representatives put their names down sufficiently in advance. This will enable us to decide how many will be able to speak at each meeting and, in the event of there being too few speakers -- only one or at most two speakers -- instead of uselessly convening a meeting we can declare a holiday for ourselves, and include the one or two statements in useful working days. Along this line of thinking, I should like to appeal to you most particularly to be punctual in the work of the Committee. As you know, the working hours are from 10:30 until 1 o'clock and from 3 o'clock to 6 o'clock in the afternoon. I assure you that I shall do my best to be here punctually every single time, but if I fail to be punctual then the Vice-Chairman will be here on time -- perhaps he will be even more punctual than I. Like Ambassador Borch before me, I intend to start the meeting when we have a minimum quorum.

For the time being these are the considerations I wish to place before you in connexion with the organization of our work. I need hardly add that all this work of organization is really the responsibility of the Committee as a whole; I have merely put proposals before you so as to channel any discussion in an orderly manner.

Mr. CAICEDO (Colombia) (interpretation from Spanish): I simply wish to say that within the organization of our work that you have been good enough to submit to us, I think I understand correctly that you have divided the items into three groups. The first group consists of the sixth and seventh items on our agenda, as listed in document A/C.1/1044. The second group corresponds to the items listed as items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 12, 13, 14 and 16 of our agenda on disarmament, including among them General Assembly agenda item 103, which is not strictly on disarmament, but is related to it, since it refers to the maintenance of international security and the protection of the environment. Then the third group consists of
item 10, "Implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security: report of the Secretary-General".

I should like to ask you, Mr. Chairman, if you would be so kind as to confirm that my interpretation is accurate.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): Your interpretation was almost accurate, but there is a fourth item, Korea, which is part of the programme of work of the First Committee. Your interpretation was almost completely accurate. The first items are indeed on outer space, the second group is all items on disarmament, the third is the question of Korea, and the fourth is the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security.

Mr. ISSRAELIAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Pursuant to your appeal, the Soviet delegation, with the utmost regret, renounces its words of welcome to the Chairman of our Committee, such an experienced diplomat, Mr. Ortiz de Rozas, and also to the Vice-Chairmen of the First Committee, Comrade Neugebauer of the German Democratic Republic and Mr. Siddiq of Afghanistan, and to the Rapporteur, Mr. Costa Lobo of Portugal.

The Soviet delegation agrees with the proposal made by the Chairman with regard to the order of work in the First Committee and with regard to the grouping and the order of discussion. I had asked to speak after the discussion of this item on the agenda, organization of work of the Committee, but since you have already given me the floor, I should like to draw the attention of delegations to document A/C.1/L.675, circulated today at the first meeting, which contains a draft resolution on the question of the prohibition of action to influence the environment and climate for military and other purposes incompatible with the maintenance of international security, human well-being and health, and to the draft convention annexed to this draft resolution on the same subject. The Foreign Minister of the USSR, Andrei A. Gromyko, yesterday dwelt on this matter, and the Soviet delegation will of course have an opportunity to go into detail about the document which has been circulated today, but for the time being we should like to request delegations to familiarize themselves with this document, so that we can in due course more effectively hold a discussion.
on this subject. For its part, the Soviet delegation would like to express its readiness to co-operate with all delegations on the question I have just mentioned.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I thank the representative of the Soviet Union for the manner in which he waived his congratulations to the officers of the Committee and for his introduction of the document we have before us.

Does any other delegation wish to speak, either to comment on my proposals on the organization of our work, or to request clarification?

Mr. THOMPSON-FLORES (Brazil) (interpretation from Spanish): I should like to make a statement on the presentation of our programme of work, with which of course we agree. I do not know whether there was an indication of the date on which we would begin consideration of the fifth item of our agenda, or of the date on which we would begin the discussion of the tenth item, that is, the strengthening of international security. Would you be good enough to repeat this information?
The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): The consideration of the item on international security, which according to my proposal would be the last item, would begin on 5 December and could not take up more than 10 meetings, up to 12 December; that is to say that, in principle, on 12 December we should conclude our work, so as to comply with the request made by the President of the General Assembly. I trust that that clarification is satisfactory to the representative of Brazil?

Mr. CAICEDO (Colombia) (interpretation from Spanish): My previous statement could almost be said to concern a point of order, Sir, and I did not do my duty in accordance with strict parliamentary etiquette in failing to express my congratulations to the Officers of the Committee who have just been elected.

My first congratulations are to you, Sir, who with such brilliance and so many qualities represent Latin America in this Committee. It is a credit and an honour to your diplomatic experience. I should like to congratulate you also on the practical, simple and direct way in which you have outlined the framework for our deliberations at this session.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): I thank the representative of Colombia for his kind words.

Does any other representative wish to comment or request clarification in regard to the organization of our work? As I see that no representative wishes to do so, I interpret the feeling of the Committee that the programme I have submitted meets with the Committee's approval. Since I hear no objection, the First Committee will organize its debates in accordance with the programme I have read out.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Spanish): The Secretariat will prepare all the documents we shall need to facilitate our task.

I am most grateful to each member of the Committee for this initial co-operation, which has enabled us to complete our work very well and efficiently. I trust that this climate will prevail throughout all our debates.

The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m.