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Chairman: Sir Claude COREA (Ceylon).

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Frederik H. Boland, President of the General Assembly, took the Chair.

Election of the Vice-Chairman

1. U THANT (Burma) nominated Mr. Kurka (Czechoslovakia) for the office of Vice-Chairman.
2. Mr. TARABANOV (Bulgaria) seconded the nomination.
   
   Mr. Kurka (Czechoslovakia) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.
   
   Mr. Kurka (Czechoslovakia), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

Election of the Rapporteur

3. Mr. MATSUDAIRA (Japan) nominated Mr. Herrarte (Guatemala) for the office of Rapporteur.
4. Mr. ILLUECA (Panama) supported the nomination.
   
   Mr. Herrarte (Guatemala) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

Order of discussion of agenda items (A/C.1/825)

5. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to the letter dated 13 October 1960 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the First Committee giving the list of agenda items allocated to the Committee (A/C.1/825). He understood that the Committee would wish to take first and concurrently item 67 of the General Assembly's agenda (Disarmament and the situation with regard to the fulfilment of General Assembly resolution 1378 (XIV) of 20 November 1959 on the question of disarmament) and agenda item 66 (Report of the Disarmament Commission).

6. Mr. WACHUKU (Nigeria) suggested that the Committee should rather begin with agenda item 88 (Africa: a United Nations programme for independence and development). That was the least controversial item and, in view of the number of States which had just acceded to independence on the African continent and of the economic and social problems raised by that development, it should be given priority. Judging by what had been said in the General Assembly, the question of Africa should not give rise to a long debate in the First Committee, whereas discussion of the disarmament problem might take several weeks.

7. Mr. FREITAS (Togo) supported the Nigerian representative's suggestion. The new African nations which had just been admitted to the United Nations were faced with many urgent problems. The Committee, in discussing those problems, should take advantage of the presence of the Ministers who were heading the delegations of several of those countries and who might not be able to stay in New York until the end of the session.

8. Mr. COMAY (Israel) said that while he fully appreciated the feelings of the representatives of Nigeria and Togo, he did not consider that agenda item 88, concerning Africa, should be taken up first, in view of the undoubted universal importance of the disarmament question. The question of Africa might, however, be given very high priority, especially as many of the other items on the agenda had already been discussed at previous sessions or were of a controversial nature.

9. Mr. WNIKIEWICZ (Poland) associated himself whole-heartedly with the views expressed by the representatives of Nigeria and Togo, for it was important to discuss as soon as possible the needs of the newly independent countries. On the other hand, it had rightly been said in the general debate in plenary meeting that the most important question was that of disarmament. Moreover, the Committee already had before it three important papers on the question, which should be discussed without delay. It was therefore desirable that the Committee should take up first agenda items 67 and 88.

10. Mr. HASAN (Pakistan) considered the question of Africa to be most important. Nevertheless, if the Committee took up first the question of Africa, which he had understood would be taken up much later, he feared that the discussion might not be sufficiently profound. It would accordingly be better to begin with the disarmament problem and proceed with the question of Africa immediately afterwards.

11. Mr. MONTERO DE VARGAS (Paraguay) believed that, by dealing first with the item concerning Africa, the Committee would create a more favourable atmosphere for the discussion of the very delicate question of disarmament, which could be taken up immediately afterwards. He therefore supported the proposal made by the representatives of Nigeria and Togo, especially as the independence and economic development of the African nations were matters that were too important to be postponed.

12. Mr. DAVID (Czechoslovakia) believed that the Committee should consider the items on its agenda in the order of their importance. Nothing, of course, could be more important than eliminating the dangers with which the world was threatened by reason of the present armaments race. By giving first consideration to dis-
armament, the Committee would also be acting in accordance with the sentiments expressed by the representatives of all Member States in the course of the general debate in the plenary meetings. His delegation accordingly supported the proposal of the representative of Poland.

13. Mr. BENABOUD (Morocco) recognized that the question of disarmament was extremely important, but pointed out that the statements in the plenary meetings had also demonstrated the considerable importance of the African continent for the world not only at present but also in the future. The item concerning Africa should not, moreover, take up very much of the Committee's time, since it was mainly a question of principle. Furthermore, two other items relating to Africa had been allocated to the Committee. One was agenda item 71 (Question of Algeria), the other was item 79 (The problem of Mauritania). They were both very urgent, the first because it related to armed warfare, and the second because of the approaching date of 28 November, which had been decided on by France as the date for the final division of Morocco.

14. His delegation therefore supported the proposal of the Nigerian representative under which the Committee would deal first with agenda item 88.

15. Mr. COMAY (Israel) asked whether the representative of Nigeria would agree that the Committee should deal first with agenda items 67 and 86 concurrently and then take up item 88.

16. Mr. PAZHWAK (Afghanistan) asked whether the Nigerian representative had made a formal proposal, and, if so, whether he proposed that item 88 should be examined first or merely be given some sort of priority.

17. Mr. WACHUKU (Nigeria) underlined the importance of making Africa a region of peace and the consequent importance of agenda item 88. In a spirit of compromise, however, he was prepared to agree to an arrangement whereby the Committee would deal first with disarmament and immediately afterwards with item 86. A sub-committee could, perhaps, be set up to make a preliminary study of the question embodied in item 88 and submit a report to the Committee after the discussion on disarmament had been concluded.

18. Mr. ZORIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) noted with surprise that several countries which had participated in the negotiations on disarmament and which in the plenary meetings had recognized the paramount importance of that problem were not, so it would seem, particularly anxious for the Committee to discuss that matter and come to a speedy decision on it. Since those States could at present decide the balance between peace or war, they should be particularly concerned with disarmament.

19. In the opinion of the USSR, first consideration should be given to the questions relating to general and complete disarmament. In the first place, that problem was of capital importance because it was linked to the maintenance of peace throughout the world and thus also to the peaceful development of the various continents, including Africa. In the second place, the basis for an examination of the disarmament question had already been established by the course of events and the preceding discussions. It could not therefore be postponed. Again, the question was also the subject of several draft resolutions. And furthermore, a discussion of disarmament might create a favourable atmosphere for the solution of other problems.

20. His delegation believed that agenda items 67 and 86 should be considered together. The two other items relating to disarmament—agenda items 59 (Suspension of nuclear and thermo-nuclear tests) and 73 (Prevention of the wider dissemination of nuclear weapons)—should, by reason of their special importance, be taken up immediately after items 67 and 86. As to the order in which the other items should be taken up, his delegation would express its views after hearing the opinions of the States directly concerned with those items. He hoped that the other States participating in the negotiations on disarmament would take a stand similar to that of his delegation.

21. Mr. Krishna MENON (India) pointed out that the Committee had ten items on its agenda, as against eight at the fourteenth session, and that it had started its work ten days later than in 1959. He accordingly proposed that the four items relating to disarmament, namely, items 67, 69, 73 and 86, should be taken up together in the general debate, on the understanding that draft resolutions could be submitted separately for each item. That arrangement would make it possible to avoid a loss of precious time. He hoped that the item relating to Africa would be discussed at a very early date.

22. Mr. MEZINCESCU (Romania) proposed that agenda items 67, 69, 73 and 86 should be given first priority and be dealt with successively. The Committee already had the documents necessary for the debate on these items, whereas it was not yet ready to deal with agenda item 88, as was apparent from the Nigerian representative's suggestion for the establishment of a sub-committee. The Committee could wait until the end of the debate on disarmament before deciding on the other in which it would consider the other items.

23. Mr. BELAUINDE (Peru) thanked the representative of Nigeria for having agreed to the arrangement whereby the item relating to Africa would be considered after the Committee had finished with the discussion on disarmament, in which agenda items 67, 69, 73 and 86 would be dealt with concurrently. He supported the suggestion for setting up a sub-committee to make preparations for the discussion of item 88.

24. Mr. WADSWORTH (United States of America) also felt that disarmament should be the first item to be considered. Nevertheless, agenda item 88, which had been included in the Assembly's agenda at the request of the United States delegation, was of great importance by reason both of the interest which it aroused and of the proposals and concepts of considerable scope which it embraced. It should therefore be taken up as soon as possible after the question of disarmament, particularly as it concerned certain problems, such as the acceleration of technical assistance, economic aid and education in Africa, which were of interest to other Assembly Committees. Item 88 could be taken up immediately after the discussion of items 67 and 86 or, if the Committee preferred, after a combined discussion of the four items relating to disarmament. A document containing a preliminary outline of the ideas to be included in the programme proposed by President Eisenhower would shortly be circulated by his delegation.

25. Mr. QUAISON-SACKEY (Ghana) considered that agenda item 88 should be given a very high priority.
He formally supported the Indian representative's proposal that the Committee should deal with the four disarmament items together. However, if the Committee decided to separate items 87 and 86 from items 69 and 73, item 88 should be the second item discussed, preceding items 69 and 73.

26. Mr. RIFAI (Jordan) considered that either the question of the independence and development of Africa or the disarmament question could be given priority; on the other hand, it was essential to avoid any delay in dealing with the Algerian question as it concerned a tragic war. Furthermore, the problem of Mauritania should be discussed without delay. His delegation accordingly proposed that agenda item 71, concerning Algeria, should be made item 2 and agenda item 73, concerning Mauritania, item 3 of the Committee's agenda.

27. Mr. AIKEN (Ireland) agreed with the Indian representative that it would be advisable to group items 67, 69, 73 and 86 together for discussion purposes, on the understanding that there would be separate votes on the draft resolutions on the individual items.

28. Mr. LOUTFI (United Arab Republic) said that there appeared to be agreement in the Committee to consider the question of disarmament, i.e. items 67 and 86, immediately. He therefore proposed that the Committee should take a decision to that effect; it could then decide on the order in which it would deal with the other items.

29. Mr. SLIM (Tunisia) believed that the Committee could decide at once to discuss the disarmament question first, the question of Africa second and the question of Algeria third, since the discussion on that item might bring the conflict to an end. The Committee could then take up the other items in order of urgency and importance.

30. Mr. OKALA (Cameroon) said that he was inclined to support the Nigerian representative's proposal but that, in view of the spirit of compromise that representative had displayed, he would propose that the Committee should take a general decision on all the items, and not only on items 67 and 86, so as to enable the delegations that had only a few members to draw up their schedule of work. He supported the Indian representative's proposal that all the items relating to disarmament should be discussed concurrently in a general debate, to be followed by the question of Africa and then by the other agenda items.

31. Mr. THORS (Iceland) said he endorsed the Indian representative's proposal since the disarmament question, in view of its importance, should be given priority. The Committee should therefore decide forthwith to deal first with the disarmament question, to which four agenda items related. When it had completed its consideration of that question, it could decide the order in which it would take up the other items.

32. Mr. TARAIBANOV (Bulgaria) supported the proposal of the representative of the United Arab Republic that the Committee should consider concurrently and as a matter of priority agenda items 67 and 86 and then take up the other items. That would make for clearer discussion and would enable positions to be defined more sharply than if the different disarmament questions were dealt with simultaneously. Moreover, as everyone knew, the very important question of the cessation of nuclear tests was still the subject of negotiation at Geneva, agreement was already being reached on many points and, consequently, that question deserved special attention.

33. Mr. ORMSBY-GORE (United Kingdom) considered that the discussion might perhaps be clearer if items 67 and 86 were taken together and items 69 and 73 separately. On the other hand, those different questions were all aspects of the general question of disarmament and, to meet the wishes of the States which had asked for items 69 and 73 to be included in the General Assembly's agenda, the Committee could decide to take those four items together. He accordingly proposed that the disarmament items should be taken first and that, after informal discussions, the Committee should agree on the order in which the other items should be taken. The United Kingdom delegation, for its part, was prepared to agree that the African item should be taken immediately after the disarmament items.

34. Mr. ZORIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) thought it preferable to begin by taking items 67 and 86 together and to deal with items 69 and 73 separately, as those were distinct questions relating to a more specific area. He therefore supported the proposal of the representative of the United Arab Republic that the Committee should establish the order of priority of the various items only after it had dealt with items 67 and 86. Priority should be given to the items which were of particular concern to the African continent and account taken of the urgent nature of the Algerian question.

35. Mr. MEZINCESCU (Romania) explained that his delegation was in favour of discussing the disarmament items first, first of all items 67 and 86 concurrently, followed by items 69 and 73 in that order. It associated itself with those delegations that had proposed that items 67 and 86 should be taken first and that the Committee should defer its decision on the order in which the other items would be discussed, bearing in mind the urgency of the items relating to Africa.

36. Mr. WACHUKU (Nigeria) said he saw no objection to agenda items 67, 86, 69 and 73 being taken as a group. He proposed that the Committee should adopt a similar solution for agenda items 88, 71 and 79, which could be grouped together to form item 2 of the Committee's final agenda. Item 1 would thus have four subdivisions and item 2 three, relating to the question of Africa, the Algerian question and the problem of Mauritania respectively.

37. Mr. ALEMAYEHOU (Ethiopia) considered that the items dealing with disarmament should be taken together, on the understanding that the various draft resolutions would be considered separately. The question of Africa should be taken up immediately after the disarmament item, for other Committees of the General Assembly were waiting for the First Committee to take a decision in the matter before deciding a number of different questions concerning Africa. The Committee should then take up the Algerian question and after that the problem of Mauritania.

38. Mr. PAZHWA (Afghanistan) moved the adjournment of the meeting in order to give representatives time to consult one another and come to an agreement.

The motion for adjournment was adopted by 59 votes to none, with 11 abstentions.

The meeting rose at 1.5 p.m.