Fifteenth special session
Agenda item 3

CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FIFTEENTH SPECIAL SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Second report of the Credentials Committee

Chairman: Mr. Marcelo E. R. DELPECH (Argentina)

1. The Credentials Committee held its 2nd meeting on 21 June 1988.

2. The Committee had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General dated 20 June 1988 concerning the credentials of representatives of Member States participating in the fifteenth special session of the General Assembly, other than the credentials of the representatives accepted by the Credentials Committee at its 1st meeting on 9 June 1988 (see A/S-15/36).

3. A statement introducing the memorandum by the Secretary-General was made by the Director of the Office of the Legal Counsel.

4. As noted in paragraph 3 of the memorandum, formal credentials in the form required by rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly had been received from the following 22 Member States: Antigua and Barbuda, Bhutan, Brazil, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Fiji, France, Guinea, Indonesia, Iraq, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malta, Mauritius, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Turkey, Viet Nam and Zambia. The Director of the Office of the Legal Counsel informed the Committee that, subsequent to the preparation of the memorandum, formal credentials had been received from the Syrian Arab Republic and the United Arab Emirates. Paragraphs 3 and 4 of the memorandum were orally revised to reflect this additional information.

5. As noted in paragraph 4 of the memorandum, information concerning the appointment of their representatives to the fifteenth special session of the General Assembly had been communicated to the Secretary-General, by means of a cable from the Head of Government or the Minister for Foreign Affairs, or by means

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of a letter or note verbale from the Permanent Mission concerned, by the following 
48 Member States: Afghanistan, Angola, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belize, Benin, 
Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Colombia, Comoros, Czechoslovakia, 
Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Gabon, 
Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Madaqascar, 
Malawi, Mali, Niger, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Qatar, 
Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, 
Solomon Islands, Somalia, Spain, Swaziland, Uganda, United States of America and 
Zimbabwe. The Director of the Office of the Legal Counsel informed the Committee 
that, subsequent to the preparation of the memorandum, information concerning the 
appointment of representatives had been received, by means of a letter, from the 
Permanent Mission of Dominica. Paragraph 4 of the memorandum was orally revised to 
reflect this additional information.

6. Statements relating to the credentials of the representatives of Member States 
were made by the representatives of the United States of America, the Union of 
Soviet Socialist Republics, China and the Federal Republic of Germany.

7. The representative of the United States stated that, in view of the technical 
nature of the credentials exercise, the United States delegation was not raising 
any objection to the acceptance of the credentials of the representatives of 
Afghanistan, even though that country's Government had been installed as a result 
of foreign aggression.

8. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that his 
delegation viewed the statement that had been made concerning the credentials of 
the representatives of the Republic of Afghanistan as an outright attempt to 
distort historical and political realities. That such an attempt was untenable was 
apparent from the fact that the Republic of Afghanistan existed and was active on 
the international scene as a sovereign independent State, a member of the 
Non-Aligned Movement and a full-fledged Member of the United Nations. Moreover, 
the statement was not in conformity with the task of bringing about a total and 
comprehensive settlement of the situation around Afghanistan through implementing 
in good faith the Geneva accords.

9. The same representative reaffirmed his delegation's previous reservations 
concerning the credentials of the representatives of Grenada.

10. The representative of China stated that the Chinese delegation wished to point 
out that, although the agreements on the question of Afghanistan had been signed 
and entered into force, those agreements were still in the process of 
implementation and the question of Afghanistan had not yet been finally solved. 
Therefore, the Chinese delegation maintained its reservation on the participation 
of Afghan representatives in the current special session of the General Assembly.

11. The representative of the Federal Republic of Germany stated that his 
delegation wished to point out that the function the Credentials Committee had to 
exercise under rules 27 and 28 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly 
was of a technical nature: the Committee had to examine whether the credentials 
submitted for representatives of Member States met the formal requirements
stipulated in rule 27 of the rules of procedure. He stated that it was important to note that the task of the Committee was not a political one. The Committee was not called upon to make political judgments about the Governments that issued the credentials. This being so, his delegation concluded that the credentials of representatives of all the Member States listed in the Secretary-General's memorandum, as well as those referred to in the additional information provided to the Committee by the Director of the Office of the Legal Counsel, fulfilled those requirements, accordingly were in order and, therefore, should be accepted.

12. The representative of the United States of America stated that the credentials of the representatives of Grenada were obviously in order and that it was deplorable that some delegations were unable to restrain themselves from making baseless reservations.

13. The Chairman proposed that, taking into account the statements made in the Committee, which would be reflected in its report, the Committee accept the credentials of the representatives of the Member States referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Secretary-General's memorandum as orally revised, on the understanding that formal credentials for representatives of the Member States referred to in paragraph 4 of the Secretary-General's memorandum would be communicated to the Secretary-General as soon as possible. The following draft resolution was proposed by the Chairman for adoption by the Committee:

"The Credentials Committee,

"Having examined the credentials of the representatives to the fifteenth special session of the General Assembly of the Member States referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the memorandum by the Secretary-General dated 20 June 1988,

"Taking into account the reservations expressed during the debate,

"Accepts the credentials of the representatives of the Member States concerned."

14. The draft resolution was adopted without a vote.

15. The Chairman then proposed that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution (see para. 17). The proposal was adopted without a vote.

16. In the light of the foregoing, the present report is submitted to the General Assembly.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

17. The Credentials Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

/...
The General Assembly,

Approves the second report of the Credentials Committee.