Fifteenth special session
Agenda item 3

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

First report of the Credentials Committee

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

1. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 31 May 1988, the General Assembly, in accordance with rule 28 of its rules of procedure, appointed a Credentials Committee for its fifteenth special session consisting of the following Member States: Argentina, Barbados, Cape Verde, China, Germany, Federal Republic of, Kenya, Singapore, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and United States of America.

2. The Credentials Committee held its first meeting on 9 June 1988.

3. Mr. Marcelo E. R. Delpech (Argentina) was unanimously elected Chairman.

4. The Committee had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General, dated 8 June 1988, on the status of credentials of representatives to the fifteenth special session. The memorandum indicated that, as at 8 June 1988, credentials issued by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, as provided in rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, had been submitted by 80 Member States: Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Bolivia, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Kampuchea, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Finland, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Singapore, Suriname, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet
Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire. The Legal Counsel informed the Committee that, subsequent to the preparation of the memorandum, additional credentials in due form had been received in respect of the representatives of five Member States: Gambia, Panama, Saint Lucia, Sudan and Trinidad and Tobago.

5. The Legal Counsel explained to the Committee that the Secretary-General's memorandum, as supplemented by the additional information he had provided to the Committee, related solely to the Member States that had submitted formal credentials for their representatives in accordance with rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. The Legal Counsel indicated also that at a later stage the Secretary-General would report to the Committee on the credentials of representatives of other Member States participating in the fifteenth special session whose formal credentials had not yet been received at the time of the Committee's first meeting.

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

7. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics reiterated his delegation's opposition to acceptance of the credentials of the delegation of the so-called "Democratic Kampuchea" and urged that the representatives appointed by the Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea be accorded an opportunity to occupy their legitimate place in the Organization.

8. The same representative stated that his delegation also wished to reconfirm its non-acceptance of the credentials of the delegation of Chile.

9. The representative of China reiterated the position of the Chinese delegation that the coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea was the sole legal Government of Kampuchea which enjoyed broad international recognition and support. The so-called "Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea" was but a product of foreign armed aggression and could in no way represent the Kampuchean people. The Chinese delegation therefore recommended that the Committee accept the credentials of the representatives of Democratic Kampuchea as it had done at previous sessions.

10. The representative of the United States of America said that the credentials of the representatives of Democratic Kampuchea were clearly in order, fulfilled the requirements of rule 27 of the rules of procedure, had already been accepted by the General Assembly in the past and should be accepted at the current session. The suggested alternative was a régime brought to power by a foreign military invasion and one that was clearly not representative in any way, shape or form of the Kampuchean people.

11. The same representative noted that the credentials of the representatives of Chile were also in order, submitted in accordance with rule 27 of the rules of procedure, and there was no possible basis for their being called into question.
12. The representative of Singapore said that his country and the vast majority of the Member States of the United Nations have accepted Democratic Kampuchea as the legal Government of Kampuchea and that he was confident that the credentials of Democratic Kampuchea would once again be accepted and endorsed by the United Nations. The same representative stated that the approval or disapproval of a country's credentials was normally a technical question; the important question was whether the credentials complied with rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. He also stated that as the credentials of Democratic Kampuchea were clearly in order, there were no technical grounds for questioning them.

13. The representative of the Federal Republic of Germany stated that the function the Credentials Committee had to exercise was not a political one. Its task under rules 27 and 28 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly was rather to perform the technical function of ensuring that the credentials submitted for representatives of Member States met the formal requirements stipulated in rule 27 of the rules of procedure. Her delegation concluded that the credentials of the representatives of all the Member States listed in the Secretary-General's memorandum and in the additional information provided to the Committee by the Legal Counsel fulfilled those requirements, accordingly were in order and should be accepted.

14. The Chairman proposed that, taking into account the statements made by the Legal Counsel and by members of the Committee, which would be reflected in the Committee's report, the Committee should adopt the following draft resolution:

"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 paragraph 4 of this report,

"Taking into account the reservations expressed during the debate,

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

15. The draft resolution proposed by the Chairman was adopted without a vote.

16. The Chairman then proposed that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution (see para. 18). The proposal was adopted without a vote.

17. In the light of the foregoing, the present report is submitted to the General Assembly.
RECOMMENDATION OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

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

Credentials of representatives to the fifteenth special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly

Approves the first report of the Credentials Committee.