Tenth special session
Agenda item 3

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

Report of the Credentials Committee

Chairman: Mr. Shailendra Kumar UPADHYAY (Nepal)

1. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 23 May 1978, the General Assembly, in
accordance with rule 28 of its rules of procedure, appointed a Credentials
Committee. Referring to the recommendation made by the Preparatory Committee
for the Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament 1/ and
endorsed by the General Assembly at its thirty-second session, 2/ the Assembly
decided that the Credentials Committee would consist of the same members as
those appointed for the thirty-second regular session, namely: Canada, China,
Ecuador, Fiji, Madagascar, Nepal, Nigeria, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
and United States of America.

2. The Credentials Committee held one meeting on 22 June 1978.

3. Mr. Shailendra Kumar Upadhay (Nepal) was elected Chairman unanimously.

4. The Committee had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General, dated
20 June 1978, indicating that as at that date communications had been received
from 144 Member States participating in the session. Credentials issued by the
Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, as provided
for by rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, had been
submitted to the Secretary-General by 105 Member States (Afghanistan, Albania,
Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium,
Bhutan, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada,
Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic
Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji,

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Tenth Special Session,
2/ General Assembly resolution 32/88 B.

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Finland, France, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Maldives, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Surinam, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam and Yugoslavia). The appointment of the representatives of the Central African Empire and Mauritius had been communicated to the Secretary-General by cables from the Ministers for Foreign Affairs. The appointment of the representatives of 37 Member States had been communicated to the Secretary-General by letter or note verbale from the permanent representative or permanent mission concerned (Angola, Bahrain, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Cape Verde, Cyprus, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Grenada, Guinea, India, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Singapore, Sudan, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Yemen, Zaire and Zambia). No communications had been received from five Member States (Comoros, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Seychelles and South Africa). The memorandum also listed 27 Member States that had not submitted formal credentials, but the permanent representatives of which had been empowered to represent their respective States in the General Assembly without limitation as to session.

5. The Legal Counsel informed the Committee that, since the preparation of the Secretary-General's memorandum, credentials in the form provided for by rule 27 of the rules of procedure had been received from Oman, that cables on the representation at the tenth special session had been received from the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Brazil, Nicaragua and Paraguay and that a note verbale had been received from the Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic. Thus, as at the date of the meeting, 145 Member States had officially informed the Secretary-General that they were participating in the tenth special session, while no communications had been received from four Member States. He added that formal credentials in accordance with rule 27 of the rules of procedure had been submitted so far by 106 Member States participating in the session.

6. The Legal Counsel also informed the Committee that it would be in accordance with past practice for the Committee to accept the credentials of all Member States that had been reported as participating in the tenth special session, on the understanding that the formal credentials of representatives for whom those had not yet been submitted would be communicated to the Secretary-General as soon as possible.

7. In reply to a question raised by the representative of Canada, the Secretary of the Credentials Committee confirmed that all or most of the Member States listed in the Secretary-General's memorandum as having communicated the
appointment of their representatives to the Secretary-General by letter or note verbale from the permanent representative or the permanent mission concerned had delegations consisting of more than one representative and that, although several of those Member States were represented by a permanent representative who had standing credentials for any session of the General Assembly, they still had to submit formal credentials for the other representatives in their delegations. If the Committee decided to accept the credentials of those delegations, it would do so under the assurance that proper credentials would be submitted for all representatives as soon as possible.

8. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that his delegation did not recognize the credentials of the delegation of the fascist regime of Chile and requested that this view be reflected in the report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

9. The representative of the United States of America stated that issues of the nature of the one raised by the representative of the USSR were not properly before the Credentials Committee and that the credentials of the delegation in question were obviously in order, as had been reported by the Secretary-General. In the view of his delegation, there was no basis in law or in fact for questioning the validity of those credentials and it would be a violation of the Committee's mandate and of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations to do so.

10. In reply to a question raised by the representative of Nigeria as to what was the meaning of the reference to South Africa in the Secretary-General's memorandum, the Legal Counsel stated that the memorandum was intended to provide the members of the Credentials Committee with the complete information available to the Secretary-General on the participation and credentials of all States Members of the United Nations. The memorandum therefore included South Africa in the list of Member States that had empowered their permanent representatives to represent their respective States in the General Assembly without limitation as to session. On the other hand, the memorandum also mentioned that no communication had been received from South Africa as to its participation in the session, so that there was no reason for the Credentials Committee to consider the credentials of South Africa.

11. The representative of Nigeria stated that his Government did not recognize South Africa as a Member of the United Nations and requested that this view be reflected in the report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

12. The representative of the United States stated that he wished to record his delegation's agreement with the statement of the Legal Counsel to the effect that, since South Africa was not participating in the tenth special session and consequently had submitted no credentials, the Credentials Committee did not have to consider the question of the credentials of that Member State.

13. The representative of the USSR inquired whether his understanding that the States mentioned in paragraph 5 of the Secretary-General's memorandum, as orally
amended during the meeting, were not participating in the tenth special session was correct. The Legal Counsel confirmed this understanding.

14. The Chairman then proposed that, in the light of the remarks made by the Legal Counsel and taking into account the statements made in the Committee, the Committee should decide to accept the credentials of the representatives of all Member States participating in the tenth special session, on the understanding that the formal credentials of representatives of those Member States not referred to in paragraph 2 of the Secretary-General's memorandum, with the exception of permanent representatives who had standing full powers, would be communicated to the Secretary-General shortly. The proposal was approved by the Committee without a vote.

15. In the light of this decision, the Chairman then proposed the following draft resolution for adoption by the Committee:

"The Credentials Committee,

"Having examined the credentials of the representatives to the tenth special session of the General Assembly,

"Accepts the credentials of all representatives to the tenth special session of the General Assembly."

The draft resolution 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 below). The proposal was approved by the Committee 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 tenth special session
of the General Assembly

The General Assembly

Approves the report of the Credentials Committee.