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General Conference

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

GENERAL COMMITTEE

OFFICIAL RECORD OF THE FIFTH MEETING

Held at the Neue Hofburg, Vienna,
on Wednesday, 1 October 1958, at 9.45 a.m.

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* GC(II)/57.

Present

<u>Chairman.</u>	Mr. SUDJARWO	President of the General Conference
<u>Members.</u>	Mr. WERSHOF	Canada
	Mr. CORPION CAULA	Cuba
	Mr. MARTIN	France
	Mr. RAJAN	India
	Mr. NUKAIBO	Japan
	Mr. NICUTZA	Romania
	Mr. de ERICE	Spain
	Mr. VEJYANT-RANGRISHT	Thailand
	Mr. TACAR	Turkey
	Mr. ZAMYATIN	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
	Mr. FAHMY	United Arab Republic
	Mr. MICHAELS	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Mr. VEDELER	United States of America

Also present:

Mr. WINKLER	Chairman of the Board of Governors
Mr. GLEISSNER	Austria

Secretariat:

Mr. COLE	Director General
Mr. JOLLES	Secretary of the General Committee

MONTH IN WHICH REGULAR SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE SHALL BE CONVENED
(GC(II)/GEN/7) (continued)

1. The CHAIRMAN said that the General Conference, in order to complete Rule 1 of the Rules of Procedure, would have to fix the month in which its regular session should normally be convened, and that the General Committee had decided to invite the delegate from Austria to attend the present meeting.^{1/}

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Gleissner (Austria) sat at the table of the General Committee.

2. Mr. WERSHOF (Canada) thought that the majority of the delegations preferred the regular session to take place in September or October. For some other delegations this had serious drawbacks, as the regular session of the General Conference and the General Assembly of the United Nations would overlap. On the other hand, if it were decided to choose another time of year, for example April or May, the Agency would encounter other difficulties. No doubt a shortening of the length of the mandate of members elected to the Board of Governors would be possible from a legal point of view, but those concerned would certainly not be over pleased. From the budgetary point of view, a change would not present insoluble problems. But Member States were accustomed to the present system and the transition from one system to another would present many difficulties. The inconveniences of a change in date were clearly greater than the advantages. He was therefore in favour of sessions in September or October. The choice between those two months was of secondary importance.

3. Mr. ZAMYATIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) shared the point of view of the delegate from Canada. In addition to the two disadvantages which had already been pointed out, a change in date would entail a third: if the Conference were to meet in April or May, the annual report of the Agency to the United Nations would already be six months old at the opening of the General Assembly. To remedy that disadvantage, it would be necessary to modify the Statute and to give the Board of Governors power to approve the annual report. The disadvantage of a September or October session, to which attention was drawn in paragraph 7(b) of the Director General's note (GC(II)/GEN/7), was

^{1/} GC(II)/GEN/OR.5, paragraph 16.

not too serious, because the Economic and Social Council was subordinate to the General Assembly. The Soviet delegation had no very definite view as to the precise day in September on which the Conference should open.

4. Mr. TACAR (Turkey) approved of the Director General's note and had no objection to another season being chosen. If the General Conference decided in favour of a change, however, he considered that in 1959 it would have to meet once more in October to vote a six months' budget and to approve the modifications to the financial rules which that would entail. The Turkish delegation was opposed to a spring session in 1959, which would involve budgetary complications.

5. Mr. MICHAELS (United Kingdom) supported the views expressed by the delegates from Canada and the USSR.

6. Mr. MARTIN (France) and Mr. de ERICE (Spain), Chairman of the Programme, Technical and Budget Committee, also agreed with the delegates from Canada and the USSR and expressed a preference for the first fortnight of October.

7. Mr. VEDELER (United States of America) was willing to be guided by the prevailing opinion of the members of the General Committee. In view of the considerations mentioned by previous speakers and the balance of advantage from its own internal standpoint, the United States believed that the period between 15 September and 15 October would be the best if the General Conference decided in favour of an autumn session.

8. In reply to a query by Mr. WERSHOF (Canada) the DIRECTOR GENERAL said that as the Agency had to submit an annual report to the General Assembly of the United Nations, September would be preferable to October provided the opening date of the session were fixed for the end of September.

9. Mr. GLEISSNER (Austria) said he would have favoured a change of date. From the practical point of view, neither September nor October presented any difficulties, but it would be preferable to avoid the first fortnight in September, during which Vienna was full of visitors to the Trade Fair (Wiener Messe). As long as the Austrian authorities received sufficient notice, they would always however be able to put the accommodation in the Neue Hofburg at the disposal of the Agency for the Conference.

10. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the General Committee authorize him to recommend to the General Conference that it complete Rule 1 of the Rules of Procedure by adding the word "September" in the blank space.
11. Mr. de ERICE (Spain), Chairman of the Programme, Technical and Budget Committee, asked whether the General Conference should include in Rule 1 the name of the calendar month or whether it should put down some other period of 30 days, for example, the days between 15 September and 15 October.
12. The CHAIRMAN felt that in view of the heading of Rule 1 the first suggestion was preferable.
13. Mr. JOLLES (Secretary of the General Committee) said that the choice of September would not prevent the General Conference from holding most of its session in October. It would be sufficient to convene it in the last week of September. Also, Rule 1 of the Rules of Procedure laid down a general rule, but the Conference could always decide to make an exception if it so desired.

The Chairman's suggestion was adopted.

OPENING DATE OF THE THIRD REGULAR SESSION (continued)

14. Mr. WERSHOF (Canada) proposed that Monday 28 September 1959 be recommended to the General Conference as the opening date for the third regular session.
15. Mr. VEDELER (United States of America) pointed out that whenever a session opened on a Monday many of the delegates arrived in Vienna only on the Sunday before; they scarcely had time enough for informal discussions before the beginning of the General Conference's work, if they did not have a working day available for that purpose. A Tuesday would be a better opening day than a Monday for the General Conference, whatever week was chosen for the beginning of the session.
16. The DIRECTOR GENERAL said that the Secretariat also preferred to have a working day at its disposal at the beginning of the week on which the General Conference was to meet. He hoped, therefore, that the General Committee would recommend the last Tuesday of September 1959 to the General Conference as the opening date of the third regular session.

17. The CHAIRMAN, speaking in his capacity as delegate of Indonesia, and supported by Mr. VEJYANT-RANGRISHT (Thailand), would prefer the General Conference to meet earlier in the month of September. However, he would accept whatever date suited the majority of the General Committee.

18. Mr. MICHAELS (United Kingdom) suggested, as a compromise, Tuesday 22 September 1959 as the opening date of the third regular session.

19. After an exchange of views in which the CHAIRMAN, Mr. VEJYANT-RANGRISHT (Thailand) and Mr. WERSHOF (Canada) took part, the CHAIRMAN suggested that the General Committee recommend to the General Conference the morning of Tuesday, 22 September 1959 for the opening of the third regular session.

The Chairman's suggestion was adopted.

20. The CHAIRMAN thanked the delegate from Austria for attending the meeting and for having assisted the General Committee in coming to its decisions.

The meeting rose at 10.35 a.m.