



**INTERNATIONAL
ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**

Distr.
RESTRICTED
GC(III)/GEN/OR.7
9 December 1959
ENGLISH

General Conference

THIRD REGULAR SESSION

GENERAL COMMITTEE

OFFICIAL RECORD OF THE SEVENTH MEETING

Held at the Neue Hofburg, Vienna,
on Friday, 25 September 1959, at 9.10 a.m.

CONTENTS

<u>Item of the agenda*</u>		<u>Paragraphs</u>
6	Adoption of the agenda and allocation of items to Committees (continued)	1 - 23

* GC(III)/88/Rev.2.

Present

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. FURUUCHI	President of the General Conference
<u>Members:</u>	Mr. CUNHA	Brazil
	Mr. NADJAKOV	Bulgaria
	Mr. BARTON	Canada
	Mr. FONTAINE	France
	Mr. SPANIDIS	Greece
	Mr. RAJAN	India
	Mr. de ARAOZ	Mexico
	Mr. TAMMES	Netherlands
	Mr. SCOTT	New Zealand
	Mr. AHMAD	Pakistan
	Mr. El ANNABI	Tunisia
	Mr. NOVIKOV	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
	Mr. MICHAELS	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Mr. FOSTER	United States of America

Also present: Mr. BERNARDES Chairman of the Board of Governors

Secretariat: Mr. JOLLES Secretary of the General Committee

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ALLOCATION OF ITEMS TO COMMITTEES (GC(III)/88;
GC(III)/GEN/14) (continued)

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the proposal by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for the addition of an item to the agenda (GC(III)/GEN/14).
2. Mr. MICHAELS (United Kingdom) said that it was not for the Committee to consider the substance of the USSR proposal, but solely to decide whether it was of a sufficiently important and urgent character to justify its addition to the agenda of the General Conference under the provisions of Rule 15 of the Rules of Procedure.
3. The question had already been discussed at length by the Board of Governors at its meeting on 1 July 1959 and had not been raised again since. If any recent events had rendered the matter urgent, he would like to know what they were.
4. If the Committee recommended the addition of the question to the agenda, the General Conference could not consider it until after seven days had elapsed unless otherwise decided by a two-thirds majority. Thus, the discussion could not take place until 2 or 3 October, when the amount of work to be done at the end of the session would prevent any serious consideration of the item.
5. If the Soviet Union simply wished the item to be reconsidered by the Board of Governors, all that was necessary was to add it to the Board's agenda under Rule 33(b) of the Board's Provisional Rules of Procedure. The Board could then examine it as early as 1 October, in other words even before the General Conference could consider it.
6. Such a question could not be regarded as urgent and important. If it had really been so, the Soviet Union would not have waited until the last moment before proposing it. Its consideration on the last day of the session therefore seemed rather absurd.
7. He felt that the procedure adopted to secure the addition of that kind of item to the agenda was not worthy of a great Power.
8. Mr. FOSTER (United States of America) was also of the opinion that there was nothing in the Board's Provisional Rules of Procedure to prevent

the addition of the proposed item to its agenda; hence, there seemed no need to address a recommendation to the General Conference to that effect.

9. Mr. NOVIKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) could not accept the statement of the delegate of the United Kingdom that the USSR proposal had been submitted too late. The Soviet Union delegation had acted in conformity with the Rules of Procedure, which provided that a new item could be proposed not less than seven days before its consideration. As the closing of the present session had been set for 3 October, his delegation had no objection to observing the prescribed period.

10. As for the United Kingdom delegate's remark that it was unworthy of a great Power to concern itself with such unimportant questions, the Soviet Union delegation gave equal attention to solving all problems, large or small. In any case, the World Federation of Trade Unions was not a negligible group; it was the largest such federation in the world and had been granted consultative status with the United Nations, the International Labour Organisation and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. What, then, was there to prevent the Agency from following suit? The addition of the proposed item to the agenda was fully justified.

11. Mr. MICHAELS (United Kingdom) explained that his observations about the procedure followed by the Soviet Union did not apply to the substance of the question.

12. It was not necessary to ask the Committee to make a recommendation to the General Conference in order to have the proposed item added to the Board's agenda. It might be, however, that the Soviet Union considered that such a recommendation would amount to a kind of motion of censure on the decision taken by the Board, but if that were so it was unlikely that the recommendation would be supported by the majority of delegations. On the other hand, if the proposal was rejected, the Board would be in an embarrassing situation with regard to reconsidering the question.

13. Mr. NOVIKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) hoped that his delegation's proposal would be adopted, which would make it unnecessary for him to revert to the matter in plenary session.

14. Mr. FOSTER (United States of America) said it was an accepted tradition in his country that the decisions of Congress and of the President were not irrevocable, and his delegation would therefore consider it quite normal for the Board to reconsider any of its decisions at the appropriate time, and indeed the rules of the Board contained such a provision. If it could be sure that the decision would not give rise to a political debate in the General Conference, his delegation would not oppose the inclusion of the item in the agenda.
15. The Soviet Union delegate had stated that he had no intention of opening a debate on the subject, and it might be hoped that the delegations of the other Eastern countries would do the same; the United States was not in a position, however, to guarantee that all Western countries would adopt the same attitude. In order to avoid any misunderstanding, a decision would have to be taken in advance to put the USSR proposal to the vote without discussion.
16. Mr. MICHAELS (United Kingdom) was prepared to adopt the point of view expressed by the United States delegate. However, he emphasized that the decision of the General Conference should not be interpreted as censuring the previous decision of the Board of Governors, but merely as reaffirming the provisions of Rule 33(b) of the Board's Provisional Rules of Procedure.
17. Mr. BARTON (Canada) said that he too attached importance to that point, but doubted whether the General Committee was competent to recommend to the General Conference anything more than the addition of the item in question to the agenda.
18. Mr. NADJAKOV (Bulgaria) felt that the arguments adduced by the Soviet Union delegate were particularly cogent and that there was no rule that could be invoked against adding the item in question to the agenda. He regretted that unfavourable views had been expressed and sincerely hoped that the General Committee would decide in favour of adding the item.
19. Mr. AHMAD (Pakistan) thought that agreement could easily be reached on the basis of the suggestions by the United States and United Kingdom delegates. The General Committee might recommend that the item should be added to the agenda on the understanding that the USSR proposal would be put to the vote without discussion and that the decision of the General Conference

would merely constitute a reaffirmation of the Board's right to consider after the lapse of four months a proposal which had been previously adopted or rejected. Nevertheless, he shared the doubts of the Canadian delegate as to whether the General Committee, in its resolution, could suggest the procedure that the General Conference should follow. The President, however, could convey the wishes of the Committee orally in his opening remarks.

20. Mr. FOSTER (United States of America) supported the delegate of Pakistan's suggestion. So far as procedure was concerned, there was no rule to prevent the Chairman of the General Committee from stating in his oral report to the General Conference that the Committee had unanimously recommended that the USSR proposal should be put to the vote without discussion, in order not to hold up the work of the Conference.

21. Mr. NOVIKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) approved the suggested solution.

22. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the question of granting consultative status with the Agency to the World Federation of Trade Unions be added to the agenda as item 25 and considered at a plenary meeting, and that, in presenting the Committee's report, he should inform the General Conference of the unanimous view of the members that there should be no debate on the draft resolution.

23. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 10.15 a.m.