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COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

RECORD OF THE TWELFTH MEETING

Held at the Neue Hofburg, Vienna,  
on Thursday, 21 September 1978, at 4 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. GILLON (Belgium)

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\* A provisional version of this document was issued on 27 September 1978.

\*\* GC(XXII)/605.

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The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document  
GC(XXII)/INF/179/Rev.2.

AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE VI.A.2 OF THE STATUTE (GC(XXII)/602, 602/Add.1-4)  
(continued)

1. Mr. KHAN (Pakistan) said that his delegation appreciated the high standard of debate that had prevailed despite the wide differences of opinion about the proposed amendment to Article VI.A.2 of the Statute. It welcomed the support expressed by delegations from Latin America, the Far East, and South Asia and the Pacific, as well as that shown by the representatives of Romania and Yugoslavia for the principle underlying the increased representation proposed. It also noted with satisfaction that the Australian and New Zealand delegations had expressed their support for the draft amendment.

2. The African delegations' statements on the subject had reflected a commendably conciliatory approach, which his delegation hoped would be reciprocated.

3. The argument based on alleged dangers resulting from an increased membership of the Board was unfounded. In 1970 the membership had been increased from 25 to 34 representatives; in comparison, the increase now being proposed - one representative for each of two areas - was moderate. Likewise, there was no substance to the charge that the sponsors of the proposed increase were being unrealistic. It was precisely out of respect for the advanced countries' important financial and technological contributions that only a modest increase was being proposed - an increase that would entail no real shift in the balance of power, since the areas which would benefit from it were at present under-represented to the extent of some 15-20%, which the proposed increase, if adopted, would scarcely affect.

4. Those who argued that unanimous approval was required for any increase in Board membership should recall that the 1970 amendment had been adopted by vote. The sponsors sincerely hoped to avoid a vote on the latest proposal, since to vote might create a divisive atmosphere detrimental to the organization's methods of work. However, they sincerely regarded their proposal as a genuine attempt, in a spirit of compromise, to make a modest adjustment to a serious imbalance; they hoped the proposal could be accepted, in that spirit of compromise and of partnership between supplier and recipient States which was essential for the solution of present and future problems.

5. Mr. SATTAR (Iraq) noted with satisfaction that most of the previous speakers had been in favour of a moderate increase in the representation of the areas of Africa and of the Middle East and South Asia on the Board. Indeed, it was hard to understand why the principle of equitable representation set forth in the Statute should be denied to those areas, which were, in any case, very important sources of energy as well as regions where science and technology were making considerable strides.

6. His delegation saw no grounds for linking the proportion of representation on the Board to the size of contributions made to the Agency's budget. Nor did it believe that increased membership of the Board would hamper efficiency; on the contrary, more equitable geographical representation would enhance mutual trust and hence the Board's effectiveness.

7. He shared the belief of the other speakers from the two regions concerned that the issue should be resolved in accordance with the principles already endorsed by a majority of the Agency's Member States.

8. Mr. KAMIL (Indonesia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 as well as his delegation, said that the developing countries noted with disappointment that the draft amendment submitted by Pakistan and other sponsors to increase the representation of the areas of Africa and of the Middle East and South Asia on the Board of Governors had not achieved a consensus in the Committee, although those who supported the proposal were undoubtedly in the majority. Agreement must now be sought on the way in which to give the matter further consideration in the immediate future.

9. The assertion that representation should be linked to financial contributions suggested the advocacy of weighted voting, which had no part in the Agency's procedure. In any case, if financial contributions were to represent the main criterion, the forthcoming elections for membership of the Board would be pointless; nominations for the posts to be filled might as well be made on the basis of the national financial contributions recently announced.

10. Mr. CARTER (Canada) said it was abundantly clear, from the discussions so far held, that most members would like the Committee to arrive at a decision by consensus in respect of the proposed amendment. He suggested that the meeting should be adjourned in order that the Committee might continue the informal consultations already begun.

11. Mr. OSREDKAR (Yugoslavia) supported that suggestion.
12. The CHAIRMAN, in reply to a question by Mr. JIMETA (Nigeria), said that further informal consultations, if the Committee agreed to hold them, could be based on a revised draft amendment which was about to be circulated. In reply to further questions by Mr. COELHO (Brazil) and Mr. DIOUF (Senegal), he assured the Committee that the draft would be circulated in time for delegations to study it later that afternoon. The revised text was sponsored by the Yugoslav delegation; on behalf of the Committee, he thanked that delegation for its efforts to achieve a compromise solution.

The meeting rose at 4.25 p.m.

