



GC

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FORTY-FIFTH (2001) REGULAR SESSION

GENERAL COMMITTEE

RECORD OF THE SECOND MEETING

Held at the Austria Center Vienna
on Thursday, 20 September 2001, at 9.15 a.m.

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[*] GC(45)/28.

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ATTENDANCE AT THE MEETING

Chairman

Mr. GRÖNBERG (Finland), President of the General Conference

Members

Mr. ZHANG Huazhu (China), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr. PALACIOS (Ecuador), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr. BORCHARD, representing Ms. MÖLLER (Germany), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr. HANIFF, representing Mr. HASHIM (Malaysia), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr. DEDUSHKIN, representing Mr. RUMYANTSEV (Russian Federation), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr. MOONESINGHE (Sri Lanka), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr. NOBLE, representing Mr. ABRAHAM (United States of America), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr. KANGAI (Zimbabwe), Vice-President of the General Conference

Ms. HERNES (Norway), Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. FIGUEROA (Argentina), Additional Member

Mr. HOGBE NLEND (Cameroon), Additional Member

Mr. KLUCKÝ, representing Ms. DRÁBOVÁ (Czech Republic), Additional Member

Ms. AL-MULLA (Kuwait), Additional Member

Mr. KUTAS, representing Mr. DAINIUS (Lithuania), Additional Member

Speaker invited by the Committee

Mr. AMIR (Israel)

Secretariat

Mr. ANING, Secretary of the Committee

Mr. ESPINO, Director of the Division of Budget and Finance

Mr. RAMES, Office of Legal Affairs

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING
(GC(45)/GEN/2)

1. The CHAIRMAN asked whether the Committee wished to adopt the proposed agenda contained in document GC(45)/GEN/2.
2. It was so decided.

EXAMINATION OF DELEGATES' CREDENTIALS
(GC(45)/30 and 31)

3. The CHAIRMAN, after drawing the Committee's attention to the relevant rules of the Rules of Procedure and recalling that credentials designated the delegate of a Member State to a given session of the General Conference, that they were submitted to the Director General and that they were issued by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Member State concerned, said that the Director General had received credentials in due form as required by Rule 27 of the Rules of Procedure from 89 delegates and that the Secretariat had also received communications in respect of 27 delegates that did not constitute formal credentials meeting the requirements of that Rule. All the delegates to the current session of the General Conference fell within one of those categories.
4. In addition, the Committee had before it document GC(45)/30, containing reservations submitted by the Dean of the Arab Diplomatic Corps in Vienna on behalf of Arab delegations participating in the session, concerning the credentials of the Israeli delegation, and document GC(45)/31, in which Israel had set out its position with regard to those reservations.
5. Ms. AL-MULLA (Kuwait) said she felt that the statement of Arab delegations concerning their reservations about the credentials submitted by the Israeli delegation spoke for itself.
6. Mr. AMIR (Israel), reminding the members that the Committee was addressing a procedural issue that should not be politicized, drew attention to the statement by his delegation contained in document GC(45)/31.
7. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee submit to the General Conference a report stating that it had met to examine the credentials of delegates in accordance with Rule 28 of the Rules of Procedure and containing a list of Member States whose delegates had, in the Committee's opinion, submitted credentials satisfying the requirements of Rule 27 of the Rules of Procedure, and another list indicating the Member States for whose delegates the Director General had received communications that did not comply with that Rule. In line with past practice, the report could indicate that the Committee considered that delegates in the latter category should nevertheless be allowed to participate in the work of the Conference on the understanding that credentials in due form would be submitted for each of them as soon as possible, preferably before the end of the session. The report should further state that the Committee had had before it a statement submitted by the Dean of the Arab Diplomatic Corps in Vienna on behalf of Arab States participating in the session concerning their reservations

about the credentials of the delegation of Israel, as well as a document setting out the position of Israel with regard to those reservations. Finally, the report could recommend that the General Conference adopt, with the reservations and position just mentioned, the following draft resolution:

“EXAMINATION OF DELEGATES’ CREDENTIALS

“The General Conference

“Accepts the report by the General Committee on its examination of the credentials of delegates to the Conference’s forty-fifth regular session which is set forth in document GC(45)/32.”

8. The CHAIRMAN asked whether he could take it that the General Committee wished a report on those lines to be prepared and submitted to the General Conference.

9. It was so decided.

RESTORATION OF VOTING RIGHTS

(GC(45)/INF/9)

10. The CHAIRMAN recalled that at its first meeting the Committee had deferred taking a decision on the request by Iraq for the restoration of its voting rights. He wished to propose the following compromise text:

“The Committee is of the opinion that the failure by Iraq to pay the amount necessary to avoid the application of Article XIX of the Statute was not due to conditions beyond its control, and accordingly the Committee recommends that Iraq not be permitted to vote. However, one Member felt that Iraq’s voting rights should be restored”.

11. Mr. DEDUSHKIN (Russian Federation), having reiterated his country’s support for Iraq’s request for the restoration of its voting rights, said that he had no objection in principle to the Chairman’s text.

12. Mr. HANIFF (Malaysia) said that his country’s position had not changed for the past two years and that if the Committee were to vote on the matter, he would abstain.

13. Ms. AL-MULLA (Kuwait) said that she was more or less in agreement with the Chairman’s proposed text, but noted that the Committee was not voting on the matter and that delegations, including those that were not members of the Committee, would have the opportunity to express their views in the Plenary.

14. Mr. ZHANG Huazhu (China) stressed that Iraq should comply fully with all the relevant Security Council resolutions and co-operate fully with all the organizations concerned in accordance with those resolutions. However, the sanctions that had been in place for more than ten years had caused a serious burden to the Iraqi people. The international community

should therefore take measures to end the sanctions. If called upon to vote on the Chairman's text, China would abstain.

15. Mr. MOONESINGHE (Sri Lanka) said that, although Iraq should abide by the Security Council resolutions, in the light of the sufferings of the Iraqi people he too would abstain were the Committee to vote on the issue.

16. Mr. PALACIOS (Ecuador) and Mr. FIGUEROA (Argentina) expressed their support for the Chairman's text.

17. After a discussion in which Mr. DEDUSHKIN (Russian Federation), Mr. ZHANG Huazhu (China) and Ms. AL-MULLA (Kuwait) participated, it was agreed to amend the last sentence of the Chairman's proposed text to read:

“However, some delegates expressed their reservations”.

18. The CHAIRMAN took it that his proposal was acceptable with that amendment.

19. It was so decided.

The meeting rose 9.45 a.m.