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GENERAL CONFERENCE

Twenty-ninth regular session
Agenda item 22
(GC(XXIX)/763)

EXAMINATION OF DELEGATES' CREDENTIALS

Report of the General Committee

1. At its forty-seventh meeting on 26 September 1985 the General Committee examined the credentials of delegates to the session, as provided for in Rule 28 of the Conference's Rules of Procedure.

2. At the outset, the Chairman of the Committee mentioned Rules 27, 28 and 29 of the Rules of Procedure and, referring to an opinion by the United Nations Legal Counsel, read out the following points of Rule 27 regarding credentials for the General Conference:
 - (a) Credentials designate the delegate of a Member State to a given session of the General Conference;
 - (b) They are submitted to the Director General; and
 - (c) They are issued by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

3. The Chairman of the Committee then announced that credentials satisfying the requirements of Rule 27 of the Rules of Procedure had been submitted to the Director General for the delegates of the following 83 Members:

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Albania
Algeria
Argentina
Australia
Austria

Belgium
Brazil
Bulgaria
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic
Cameroon

Canada
Chile
China
Colombia
Costa Rica

Cuba
Cyprus
Czechoslovakia
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Denmark

Egypt
Finland
France
Gabon
German Democratic Republic

Germany, Federal Republic of
Ghana
Greece
Guatemala
Holy See

Hungary
Iceland
India
Indonesia
Iran, Islamic Republic of

Iraq
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Japan

Jordan
Kenya
Korea, Republic of
Kuwait
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

Liechtenstein
Luxembourg
Malaysia
Monaco
Mongolia

Morocco
Netherlands
New Zealand
Niger
Norway

Pakistan
Panama
Paraguay
Philippines
Poland

Portugal
Qatar
Romania
Saudi Arabia
Sri Lanka

Sudan
Sweden
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
Thailand

Tunisia
Turkey
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
United Arab Emirates

United Kingdom of Great Britain
& Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Uruguay
Viet Nam, Socialist Republic of

Yugoslavia
Zaire
Zambia

4. The Chairman of the Committee announced further that various official communications received by the Secretariat with respect to the status of the delegates of the following 13 Members did not constitute credentials that satisfied the provisions of Rule 27 of the Rules of Procedure:

Bangladesh	Senegal
Ecuador	Spain
Ivory Coast	Venezuela
Jamaica	
Lebanon	
Madagascar	
Mexico	
Namibia	
Nigeria	
Peru	

5. The Committee was informed that up to the time of its meeting on 26 September 1985 no credentials or other communications of accreditation had been received in respect of the following two members:

Mali
Nicaragua

6. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic stated his delegation's reservations regarding the credentials of the Israeli delegation for the following reasons:

(a) The borders of Israel, as unilaterally claimed by it have not been internationally recognized, as they included part of the territories of other States, inter alia the Golan Heights of Syria, illegally occupied and annexed by Israel;

(b) Neither the Syrian Arab Republic nor the United Nations recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel;

(c) The policy of Israel was based on zionism, which by General Assembly resolution 3379 (XXX) of 1975 was declared as a form of racism tantamount to the internationally condemned "apartheid";

(d) Israel persistently violated the inalienable right of the indigenous population of Palestine to self-determination as recognized in various United Nations General Assembly resolutions.

7. The Chairman of the Board of Governors, speaking as the representative of Egypt, reiterated that Egypt considered as illegal the occupation by Israel of Arab Jerusalem, the Syrian Golan Heights, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and territories of Lebanon as illegal and in violation of the principles of human rights and the United Nations Charter.

8. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics wished to associate himself to the previous statements relating to the credentials of the Israeli delegation.

9. The representative of the United States of America regretted the injection of political considerations which had nothing to do with the validity of credentials. In his opinion the Committee's task was to examine whether delegates' credentials were valid under Rule 27 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference and to protect the right of each Member State to be represented in accordance with Article V of the Statute. He said that the principle of universality was critical to the entire United Nations system and that the politically-motivated rejection of Israel's credentials would force the United States delegation to withdraw from the General Conference and to suspend United States participation in the International Atomic Energy Agency. He urged the acceptance of all credentials submitted to the Committee in accordance with Rule 27.

10. In associating himself with the statement made by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, the representative of Morocco pointed out that his reservations essentially concerned the validity of the credentials of the Israeli delegation rather than Israel's membership in the United Nations or the International Atomic Energy Agency. He drew attention to various resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and of the Security Council, demanding that Israel withdraw from the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, as well as declaring null and void all measures taken by Israel to change the status of the Holy City.

11. The representative of Cuba supported the reservations made by the Syrian Arab Republic concerning the credentials of the Israeli delegation. He further stated that his delegation could not accept pressure from any Member State of the Agency aimed at preventing others from fulfilling their responsibility at the General Conference.

12. The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, speaking on behalf of the delegation of the German Democratic Republic, associated himself with the reservations expressed by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic.

13. The representatives of Paraguay, the Netherlands, Japan, New Zealand and Belgium associated themselves with the statement made by the representative of the United States of America with respect to the recognition of the credentials of the Israeli delegation. They pointed out that political motivations should not be taken into account when considering the validity of credentials.

14. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic said that he supported the view held by the representative of Cuba in rejecting threats to the General Conference made by a member of the Committee.

15. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics said that, for reasons expressed at previous sessions of the General Conference he would like to reiterate reservations concerning the credentials of the delegate of Chile. This statement was supported by the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, speaking on behalf of the delegation of the German Democratic Republic.

16. The representatives of the United States of America, Paraguay and Belgium stated that much of what had been said by them earlier applied also to the credentials of the delegation of Chile. They stressed the importance of accepting all credentials submitted to the Committee.

17. The Chairman then proposed that, in accordance with past practice, those delegates for whom satisfactory credentials had not been received should be allowed to participate in the work of the Conference on the understanding that satisfactory credentials for each of them would be submitted to the Director General as soon as possible.

18. Finally, the Chairman read the following draft resolution, as recommended by the Committee for adoption by the Conference:

"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 twenty-ninth regular session, which is set forth in document GC(XXIX)/770."