

As Vice-Chairmen of Main Committee III: Mr. Karim (Bangladesh) and
Mr. Konstantinov (Bulgaria);

As Vice-Chairman of the Drafting Committee: Mr. Strulak (Poland)
(A proposal had not yet been received for the second Vice-Chairman of the Drafting Committee);

As Vice-Chairmen of the Credentials Committee: Mr. Meiszter (Hungary) and
Mr. Nicolaidis (Cyprus).

10. If there was no objection, he would take it that the representatives whose names he had mentioned were duly elected Vice-Chairmen.

11. It was so decided.

CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE CONFERENCE (agenda item 7)

(a) APPOINTMENT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

12. The PRESIDENT announced that he had not yet been able to conclude his consultations on all six of the members of the Credentials Committee who, under rule 3 of the rules of procedure, were appointed by the Conference on the proposal of the President. He was continuing his contacts on the matter.

ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS

13. The PRESIDENT announced that the Secretary-General of the Conference had received applications for observer status from a number of States which had neither signed nor ratified the Treaty. The States concerned were: Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Israel, Pakistan, Spain and United Republic of Tanzania. In accordance with rule 44 (2) of the rules of procedure, such status should be accorded on the decision of the Conference.

14. The secretariat of the Conference had received a letter from the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) stating that it wished to participate in the Conference with observer status.

15. The Secretary-General had also received applications from a number of intergovernmental organizations for observer agency status. The organizations concerned were: Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America, Organization of American States, League of Arab States, and Organization of African Unity. In accordance with rule 44 (4) of the rules of procedure, observer agency status would be accorded to such organizations on the decision of the Conference.

16. Mr. SENE (Senegal) said it was the view of the non-aligned countries that national liberation movements represented peoples wishing to exercise their natural right to be free of colonialism so that they might enjoy their inalienable right to self-determination. The non-aligned countries parties to

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the Treaty, aware of the value of the participation of such movements in the work of the General Assembly, IAEA and other specialized agencies, considered it necessary to amend the rules of procedure of the Conference with a view to enabling national liberation movements recognized by the United Nations to participate in the Conference as observers. The proposed amendment would involve the addition of a subparagraph to rule 44, so that the existing paragraph 2 would become paragraph 2 (a) and the proposed additional paragraph would become paragraph 2 (b). The amendment read:

"Any national liberation movement authorized by the United Nations General Assembly to participate as an Observer in the sessions and work of the General Assembly and all international conferences held under the auspices of other organs of the United Nations may apply to the Secretary-General of the Conference for Observer status, which will be accorded on the decision of the Conference. Such liberation organizations shall be entitled to appoint officials to attend meetings of the Plenary and of the Main Committees other than those designated closed meetings, and to receive documents of the Conference. An Observer organization shall also be entitled to submit documents to the participants in the Conference".

17. The Group of Non-Aligned Countries, taking account of rule 44 of the rules of procedure, welcomed all applications to participate in the work of the Conference. The group was, however, aware that the conduct and activities of Israel were not compatible with the Treaty's objectives. Instead of adhering to the principles of non-proliferation, Israel had sought to acquire nuclear arms in a clandestine and illegal manner, including co-operation with the racist régime in South Africa. Israel's possession of nuclear weapons had been confirmed by facts, by United Nations studies and by references contained in resolutions of the General Assembly. In defiance of the principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, Israel had made an armed attack on a nuclear research reactor under IAEA surveillance situated in the territory of a State party to the Treaty and had thereby created an environmental hazard. By that fact, Israel had committed an act of aggression which was harmful not only to the credibility of the Treaty and to IAEA and its system of safeguards, but also to the inalienable right of States to exploit and use nuclear energy in their development programmes. Israel's attitude had been censured by the Director-General of IAEA and in a number of resolutions adopted by the Security Council and the General Assembly, as well as by the Board of Governors and General Conference of IAEA.

18. Israel continued to threaten further attacks against nuclear reactors in Iraq and elsewhere, thereby jeopardizing the future peaceful use of nuclear energy, the safeguards system and the Treaty itself. Israel had demonstrated its contempt for the safeguards system by rejecting the resolutions of those bodies which had urged it to open all its nuclear installations to international inspection.

19. The Group of Non-Aligned countries accordingly expressed reservations on Israel's application for observer status.

20. The PRESIDENT said that the proposed new paragraph to be added to rule 44 of the rules of procedure would permit the PLO and similar organizations to attend the Conference in an observer capacity.

21. In that connection, he drew attention to rule 24 of the rules of procedure, according to which proposals and substantive amendments should normally be submitted in writing to the Secretary-General of the Conference, who should circulate copies to all delegations. The rule further stated that, unless the Conference decided otherwise, proposals and substantive amendments should be discussed or decided on no earlier than 24 hours after copies had been circulated in all languages of the Conference to all delegations.

22. He hoped that the issue of observers could be dealt with expeditiously and that a decision could be taken on each category of observers so that the Conference could start its substantive work free of outstanding procedural matters. He further hoped that, with regard to the proposed amendment to the rules of procedure, the Conference would agree to waive the requirements that it be submitted in writing and that its consideration be delayed for 24 hours after the amendment had been circulated. That should not be interpreted as a precedent.

23. It was his understanding that there was a consensus to proceed as he had suggested. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Conference wished to follow that course and that the amendment to the rules of procedure of the Conference was adopted.

24. It was so decided. 13/

25. Mr. DUNN (United States of America) said that his delegation had reservations about creating a special category in the rules of procedure for "national liberation organizations" and did not recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization. However, in the interests of preserving a spirit of consensus and harmony at such a very important Conference and maintaining the spirit of co-operation which had prevailed throughout the preparatory process, his delegation had not objected to any of the consensus decisions just adopted.

The meeting rose at 7.25 p.m.

13/ The final text of the amendment was subsequently issued as document NPT/CONF.III/41.