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Chairman: Mr. Costa P. CARANICAS (Greece).

AGENDA ITEM 21

Problems of the human environment: report of the Secretary-General (*continued*)* (A/7514, A/7603, chap. V, sect. D; A/7707, A/7780, E/4667)

1. The CHAIRMAN said that consultations were still being held in a group of countries which had been unable to draw up the requested list. He therefore suggested that the meeting should be suspended.

The meeting was suspended at 3.15 p.m. and resumed at 4.20 p.m.

2. The CHAIRMAN recalled that, in accordance with the decision taken by the Committee at its 1278th meeting, he had been requested to draw up the list of the twenty-seven countries which would form the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, basing himself on the lists submitted to him by various groups of countries. He had received lists prepared by the group of African countries, the group of Latin American countries, the group of Asian countries and the group of Western European and other countries. The only list still missing was that of the group of Eastern European countries.

3. Mr. GETMANETS (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic), speaking in his capacity as the Chairman of the group of Eastern European countries, said that the consultations in that group were not yet completed and requested that the matter should be deferred until the following Monday.

4. Mr. PATRIOTA (Brazil) said that he understood the difficulties experienced by the Chairman and the delegation of the Ukrainian SSR, but he wondered whether the Committee might not agree to end its work at the current meeting and whether the Chairman of the Committee, after consulting the members of the socialist group of countries, might not announce the membership of the Preparatory Committee to the General Assembly in plenary meeting.

5. Mr. SKATARETIKO (Yugoslavia) thought that the Brazilian representative's suggestion was not compatible

with the decision, adopted by the Committee at its 1278th meeting, that the Chairman should submit the list to the Committee for its approval. His delegation would nevertheless be prepared to accept any new decision of the Committee.

6. Mr. BILLNER (Sweden) thought that the Committee should abide by its original decision and wait for all the lists to be prepared before deciding. It hoped, however, that the countries of Eastern Europe would expedite their consultations so as to draw up the list of their candidates as quickly as possible.

7. Replying to a suggestion by Mr. ALI (Iraq), supported by Mr. CHTOUROU (Tunisia), the CHAIRMAN said that the item concerning the problems of the human environment was on the agenda of the meeting which the General Assembly was scheduled to hold next Monday. The item might be deferred by the Committee until Monday at the latest. That would enable a short general discussion to be held on the matter in plenary meeting.

8. After an exchange of views, in which Mr. MUZIK (Czechoslovakia), Mr. GETMANETS (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic), Mr. WAPENYI (Uganda), Mr. PATRIOTA (Brazil), and Mr. GALLARDO MORENO (Mexico) took part, Mr. HOVEYDA (Iran) remarked that a short general debate could be held in plenary meeting even without knowing the membership of the Preparatory Committee, as the two subjects were not connected.

9. Mr. MUZIK (Czechoslovakia), supported by Mr. GETMANETS (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic), said that he did not object to the suggestion made by the Brazilian representative. The final list could very well be submitted to the General Assembly in plenary meeting.

10. Mr. SKATARETIKO (Yugoslavia) pointed out that the Committee was bound by a decision it had previously taken. The Committee was, of course, the master of its own procedure and could always amend that decision.

11. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that, if the decision previously adopted were amended, the draft resolution adopted by the Committee would also have to be changed, which seemed very difficult.

12. After an exchange of views in which Mr. BILLNER (Sweden), Mr. PATRIOTA (Brazil), Mr. HOVEYDA (Iran), Mr. KHALIL (United Arab Republic) and Mr. ROUAMBA (Upper Volta) took part, the CHAIRMAN pointed out that the agenda of the plenary meeting of the General Assembly was fixed by the President of the Assembly and that any change in it designed to take into account the wishes of one

* Resumed from the 1282nd meeting.

committee necessarily had repercussions on the work of the other committees.

13. Mr. BLAU (United States of America), supported by Mr. BRADLEY (Argentina), noted that the draft resolution (A/C.2/L.1069 and Add.1) adopted by the Committee at its 1278th meeting was incomplete; the Committee therefore had no draft report to submit to the plenary Assembly. The Committee could, of course, withdraw its previous decision and leave it for the Assembly in its plenary meeting to settle the matter. It was, however, doubtful whether the Assembly could decide on an incomplete draft resolution. It was difficult to see how to break the deadlock without adopting the proposal to postpone consideration of the matter until the following Monday.

14. The CHAIRMAN said that delegations which so desired could formally propose a revision of the draft resolution previously adopted by the Committee.

15. Mr. CHTOUROU (Tunisia) thought it would be inadvisable to follow that procedure.

16. Mr. WARSAMA (Somalia) formally moved the adjournment of the meeting.

17. The CHAIRMAN, referring to rule 119 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, put the Somali representative's motion to the vote.

The motion for adjournment was adopted by 34 votes to 1, with 47 abstentions.

The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.