

Second United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea

Geneva, Switzerland
17 March – 26 April 1960

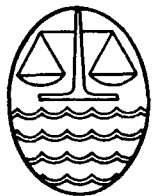
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Report of the Credentials Committee

Extract from the *Official Records of the Second United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (Summary Records of Plenary Meetings and of Meetings of the Committee of the Whole, Annexes and Final Act)*



UNITED NATIONS



SECOND CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA

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CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE CONFERENCE

Report of the Credentials Committee

1. At the third plenary meeting held on 18 March 1960, the Conference in accordance with rule 4 of its Rules of Procedure appointed a Credentials Committee consisting of the following States: Brazil, Chile, France, Greece, Indonesia, Liberia, Sudan, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and United States of America.
2. The Credentials Committee met on 21 April 1960 and unanimously elected Mr. Nathan Barnes of Liberia as Chairman.
3. The Secretariat reported to the Committee as follows:
 - (a) Out of the eighty-eight delegations attending the Conference, full powers in respect of the representatives of eighty-six delegations were received, duly issued by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs in accordance with rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure.
 - (b) In the case of Paraguay the credentials consisted of a cablegram in Spanish dated 16 March 1960 and signed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Paraguay.
 - (c) In the case of Yemen the credentials consisted of two cablegrams in English, the first one dated 31 January 1960 and emanating from Cairo was signed by the "Deputy of His Majesty the King of Yemen Hassan Ibn Ibrahim", the second one dated 6 April 1960 and emanating from Taiz, Yemen and signed "Foreign Office, Abdurahman Abutaleb."
4. After an exchange of views the Committee decided, without objection, to report to the Conference the facts mentioned in paragraph 3 above.
5. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics raised the question of the representation of China and of which government was entitled to represent China at this Conference.

6. The representative of France stated that the question had already been decided in other United Nations bodies and that the Credentials Committee had no competence to discuss it.

7. The Chairman ruled as follows: As the Secretary-General of the United Nations had, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 1307 (XIII) of 10 December 1958, and to resolution 1351 (XIV) of 22 September 1959 and the practice established by the General Assembly in previous years, invited the Government of the Republic of China to attend the Conference, the only question within the competence of the Credentials Committee was whether the credentials issued by that Government were in order; therefore the proposal of the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to consider as void the credentials of the representative of the Republic of China was out of order.

8. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics representative challenged the Chairman's ruling. The Committee upheld the Chairman's ruling by 5 votes to one, with 3 abstentions. The representatives of Indonesia and Sudan stated that they abstained in the vote because their Governments recognized the People's Republic of China.

9. The representative of the United States introduced a motion "that the Credentials Committee takes no decision regarding the credentials submitted on behalf of the representative of Hungary".

10. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics referring to rule 4 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference stated that the only question before the Committee was therefore that of the validity of the credentials issued by the lawful Government of the Hungarian People's Republic in accordance with its constitution and the relevant provisions of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference.

11. The United States motion was adopted by 5 votes to 3 with 1 abstention.

12. A proposal was submitted by the Chairman that, subject to the Conference's decision relating to Hungary, the Credentials Committee should find the credentials of all representatives in order and recommend that the Conference approve its report.

13. This proposal was adopted unanimously.

14. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that his vote in favour of the report of the credentials committee should not be interpreted as a modification of his previous position on the question of the representation of China, and that he was in favour of the validity of the credentials of the representatives of the Government of the Hungarian People's Republic.