

United Nations Conference on Succession of States in Respect of Treaties

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Resumed session
31 July-23 August 1978

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A/CONF.80/SR.10

10th Plenary Meeting

Extract from volume II of the *Official Records of the United Nations Conference on Succession of States in Respect of Treaties* (Summary records of the plenary meetings and of the meetings of the Committee of the Whole)

**Organization of the work of the Conference
at its resumed session (A/CONF.80/17)**

13. The PRESIDENT said he assumed that participants would wish to discuss the contents of the document "Methods of work and procedures adopted by the Conference as may be applicable to its resumed session" (A/CONF.80/17) in their respective regional groups. He suggested that a chairman or, at least a provisional speaker should be nominated for each group.

The meeting rose at 11.55 a.m.

10th PLENARY MEETING

Monday, 31 July 1978, at 3.25 p.m.

President: Mr. ZEMANEK (Austria)

Election of one Vice-President (continued)

1. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objection, he would take it that the Conference approved the proposal by the Chairman of the Group of Latin American States that the representative of Trinidad and Tobago be elected a Vice-President of the Conference in place of the representative of Barbados.

It was so agreed.

Organization of work

[Agenda item 10]

2. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the memorandum by the Secretary-General "Methods of work and procedures adopted by the Conference as may be applicable to its resumed session" (A/CONF.80/17). He had been informed by the chairmen of four regional groups that it was their hope that the utmost effort would be made to complete the work of the Conference in three weeks. He had replied that the secretariat and the Bureau certainly shared that hope, but that control over the duration of the Conference was entirely in the hands of delegations.

3. Mr. RYBAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, in principle, his delegation approved the ideas concerning the methods of work of the Conference that were set out in the memorandum by the Secretary-General. It would indeed be the most rational course for the Drafting Committee of the Committee of the Whole to commence work forthwith on the remaining articles of the draft, particularly articles 30 to 39. His delegation strongly favoured the suggestion made by the President at the 9th plenary meeting that delegations should hold consultations in advance of official meetings on the questions that were still outstanding. He hoped that all delegations would continue to adhere to the trend of the overwhelming

majority of participants in the 1977 session to retain as far as possible the text of the draft articles prepared by the International Law Commission (see A/CONF.80/4). If that were done, the Conference should have no difficulty in completing successfully the task entrusted to it by the General Assembly. To assist in the achievement of that aim, his delegation would not insist on the amendments to the draft articles which it had proposed during the 1977 session. While it was no secret that the success of the Conference depended on the solution of certain difficult problems that were still under discussion, his delegation believed that the main lines of the future Convention had already been laid down, in particular through the adoption of the "clean slate" principle in relation to newly independent States that emerged as a result of the process of decolonization. His delegation had serious doubts as to the advisability of encumbering the International Law Commission's draft with references to matters that had more to do with the law of treaties or questions that had long been the subject of unsuccessful debate at other international conferences, than with succession of States.

4. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Conference wished to take note of the memorandum submitted by the Secretary-General in document A/CONF.80/17.

It was so agreed.

The meeting rose at 3.35 p.m.

11th PLENARY MEETING

Monday, 7th August 1978, at 3.45 p.m.

President : Mr. ZEMANEK (Austria)

**Tribute to the memory of His Holiness, the late Pope
Paul VI**

1. The PRESIDENT said that delegations had come together to pay a tribute to the memory of His Holiness, the late Pope Paul VI. The outstanding feature of the papacy of Paul VI was his concern for peace and social justice in the world, in which he was following a long tradition which had culminated in his predecessor's remarkable encyclical *Pacem in terris*. The early years of his papacy had been dedicated to the conclusion of Vatican Council II and the implementation of its decisions, but as early as 1967 he had manifested his concern for the necessity of peaceful development in his encyclical *Populorum progressio*. In that year he had established the observance of the first of January as a "day of peace" for which he issued a yearly message dealing with subjects such as the promotion of human rights and reconciliation. His last message, in 1978, had been "No! to force and violence! Yes! to peace!". He had called upon all human beings of good will, regardless of their faith, to establish