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GENERAL CONFERENCE

FORTIETH (1996) REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

RECORD OF THE EIGHTH MEETING

Held at the Austria Center Vienna
on Friday, 20 September 1996, at 3.45 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. AYATOLLAHI (Islamic Republic of Iran)

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[*] GC(40)/22.

The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document GC(40)/INF/13/Rev.2.

96-04056 (XXI)

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ARTICLE VI OF THE STATUTE (continued)

(b) COMPOSITION OF REGIONAL GROUPS (GC(40)/11 and Add.1, GC(40)/INF/7, GC(40)/COM.5/13, GC(40)/COM.5/18/Rev.1) (continued)

1. Mr. STRATFORD (United States of America) said that any attempt to reconcile the two draft resolutions before the Committee (in documents GC(40)/COM.5/13 and GC(40)/COM.5/18/Rev.1) would prove futile. As discussions on a way out of the impasse were in progress elsewhere, the Committee should simply take note of the two draft resolutions and refer them to the Conference for such further consideration as Member States might desire, stating that it had been unable to agree on a recommendation owing to lack of time.

2. Mr. EID (Lebanon) and Ms. OK (Turkey) expressed support for the proposal made by the representative of the United States.

3. The CHAIRMAN said he took it that the Committee wished to proceed on the lines proposed by the representative of the United States.

4. It was so agreed.

5. The CHAIRMAN said he was gratified that many difficult issues had been resolved thanks to the collaboration of Member State representatives and of the Secretariat.

6. Although reluctant to shift the burden of responsibility to the President of the General Conference and willing to allow the consideration of agenda sub-item 19(b) to continue, he had been certain that the two draft resolutions before the Committee were irreconcilable, particularly given the very short time available. He would report to the Conference that the Committee had been unable to agree on either of the draft resolutions and had therefore decided not to make a recommendation to the Conference.

7. He trusted that the Conference would find a way of resolving the issue and that all delegations would join in a sincere effort to produce a sound compromise which

would meet the expectations of the international community, and in particular those of the Middle East and South Asia.

8. Mr. WALKER (Australia) said he felt sure that all delegations present joined him in extending heartfelt thanks to the Chairman for the very long hours he had devoted to the stewardship of the Committee's proceedings and in commending his intellectual qualities and inexhaustible patience.

The meeting rose at 4 p.m.