REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE
OF THE CONFERENCE OF NON-NUCLEAR WEAPON STATES

Chairman: Mr. Sean P. Kennan (Ireland)

1. At its second plenary meeting held on 30 August 1968, the Conference, in accordance with Rule 4 of its Rules of Procedure, appointed a Credentials Committee consisting of the following States: Australia, Bulgaria, Ceylon, Costa Rica, Ireland, Japan, Jamaica, Madagascar and Morocco.

2. The Credentials Committee met on 24 and 25 September 1968.

3. Mr. Sean P. Kennan (Ireland) was unanimously elected Chairman of the Committee.

4. The Secretariat of the Conference reported to the Committee as follows:

   (a) Credentials for the representatives of the following States, issued by the Head of State or Government or the Minister for Foreign Affairs, had been submitted to the Executive Secretary of the Conference in accordance with Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Ceylon, Chile, China, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, France, Ghana, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Viet Nam, Romania, San Marino, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Syria, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Venezuela, Zambia.

   (b) In respect of the representatives of the following States: Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Madagascar, Mongolia, Norway, Paraguay, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Turkey, Uruguay, authorization to represent their Governments at the Conference has been received by cables emanating from the Ministers for Foreign Affairs.

GE.68-18276
(c) The names of the representatives of the following countries: Greece, Italy, Nigeria, Panama, Southern Yemen, USSR, have been submitted in communications emanating from the Permanent Missions of those States to the United Nations and to the Office of the United Nations at Geneva.

5. The representative of Bulgaria raised the question of the representation of China and stated that his Government, as well as the governments of many other countries, recognized that only representatives appointed by the Government of the People's Republic of China were qualified to represent China in an international forum. His delegation did not recognize the credentials of those who described themselves at this Conference as representatives of China. For the same reasons, he could also not recognize the credentials of those sent to the Conference by the Saigon regime and by the Seoul regime. The representative of Bulgaria requested that the Committee should consider the credentials of those persons claiming to be representatives of China, South Vietnam and South Korea, as null and void and should take note of his statement and include it in the report of the Credentials Committee.

6. The representative of Ceylon stated that his Government recognized that the only lawful representative of China was the representative of the Government of the People's Republic of China, and he requested that his statement be recorded in the Committee's report to the Conference.

7. The representative of Australia pointed out that the formula of invitation adopted in connexion with the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States had been decided by the twenty-second session of the General Assembly. As to the question of the representation of China, he stated that China was accredited to the Conference by the Republic of China in accordance with Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure adopted by the Conference and that at the twenty-second session the General Assembly had voted on the question of the representation of the People's Republic of China as follows: 45 votes in favour; 58 against, and 17 abstentions. Therefore, it was inappropriate in the Committee to try to change the representation of China. He also stated that the credentials of the representatives of Vietnam and Korea to the Conference were in order and proposed that the Credentials Committee Report should note this.

8. The representative of Costa Rica stated that with reference to the report from the Executive Secretary of the Conference to the Credentials Committee, the task of the Committee was to check whether the credentials of the participants were in good order and that the matter of representation raised by certain representatives had been settled by the twenty-second session of the General Assembly and it was not the task of the Committee.
9. The representative of Japan stated that the question of the representation of the Republic of China, the Republic of Korea and the Republic of Vietnam, raised by the representative of Bulgaria, was not within the competence of the Credentials Committee. He said that the only competence and responsibility that the Committee had, as set forth in Rule 4 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, was to "examine the credentials of representatives" and determine if they had been properly issued and submitted as provided for in Rule 3. He stated that his delegation believed that the credentials of the representatives of the Republic of China, the Republic of Korea and the Republic of Vietnam had been properly issued by the competent authorities of the Governments of those countries in accordance with Rule 3. He supported the proposal of the representative of Australia that the Committee should take note that the credentials of the representatives of these three countries were in order.

10. The representative of Madagascar stated that in view of the policy of racial discrimination and apartheid pursued by the South African authorities against the non-white citizens who constitute the vast majority of the population, he would express reservations regarding the credentials presented by those who, in the name of South Africa, were present at the Conference. He asked that the position of his delegation be recorded in the report of the Committee.

11. The representatives of Bulgaria and Morocco supported the position of the representative of Madagascar concerning the credentials of South Africa.

12. The representative of Ceylon stated that his delegation entirely agreed with the views expressed by the representative of Madagascar on the policy of racial discrimination pursued by South Africa, but the Committee's function was not to endorse or condemn the domestic or foreign policies of States. The Government of South Africa was legally constituted and the Committee had therefore no reason to reject the credentials of South Africa.

13. The representatives of Australia and Costa Rica supported the representative of Ceylon and stated that their Governments disapproved of the racial discrimination policy practised by the Government of South Africa but the question before the Committee was whether the credentials of the representative of South Africa were issued in a proper manner. They considered that the report of the Executive Secretary indicated that the credentials were in order.

14. The representative of Jamaica stated that his Government condemned the policy of apartheid practised by the Government of South Africa, but that unfortunately the Committee was unable to do anything about it and had to accept the credentials regarding which his delegation had reservations.
15. The representative of Japan supported the views expressed by the representatives of Ceylon, Australia, Costa Rica and in principle the view expressed by the representative of Jamaica.

16. The representative of Madagascar stated in response to some of the points raised that the policy of apartheid of South Africa was not a question of the internal affairs of a State, particularly when the United Nations was seized of this matter. It was not a question of refusing or rejecting the credentials, but he wanted his statement to be noted in the report of the Committee.

17. The Chairman of the Committee proposed that the Committee should find in order the credentials received from all representatives, and should submit a report to the Conference, with a recommendation for its approval. He proposed that those reservations with regard to the credentials of representatives of some countries, expressed by the representatives of Bulgaria, Ceylon, Jamaica, Madagascar and Morocco, should be recorded in the Credentials Committee's report to the Conference.

18. It was so decided by the Committee.