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REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE FIRST MEETING OF  
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

London, 10th January to February 1946.

The first meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations was convened in London on the 10th January. It consisted of the representatives of the 51 nations signatories of the United Nations Charter. It was convened by the Preparatory Commission in accordance with paragraph 4 (a) of the Interim Arrangements drawn up at San Francisco. The convocation of the General Assembly, and the setting up of the various Councils, the Secretariat and the International Court of Justice, represented the final stage of the establishment of the United Nations.

As a working document the General Assembly adopted the report of the Preparatory Commission. The provisional agenda and the provisional rules of procedure were accepted as reasonable, except for an abortive attempt by the Cuban Delegation to have the General Committee increased in size, and its activities prescribed in order to prevent it from becoming a political steering committee.

The first important item of business was the election of the President of the Assembly to replace the temporary chairman, M. Zuleta Angel, of Columbia. The acting head of the U.S.S.R. Delegation then nominated Mr. Trygve Lie, Foreign Minister of Norway, and this was supported by the delegates of Poland, Denmark and the Ukraine. The latter proposed the election by the acclamation as no other candidates had been nominated, but it was decided to proceed with the election by secret ballot.

The results of the election were 23 votes for Mr. Lie and 28 for Mr. Paul Spaak, Foreign Minister of Belgium, who then took the chair. While some observers at first thought this to be a rebuff to the U.S.S.R., I think the latter well proved its point, which was that the elections were not really free and democratic but were being arranged secretly behind the scenes, since, of course, Mr. Spaak's name had never been mentioned during the proceedings. I am inclined to believe that Mr. Spaak was a better choice than Mr. Lie, in view of his great experience in such matters and  
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