

59. RULES OF PROCEDURE

When the Canadian Government requested, at the second part of the First Session of the Assembly, the inclusion of an item entitled "Measures to economize the time of the General Assembly" it emphasized the importance of reforming the Assembly's rules of procedure. The Assembly subsequently established a Committee on Procedures and Organization which was instructed to meet two weeks before the opening of the Second Session to discuss the possibility of improving the existing rules.¹

On September 8, 1947, this Committee on Procedures met and elected Mr. Escott Reid (Canada) as its chairman. The Committee, after 15 meetings, presented its report for consideration by the Assembly.² The Assembly referred part three of the report, except Chapters VII, IX, and X of the Rules of Procedure (which were referred to the Administrative and Budgetary Committee) to the Legal Committee for report in sufficient time for the full consideration by the Assembly before adjournment. The Legal Committee then formed a sub-committee of eleven members, including Canada, to review the Rules of Procedure referred to it and to review those referred to the Administrative Committee in order to ensure consistency. It was principally on the initiative of the United Kingdom delegation that a number of further improvements were made to the Rules of Procedure, particularly in respect to their order, the preparation of a more complete table of contents and marginal notes to the rules. On November 17, 1947, the Assembly approved and adopted the Rules of Procedure, declaring that they would come into force on January 1, 1948. The Assembly also invited the Secretary-General to prepare in consultation with the Economic and Social Council, draft rules for the calling of international conferences for consideration at the Assembly's Third Session.

¹See pp. 159 to 161 of *The United Nations, 1946*, Conference series, 1946, No. 3, prepared by the Department of External Affairs.

²The text of the statement by the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Reid, is given in Appendix V, H, pp. 265 to 268.