

Item 12(c) of the
Provisional Agenda

Ninth Session

Rome, 2 November 1957

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

(Note by the Director-General)

1. It is the duty of the Conference, in conformity with Article V-2 of the Constitution, to appoint the Independent Chairman of the Council.

2. Rule XXIV-1 of the Rules of Procedure states:

"In pursuance of paragraph 2 of Article V of the Constitution, the Chairman of the Council shall be appointed for two years under the following conditions:

"(a) The appointment of the Chairman shall be placed on the Agenda of each regular session of the Conference. Before, however, the appointment is considered in a plenary meeting, the General Committee shall submit a nomination (or nominations).

"(b) The conditions of appointment of the Chairman, including the allowances attached to the office, shall be determined by the Conference on the occasion of each appointment, having regard to any recommendations of the General Committee."

3. At its Eighth Session the Conference unanimously elected Mr. S.A. Hasnie to this office for a period of two years and recorded its decisions in the following Resolution:

"Resolution No. 51/55

Appointment of Independent Chairman
of the Council

"THE CONFERENCE

"Having proceeded to a secret ballot, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XII;

"Declares unanimously that S.A. HASNIE is appointed Independent Chairman of the Council for a period of two years, that is until the end of the regular Session of the Conference to be held in

"Having noted the recommendations submitted by the General Committee in conformity with Rule XXIV;

"Decides that the conditions of appointment, including the allowances attached to the office of the Independent Chairman of the Council shall be as follows:

- (i) An annual allowance of the equivalent of \$5,000 to cover representation expenses and secretarial assistance in the Chairman's home station, on the understanding that the Director-General will provide secretarial assistance when the Chairman attends sessions of the Council or Conference. One half of this allowance shall be payable in United States dollars, the balance being payable, in whole or in part, in the currency of the home country of the Chairman, or in Italian lire, according to his desire;
- (ii) A per diem allowance at the rate of \$20 while the Chairman is absent from his home station on Council business, the allowance being reduced to \$10 per diem while the Chairman is in travel status;
- (iii) Travel expenses, including the above per diem allowance, shall be defrayed by the Organization, in conformity with its Regulations and existing practices when the Chairman attends sessions of the Council, the Coordinating Committee or the Conference, or when he is invited by the Council or by the Director-General to travel for other purposes."

4. At present the Rules of Procedure contain no provision as to the procedure for nomination for appointment to this office. However, at the two previous Sessions of the Conference, the General Committee, on the advice of the Council, set a day during the first week of the Session as the time-limit for the submission of nominations by Member Governments. This was done in order to avoid the embarrassment of last-minute nominations and to allow a time-lag between the closing date for nominations and the election, during which delegations would have time to communicate with and receive replies from their respective governments on the subject.

5. However, Member Governments are aware that the Ad Hoc Committee on Organizational Structure of FAO, under one of the alternative plans proposed by it, envisages the possibility of the abolition of the Council (C 57/4). If this were adopted there would, of course, be no question of appointing an Independent Chairman of the Council. It will therefore be necessary for the Conference to come to a decision on the Ad Hoc Committee's proposals during the first week of the Session.