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SEP 19 1979



/BIO/1638*
GA/AB/1873
18 September 1979

ANDRE XAVIER PIRSON (BELGIUM) ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF FIFTH COMMITTEE

Andre Xavier Pirson of Belgium, who was today elected Chairman of the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary), is Minister Plenipotentiary of the Belgian Mission to the United Nations. He was Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) in 1978.

Mr. Pirson was born on 10 August 1923, in Brussels. He has master's degrees in commercial and financial sciences, and commercial and consular sciences.

In 1945 he joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, serving in its Department of Communications. Beginning in 1948, he headed the Department of Civil Aviation at the Ministry. He was representative of Belgium on the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) from 1954 to 1960, and again from 1962 to 1974. During that time, he was Chairman of two ICAO bodies -- the Air Transport Committee (1957-1959) and the Committee on Joint Support (1964-1965).

In 1960, he was appointed Director in charge of economic and social matters at the International Organizations Office of the Foreign Ministry.

While continuing as representative to ICAO, Mr. Pirson was assigned in 1975 as Minister Plenipotentiary of the Belgian Mission to the United Nations. Since 1961, he has been a member of the Belgian delegation to the sessions of the General Assembly.

Mr. Pirson represented his country on the CPC since 1975. Also, in 1976-1977, he was a member of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System.

Mr. Pirson is married.

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* This replaces Press Release BIO/1520-CPC/7 issued on 29 August 1978.