



President: Mr. Jorge E. ILLUECA (Panama).

AGENDA ITEM 19

Admission of new Members to the United Nations

1. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): This morning I invite the General Assembly to consider the recommendation by the Security Council for the admission of Saint Christopher and Nevis to membership in the United Nations.

2. May I take it that the General Assembly adopts draft resolution A/38/L.1 and Add.1 by acclamation?

Draft resolution was adopted (resolution 38/1).

3. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I therefore declare Saint Christopher and Nevis admitted to membership in the United Nations.

4. I request the Chief of Protocol to escort the delegation of Saint Christopher and Nevis to its place in the General Assembly Hall.

The delegation of Saint Christopher and Nevis was escorted to its place in the General Assembly Hall.

5. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): In my capacity as President of the thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly, I take great pleasure in extending, as an important official act, a warm welcome to a neighbour from our region of the world as the 158th Member of the United Nations. The accession of Saint Christopher and Nevis to independence and membership in the United Nations continues the irreversible process towards decolonization and universality—two objectives that are fundamental to the Organization.

6. I am confident that the Government of Saint Christopher and Nevis will support the work of the United Nations in its endeavour to promote peace, security, co-operation and understanding among nations.

7. On behalf of the General Assembly and on my own behalf I should like to convey congratulations to the new Member State of Saint Christopher and Nevis and extend a warm welcome to its Prime Minister and Minister for External Affairs, Mr. Kennedy Simmonds, its Permanent Representative, Mr. William Herbert and the other members of their delegation. Their presence here today marks a historic occasion both for the United Nations and for the Government and people of Saint Christopher and Nevis.

8. I now call on the representative of the United Kingdom.

9. Sir John THOMSON (United Kingdom): It was with great pleasure that my delegation voted yesterday in the Security Council to recommend that Saint Christopher and Nevis be admitted to membership of the United Nations.

10. I am particularly pleased that we are able to do the same in the General Assembly so soon thereafter. It is gratifying indeed that the General Assembly has

welcomed the membership of Saint Christopher and Nevis by acclamation.

11. Saint Christopher and Nevis is the last of the British Associated States in the Eastern Caribbean to achieve independence. It follows in the footsteps of Grenada in 1974, Dominica in 1978, Saint Lucia in 1979, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in 1980 and Antigua and Barbuda in 1981. Saint Christopher and Nevis thus becomes the forty-fourth independent member of the Commonwealth to join the United Nations. Before independence on 19 September Saint Christopher and Nevis already had complete control of its internal affairs. Britain remained responsible only for external relations and defence and retained the necessary legislative and executive authority in these fields. The British Government, however, undertook to discharge these responsibilities in close consultation with the Government of Saint Christopher and Nevis and delegated executive authority to Saint Christopher and Nevis in a wide field of external relations.

12. The status of association with Britain enjoyed by Saint Christopher and Nevis and other territories in the Eastern Caribbean was from the outset completely voluntary and terminable at any time at the wish of the Associated State party. The British Government made it perfectly clear that it would be prepared to grant independence provided it was satisfied that the majority of the people agreed that the status of association should be terminated and that the proposed independence constitution made proper provision for the preservation of fundamental rights and the rule of law. The British Government, satisfied that these conditions were met, agreed to the request of the Government of Saint Christopher and Nevis that the status of association should be terminated, and orders to this effect were approved by Parliament in May this year and signed by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in June.

13. Many distinguished visitors attended the independence celebrations in Saint Christopher and Nevis at the beginning of this week, including Mr. Koroma of Sierra Leone, in his capacity as Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. It was a joyful occasion, reflecting all the pride associated with a newly emerging country on the threshold of independence. I have no doubt that Saint Christopher and Nevis will play its full part in international affairs generally and in particular at the United Nations, which itself will benefit from the wisdom and maturity which I am sure our newest Member will bring to bear on our deliberations.

14. I am confident, too, that the links, both cultural and commercial, that have developed between Saint Christopher and Nevis and ourselves over the past 350 years will continue to develop. The bonds of friendship and affection that have characterized our relationship will naturally continue to endure and indeed be enhanced by the new status of Saint Christopher and Nevis in the international community. Both within the Commonwealth and in the international community

at large, I am sure we shall discover new areas for co-operation.

15. It gives me great pleasure to see in this chamber today the new Prime Minister, Mr. Kennedy Simmonds, and his delegation, in particular Mr. Herbert, the Permanent Representative of Saint Christopher and Nevis, to whom I extend a particularly warm welcome as a friend and colleague. I know that it will not be long before he is made to feel entirely at home both by his many Caribbean colleagues who play such a significant role in our deliberations and, indeed, by the membership at large. We in the United Kingdom wish the Government and people of Saint Christopher and Nevis and their representatives here today all good fortune and every success in the years to come.

16. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I now call on the representative of Nigeria, who will speak on behalf of the Group of African States.

17. Mr. MAITAMA-SULE (Nigeria): Mr. President, I should like first of all to avail myself of this opportunity to extend to you, in my capacity as chairman of the Group of African States for the month of September, my warmest congratulations on your well-deserved election as President of the thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly. The head of the Nigerian delegation will of course, in due time, be extending to you the formal congratulations of the Nigerian Government.

18. It is with great pleasure that I welcome, on behalf of the Group of African States and on behalf of my own country Nigeria, the newly independent State of Saint Christopher and Nevis to membership of the United Nations. As a Commonwealth country, we in Nigeria are gratified and happy that another Commonwealth country has taken the ultimate step of not only gaining its independence but also joining the world body. We should like to extend to the Government and people of Saint Christopher and Nevis our warmest congratulations on this happy occasion of its admission to the United Nations.

19. The application of Saint Christopher and Nevis for membership in the United Nations is an additional testimony to the great importance which young and emergent States attach to the United Nations. The newly independent State of Saint Christopher and Nevis has taken this step with a due sense of responsibility and is solemnly committed to the faithful observation of the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations. Its admission, which we are happy to join in sponsoring, is a further reflection of the universal desire among nations not only for peaceful co-existence but also for the promotion of cordial relations and economic co-operation among all States.

20. In welcoming Saint Christopher and Nevis into the United Nations as its 158th Member, I should like to convey the best wishes and goodwill of all African Members of the United Nations. It is our sincere hope that the Government and people of Saint Christopher and Nevis will continue to make orderly progress, as well as to contribute fully to the international quest for peace, stability, freedom and the unfettered rights to which all human beings throughout the world are entitled.

21. This solemn occasion of the admission of Saint Christopher and Nevis as a Member of the United Nations represents one further step towards the realization of the universality of membership of the Organization. It is our hope that other dependent territories that are still in bondage, like Namibia, will soon achieve their independence, as well as membership of the United Nations.

22. In conclusion, we extend once more our warm welcome to the Government and people of Saint Christopher and Nevis, and to its Prime Minister, Mr. Kennedy Simmonds, and we join others in expressing our hope that they will continue to cherish their newly won independence and work assiduously for accelerated economic development in their own country.

23. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I now call on the representative of Sri Lanka to speak in his capacity as chairman of the Group of Asian States.

24. Mr. FONSEKA (Sri Lanka): This being my delegation's first opportunity to address the Assembly under your presidency, Sir, may I offer you my warmest felicitations and good wishes on your election—felicitations which will be more appropriately expressed by the Chairman of the Sri Lanka delegation in the coming week.

25. Our appreciation and sincere thanks go also to Mr. Imre Hollai, who presided over the Assembly during its thirty-seventh session. We wish to congratulate him on the leadership he provided and the task he fulfilled.

26. On behalf of the Group of Asian States, it is my very pleasant duty to extend our greetings, our congratulations and our good wishes to Saint Christopher and Nevis on its accession to membership of its United Nations. To Prime Minister Kennedy Simmonds and the members of his delegation, the Group of Asian States extends a warm and cordial welcome. My own delegation was privileged to be among the sponsors of the draft resolution for the admission of Saint Christopher and Nevis to membership.

27. Saint Christopher and Nevis may seem to have come to the Organization later than expected—or at least later than some others in its Caribbean region. Yet we do know that this timing of its arrival has been deliberate and of its own choosing—its having preferred to give priority to economic and social advancement in preparation for this independence.

28. Perhaps not all of us can claim familiarity with events which are now part of the history of the Caribbean, which has given us several of our newest Members. Therefore today seems an appropriate occasion to recall that the events which set in motion the social and political evolution of the Caribbean were first inspired and led by social reformers from Saint Christopher and Nevis. They were big men from smaller States who had a dream and a vision some 50 years ago that contributed to the contemporary history of the Caribbean.

29. The occasion is one which merits a word of appreciation to the United Kingdom, which as the administering Power guided our 158th Member with all deliberate speed to this independence. And finally this Organization has its own claim to some credit, for it was the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples [*resolution 1514(XV)*] that inspired and hastened the arrival of so many of the new Members from our own region of Asia, from Africa, and now from the Caribbean.

30. On behalf of the Group of Asian States I assure the Prime Minister of Saint Christopher and Nevis and his delegation that they will have the fullest co-operation of the Group in the realization of the goals to which we are all committed by our adherence to the Charter of the United Nations.

31. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I now call on the representative of Bulgaria, who will speak in his capacity as chairman of the Group of Eastern European States.

32. Mr. TSVETKOV (Bulgaria) (*interpretation from French*): Mr. President, the Minister for Foreign Affairs

of my country will have the opportunity to extend to you his congratulations later, during the general debate. Nevertheless, I should like, on my own behalf, to congratulate you warmly on your election to the presidency of the thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly. I am convinced that, thanks to your rich diplomatic experience, the present session will be able to resolve the tasks it must face.

33. My gratitude and appreciation go also to your predecessor, the President of the thirty-seventh session, the representative of the fraternal socialist Hungarian People's Republic, whose diplomatic talent and skill left a deep imprint on the work of that session.

34. On behalf of the Group of Eastern European States, I take great pleasure in congratulating the delegation of Saint Christopher and Nevis on its admission to membership in the United Nations. We are certain that this young State will carry out the obligations stemming from its admission to the world Organization and will contribute to the strengthening of peace and understanding among peoples.

35. The admission of Saint Christopher and Nevis to the family of the United Nations is a new step forward in the struggle for the final eradication of colonialism and colonial domination in all their forms and manifestations and for the implementation of the historic Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The socialist countries have always expressed and will continue to express their support for the full and unconditional implementation of the provisions of this Declaration.

36. The people of Saint Christopher and Nevis have turned over a new leaf in their history. We wish them success and prosperity along the road to the strengthening of their national independence and sovereignty.

37. In conclusion, I assure the delegation of Saint Christopher and Nevis of the sincere desire of the Eastern European States for co-operation in implementing the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter.

38. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I call next on the representative of Ecuador, who will speak in his capacity as chairman of the Group of Latin American States.

39. Mr. ALBORNOZ (Ecuador) (*interpretation from Spanish*): I wish to begin, Sir, by congratulating you on behalf of the Group of Latin American States and of the Government of Ecuador on your election to the presidency of the General Assembly at a time when this high post goes to Latin America. Your well-known accomplishments, prestige, experience and dedication to the cause of the United Nations are a guarantee of the full success of the present General Assembly session.

40. The unanimous recommendation by the Security Council that Saint Christopher and Nevis be admitted to membership of the United Nations was welcomed by Latin America, and we therefore co-sponsored the draft resolution for its admission submitted to the General Assembly; we did so on behalf of and by the specific authorization of the Group of Latin American States over which I have the great honour to preside.

41. The Latin American region is encouraged by the steady progress discernible in the world Organization towards the elimination of colonialism in our own geographical area and throughout the world, for the majority of the countries of our region—in particular the 20 which were among the founders of the United Nations—achieved their independence on the battlefield after long decades of sacrifice and bloodshed. That is why our

region strove to incorporate into the San Francisco Charter the principles and procedures which would lead the peoples by means of law and without resort to force to full self-government and liberation from all forms of dependency, and at the same time lead to full universality for the United Nations.

42. In this context I may point out that among the principles with which my country, Ecuador, is identified are the self-determination of peoples, the non-use of force, the elimination of colonialism and the promotion of political independence.

43. It is to the credit of the Power that has recognized the full sovereignty of this new State both that independence was established by peaceful means, and also that the change has been welcomed and supported by all the countries of the region with full agreement as to its principles and circumstances. But it is also a tribute to the world Organization that the first expression of sovereignty of a new country is a request for admission to membership in the United Nations, which involves a declaration that it is a peace-loving State that will abide by the obligations contained in the Charter, as indicated in Article 4. Hence, for all free peoples, particularly in the developing world, the United Nations, rather than being a deliberative body for confrontation and struggle between super-Powers, is a symbol of international maturity with respect to international law, a forum of the peoples for discussing grave problems that affect mankind and an opportunity for the promotion of economic and social progress to reduce injustice, inequalities and tension.

44. For that reason the Group of Latin American States welcomes with fraternal feelings and pleasure this new Member State situated in our Caribbean sea, the ancient setting for those historical processes which led to the grandeur and drama of the evolution of the New World, from the time of the bold adventure of the landing of the visionary admiral of the oceans, Christopher Columbus, to the events which made our peoples known to the rest of the world, to the maturity of South American independence, with the decisive support of the Caribbean peoples, and to our participation in international co-operation.

45. Saint Christopher and Nevis became known to the Old World during the exploration of the West Indies by the great navigator in his second voyage, on 12 November 1493, when one island was named Saint Christopher, after the saint whose name he had been given, and the other was named after Nuestra Señora de las Nieves, to whom there was a long-standing and miraculous devotion in Rome, which began on the Esquiline Hill. This island, the birthplace of the great founding father of American democracy, Alexander Hamilton, and its valiant people, as well as that of Saint Christopher, have made economic progress, not only in the traditional production of sugar and cotton but also in the current process of the promotion of industry and tourism, all of which we will undoubtedly be supporting through the whole operational programme of the United Nations in the economic and technical fields.

46. It is also most heartening that this new country is a melting pot of races and a summary of historical factors in the richness of its human resources, including Caribbean, Spanish, French, English, Dutch and African elements, all contributing to the mosaic of an independent Latin America free of discrimination and to the powerful presence of the countries of the third world in the decisions involved in the evolution and peaceful, constructive coexistence of the community of nations of our earth.

47. The Latin American countries, in welcoming Saint Christopher and Nevis, congratulate its people and Government, express solidarity with them and wish them prosperity and freedom in their national life and a worthy and constructive role in the community of free peoples.

48. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I call on the representative of Finland, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States in his capacity as chairman of that Group.

49. Mr. KORHONEN (Finland): Mr. President, let me begin by offering you the warm congratulations of the Group of Western European and other States on your election to the presidency of the General Assembly. Your extensive knowledge of the Organization and your skills are a guarantee of success. I also wish to take this opportunity to greet and congratulate your predecessor on his outstanding performance during a session that lasted a whole year.

50. It is a great honour for me as chairman of the Group of Western European and other States to welcome a new Member in our midst. Saint Christopher and Nevis is our 158th Member. We have thus taken a further step in our quest for the universality of the Organization. The group of countries for which I have the pleasure to speak wishes to extend to the Government and people of Saint Christopher and Nevis our warmest congratulations on the achievement of their independence on 19 September 1983. We pledge our close co-operation with the Government and delegation of Saint Christopher and Nevis in our common efforts to achieve the ideals and objectives of the United Nations.

51. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I call on the representative of Bahrain, who wishes to speak on behalf of the Group of Arab States in his capacity as chairman of that Group.

52. Mr. AL-SABBAGH (Bahrain) (*interpretation from Arabic*): Mr. President, it is a pleasure for me to extend to you, on behalf of the Group of Arab States, of which I have the honour to be the Chairman for this month, our warm congratulations on your election to the high office of the presidency of the thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly. We are confident that you will be fully able to find realistic solutions that will safeguard the interests of the international community in the performance of your difficult and noble task and that you will fulfil the high ideals embodied in the Charter of the United Nations.

53. The Group of Arab States takes great pleasure in welcoming you back to the United Nations family. You are well known for great skill, experience and wisdom, all of which will help the Assembly achieve the success to which we all aspire.

54. I also express my gratitude and appreciation to your predecessor, Mr. Imre Hollai, the head of the Hungarian delegation, who guided the work of the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly with a keen sense of responsibility, with efficiency and with ability.

55. We firmly believe in the United Nations and believe that it should be effective and positive, able to find effective practical solutions to the many international problems and crises facing the world. The international community is aware that the General Assembly has adopted positive resolutions in the past, the respect for and implementation of which will serve the principles and purposes of the United Nations. Among those resolutions are many concerning the legitimate inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right of self-determination and to the establishment of an independent

State on its national soil under its sole legitimate representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization. There are other resolutions concerning the termination of the occupation of Arab territories and of Namibia, and the exercise by peoples of their rights to self-determination, freedom, national independence, complete equality and decolonization, as set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

56. We hope this session will live up to the expectations of peoples, particularly those of the third world, which aspire to greater well-being, justice and security and to the resolution of their problems. The States concerned should try to safeguard international peace and security and to promote detente in the world. It is especially important that States be guided by noble, humane purposes and principles, given the present international situation, which gives cause for deep concern.

57. We continue to believe in the importance of the General Assembly as a major forum in which serious attempts are made to find solutions to pending international problems and crises. That can be achieved only by means of determined political will and a keen desire to succeed through respect for the principles of the Charter, to which we must adhere as best we can.

58. My delegation has the honour to welcome, on behalf of the Arab Group, the delegation of Saint Christopher and Nevis on the occasion of that country's admission to the United Nations. It is my pleasure warmly to congratulate the members of that delegation and to offer them best wishes for the success and welfare of the people of their country.

59. Mr. JACOBS (Antigua and Barbuda): Let me first of all, Sir, congratulate you on your election as President of the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session. My delegation is confident that your diplomatic skills and well-known negotiating abilities will greatly facilitate harmonious conclusions to the trying debates on a wide range of issues which the Assembly is now confronting.

60. We take great pride in the fact that our own region, Latin America, has once again been able to offer a dedicated official to stand at the helm of the General Assembly.

61. That pride is even greater today as the Assembly considers the recommendation of the Security Council that Saint Kitts and Nevis be admitted as the newest member of the United Nations. It is significant that the last two countries to be admitted to this body were both from Latin America and the Caribbean and that we are now welcoming yet another.

62. Antigua and Barbuda is delighted and honoured to have proposed to the Assembly that Saint Kitts and Nevis be admitted. Saint Kitts and Nevis is only five days old as a fully independent nation, but it is not new to the responsibilities of nationhood, nor is it a novice in international affairs.

63. International recognition of Saint Kitts goes back as far as 1622 for it was then that both the French and the English Caribbean empires began. Indeed, for a while the two metropolitan Powers co-existed peacefully in Saint Kitts. And tiny Nevis was among the first to make a great contribution to the mighty United States of America, for it sent one of its native-born sons, Alexander Hamilton, to become a revolutionary hero, a Founding Father and the first Secretary of the Treasury.

64. But if early international recognition of Saint Kitts and of Nevis rested in their importance to outside Powers, continuing recognition resides in their contribution to the development of the Caribbean people.

65. The first Premier of Saint Kitts and Nevis, Robert Bradshaw, was among the leaders in the Caribbean who were in the vanguard of the struggle during the 1930s against the conditions of deprivation and exploitation suffered by the vast majority of the people of the region. That struggle led to the social and economic advancement not only of the people of Saint Kitts and Nevis but of the Caribbean as a whole.

66. Successive leaders of Saint Kitts and Nevis have contributed to the political awakening of the Caribbean people and to the legitimate demand for independence and sovereignty over their own affairs. In this regard the current Prime Minister, Mr. Kennedy Simmonds, has continued a magnificent tradition.

67. Of the nations in this Assembly, Antigua and Barbuda is geographically nearest to Saint Kitts and Nevis. Our peoples have been neighbours and friends for three centuries. But our closeness is not based on geographical proximity alone; it lies in a history of shared experiences and common goals. From 1671 until 1798—127 years—we shared a common General Assembly of the Leeward Islands of the West Indies. We experienced a further 85 years of administrative co-operation from 1871 to 1956 under the Leeward Islands Federation. This arrangement was ended only to facilitate the creation of a larger West Indies Federation which lasted from 1958 until 1962.

68. It was not long thereafter that Antigua and Barbuda, with Saint Kitts and Nevis and other countries in the Leeward and Windward Islands, joined together once again to negotiate with the United Kingdom full control of our own internal affairs with the right to amend our own constitutions. In 1967, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Antigua and Barbuda together made the giant leap from colony to Associated State. The way to independence had been cleared.

69. This long history of association between our two nations, which continues today in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and the Caribbean Community [CARICOM] and Common Market, gives cause for my people to rejoice in the independence of the people of Saint Kitts and Nevis. Indeed, my own people's freedom is enhanced today by the freedom of our brothers.

70. Antigua and Barbuda is proud to welcome the delegation of Saint Kitts and Nevis to full and equal membership of the United Nations in the full knowledge that it will play as dynamic and meaningful a role in the wide spectrum of international affairs as it had already played in Caribbean development.

71. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I call on the representative of Barbados, who will speak on behalf of the States of the Caribbean Community.

72. Mr. MOSELEY (Barbados): Speaking on behalf of the CARICOM States, on this the first occasion on which I address this thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly I must carry out the very pleasant duty of congratulating you, Sir, upon your election as President.

73. It is the earnest hope and certain expectation of my delegation that this session, which promises so many areas of difficulty, will be so managed and guided by your great diplomatic skill and experience that our great Organization will emerge at the end better and stronger for your leadership.

74. My delegation is greatly honoured by being granted an opportunity to add its words of welcome to the nation of Saint Christopher and Nevis, which has today become the newest Member State of the United Nations.

75. From as long ago as the early years of the seventeenth century, the countries of Saint Christopher and

Nevis and Barbados and many other island countries of the region have experienced a remarkably similar history. Our colonial experience, our economic dependence upon the production of cane sugar, our susceptibility to the vagaries and vicissitudes of wind and weather, even our emergence in the 1930s to a new day of social and economic progress based upon the establishment of vigorous trades and labour unions, all have served to weave a bond of brotherhood, with its latest manifestation in the grouping and alliance known as CARICOM.

76. The new Member State, like Barbados, is a tiny country in terms of physical area and population. However, Saint Christopher and Nevis, by seeking membership of the United Nations, has demonstrated its faith in the principle of universality, one of the foundation-stones of this great Organization.

77. The new Member State will find in the United Nations confirmation of the view that international morality, which is after all the foundation and cornerstone of man's hope for peace and justice on this earth, is not a monopoly possessed by the large and mighty States with their great wealth and power bases. Saint Christopher and Nevis will find that there is in the United Nations an invaluable place for those States, great or small, which have and exercise the courage to reflect in words and actions the true conscience of civilized man.

78. The Government of Barbados and, indeed, all the members of CARICOM will be second to none in their resolve to offer every assistance that lies in their power to enable our newest Member State to fulfil its highest aspirations in the service of mankind through membership of the United Nations.

79. With these few words, on behalf of the Government and people of Barbados and the CARICOM States of the Caribbean, I offer sincere congratulations to Saint Christopher and Nevis and extend to that new nation a hearty welcome as a full Member of the United Nations.

80. Mr. de La BARRE de NANTEUIL (France) (*interpretation from French*): Mr. President, as this is the first time that I speak at this session, I wish to repeat the cordial congratulations I extended to you in the General Committee. Your qualities as a statesman and diplomat and your experience in international affairs and in this Organization are a pledge of the success of our work.

81. The Security Council unanimously recommended to the General Assembly the admission of Saint Christopher and Nevis to the United Nations. The Assembly has just endorsed that decision by acclamation. France is most pleased at this development, particularly in view of the historical, economic and cultural ties which have existed for many centuries between my country and those islands in the Antilles and which we hope to see strengthened further. The archipelago of Saint Christopher and Nevis is one of our closest neighbours in the Caribbean region, and we have every reason to view the future of our relations with great confidence.

82. Saint Christopher and Nevis, which until 19 September last was within the sphere of the United Kingdom, is now embarking upon a new phase of its history with its accession to independence. It meets the conditions of admission to the United Nations and has undertaken to respect the provisions of the Charter. France supported its admission to our midst for those reasons. The United Nations has a mission of universality, and the admission of Saint Christopher and Nevis as the 158th Member State brings us closer to this common objective.

83. The French delegation cordially welcomes our new partner to the United Nations and warmly congratulates the Prime Minister of Saint Christopher and Nevis and

all the members of its Government. We sincerely wish the young State and its people happiness and prosperity.

84. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I now call on the representative of Dominica, who will speak on behalf of the members of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States.

85. Mr. BARON (Dominica): Mr. President, I must avail myself of this opportunity to congratulate you, on behalf of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and on behalf of the Commonwealth of Dominica, on your election to this most important office. We are all familiar with the chronicle of your distinguished career as a scholar and diplomat, and I am confident that we shall enjoy much success in our deliberations under your guidance.

86. On this occasion, I have the honour, on behalf of the States members of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, to welcome Saint Christopher and Nevis to membership of this world body.

87. Saint Christopher and Nevis is the twelfth Commonwealth Caribbean country to receive independence in the past two decades. It is the last British Associated State in the Caribbean to attain sovereignty and the sixth member State of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States to become a Member of the United Nations in the past 10 years.

88. The occasion of Saint Christopher and Nevis' independence four days ago was a happy one for us in the Eastern Caribbean for two main reasons: first, the continued implementation of the principles enshrined in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 is for us more than a sufficient *raison d'être* of the United Nations; secondly, in the eastern Caribbean sovereignty has meant integration rather than separation. This integration is characterized in a microcosmic way by the fact that the last three eastern Caribbean States to achieve independence are all unions of more than one territory: Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Antigua and Barbuda and, now, Saint Christopher and Nevis. On a wider level, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, the outgrowth of a pre-sovereign association facilitates functional co-operation among all the eastern Caribbean States. While economies of scale are a benefit of our functional integration, that integration is engendered more by fraternalism than by purely economic considerations.

89. We wish here to congratulate the people and Government of Saint Christopher and Nevis on their attainment of independence.

90. It gives the States members of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States the greatest pleasure to welcome the delegation of Saint Christopher and Nevis, led by Prime Minister Kennedy Simmonds, as it takes its place amongst us in the United Nations. Having achieved sovereignty after more than 300 years as a colony, it will enrich us all by its presence here.

91. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I now call on the representative of the host country, the United States of America.

92. Mrs. MEYERHOFF (United States of America): I should like to begin by congratulating you, Sir, on behalf of the United States, on your election to the presidency of the General Assembly. In light of your long association with the Organization, we believe the direction of this body is in extremely capable hands.

93. It is my very great pleasure, on behalf of the Government of the United States, to welcome Saint Christopher and Nevis as the 158th Member of the United Nations. The people of the United States extend to the

people of Saint Christopher and Nevis their sincere congratulations on the achievement of their independence last Monday. May I personally say, having visited what is affectionately called Saint Kitts and Nevis, that we American citizens particularly welcome them. It is a beautiful country, as we all know. We extend to them and to their Prime Minister, Mr. Kennedy Simmonds, a very, very warm welcome to the United States.

94. As the oldest independent democracy in this hemisphere, the United States is pleased to note the strong traditions of democracy and freedom of that nation. The rights of the people of Saint Christopher and Nevis—freedoms of press, belief and speech, among others—as well as their firmly established democratic institutions, are envied by many less free peoples of the world. We are confident that the people of Saint Christopher and Nevis will continue to enjoy these in the future.

95. Saint Christopher and Nevis has a history important to the United States and all the nations of the Americas. From the discovery of Saint Christopher and Nevis in 1493 by Christopher Columbus to the birth of one of our great early statesmen, Alexander Hamilton, on Nevis in 1757, to the heyday of the sugar industry which provisioned the modern world, Saint Christopher and Nevis has played an active role in the progress of this hemisphere. Now history is being made again, as Saint Christopher and Nevis becomes an independent State and a Member of the United Nations.

96. The United States looks forward to continuing the close and cordial relationship between our two peoples on this new basis. We have in the past welcomed their active participation in regional organizations which are working to develop and strengthen economic and political security in the Caribbean. We look forward to working closely together in new endeavours, such as the Caribbean Basin Initiative, to advance further the traditions, values and aspirations that we share.

97. We welcome the participation of Saint Christopher and Nevis in this body and believe that it will contribute greatly to the protection and promotion of the principles on which the United Nations was founded.

98. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Prime Minister of Saint Christopher and Nevis, Mr. Kennedy Simmonds.

99. I take pleasure in inviting him to address the General Assembly.

100. Mr. SIMMONDS (Saint Christopher and Nevis): It is with a profound sense of gratitude and humility that I rise to acknowledge the acclamation of the General Assembly on the admission of Saint Christopher and Nevis—more popularly known as Saint Kitts and Nevis—into this world-wide community of sovereign independent States.

101. Please accept, Mr. President, my heartiest congratulations to you and your country on your election to the very high office that you now hold in this body.

102. I take this opportunity to express on behalf of my people our profound appreciation to the United Kingdom for sponsoring our application. It is a tribute to them that the transition of my country from colonialism to independence could be achieved peacefully and without rancour. We look forward to an ongoing amicable relationship placed now in a different setting.

103. The people of St. Kitts and Nevis are grateful to the representatives of the 50 countries who so generously sponsored our application and also for the warm words of welcome expressed here this morning.

104. We also must record our sincere appreciation to all the members of the Security Council for the alacrity with which they processed our application to make it possible for us to be admitted within four days of achieving nationhood.

105. Finally, we thank the representatives here assembled for the warm greeting accorded to our delegation.

106. Our forefathers knew the nightmare of slavery and our people have languished under the yoke of colonialism. The twin islands of our emergent nation have provided a bloody battleground for the imperialist conflicts that, many decades ago, carved up the resources of the world according to an uncivilized law of the jungle. Our beleaguered hillsides and valleys have for centuries been forced to yield up a rich harvest for the citizens of the metropolis by the blood, sweat and tears of a subjugated populace.

107. The small north-eastern corner of the Caribbean Basin which we inhabit was a theatre of war even before the advent of the competing Old World nations. The Caribs and the Arawak Indians who migrated to the islands from the mainland of South and Central America attacked and slaughtered each other until the more belligerent Caribs brought about the virtual extinction of the Arawaks.

108. Then came the "discovery" of the Americas, followed closely by the colonization of this new world and the occupation of the neighbouring islands of Saint Christopher and Nevis. Very early in this era of colonialist expansion the atrocity of the transatlantic slave trade was instituted, with millions of black people being uprooted from their ancestral compounds in West Africa and shipped like so many captive animals into servitude and degradation. For two centuries the fortunes of imperialism foisted various European rulers upon the islands, which changed hands more than a dozen times before slavery was abolished in 1834. It took another century of economic deprivation and an outbreak of rioting in the 1930s before universal adult suffrage was introduced in 1952.

109. Hard on the heels of the franchise the ministerial system of government was established, and by 1967 internal self-government was implemented as the ultimate period of apprenticeship in nationhood.

110. Those were but milestones along the road to full independence, a journey which has taken almost 150 years since emancipation.

111. We in Saint Kitts and Nevis have good reason for pride and elation on this the occasion of our attainment of nationhood, which we firmly believe to be the sovereign right of all peoples. Our very attainment of this status was brought about through our blazing of fresh constitutional trails by which we were able to provide greater internal autonomy for an island minority of our citizens within a framework of unity.

112. As we enter the United Nations, the greatest forum in the world for looking at the world, we bring with us profound revulsion for the iniquity and warmongering which scar the pages of our history. Our unshakeable commitment to a world of peace is rooted in our agonizing experience of having been a sacrificial pawn on the altar of expansionism.

113. Today the Caribbean region as a whole has acquired a new and invidious significance as a focal point in the continuing struggle for world dominance, and we seize this opportunity to send out a clarion call for an end to armed conflict in the Caribbean and the Americas.

114. We recognize that we live in a world where the East and the West stand teetering on the brink of total nuclear annihilation of the human species.

115. All of us as sovereign nations, whether we be great or small, occupy a portion of the earth's crust. We must of necessity take a serious look at what is happening to our world and reaffirm not only our own right to survive, but that of our neighbours as well.

116. The world is metaphorically becoming smaller, and in this era of global impingement of far-flung events we can no longer be isolated or insulated from events anywhere in the world. The most barbaric and callous act of destruction resulting in the death of 269 innocent persons over the Sea of Japan has struck home very forcefully to us on the other side of the world. The distance of events can no longer insulate us.

117. There was a man called Anthony Nassief, a citizen of the Commonwealth of Dominica, one of our partners in CARICOM and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States. He travelled throughout the world seeking to broaden the horizons and prospects of his country, my neighbour. The people of Dominica now mourn his loss, and we share their grief. Saint Kitts and Nevis extends its condolences to all who are bereaved by that tragedy. It is my firm belief that this body should unreservedly and unequivocally condemn the shooting down of the Korean jet liner. Those who participate in this forum must seek to break this syndrome of violence and killing wherever it exists in the world.

118. We cannot justify our impotence by dismissing the objective as utopian. On the contrary, whatever the cost or the obstacles, we must continue to seek an end to violence in the world. To do otherwise would in time ensure our total annihilation.

119. The rights and freedoms embodied in the Constitution of Saint Kitts and Nevis reflect our commitment to the sanctity of human life and of human dignity, the rights of the individual and the non-violent pursuit of happiness.

120. In addition, we have over the years built up international friendships which we value highly. We look forward to broadening the scope of our relationships in the world, both within and outside the United Nations.

121. Such relationships, however, must be based upon mutual respect for sovereignty, mutual allegiance to the principles of fundamental rights and freedoms and a shared appreciation of the value of human life and dignity.

122. We will resist manipulation or coercion by any Power, large or small. We will be guided in our foreign policy by the dictates of our national interests and by the same principles and guidelines which shape our domestic policies.

123. We pledge ourselves to the unending task of trying to make men realize the futility of settling their differences by force of arms.

124. So much of the resources of the world are being turned into weapons of destruction when there are so many people in the grip of famine and poverty.

125. The development of the potential resources for the benefit of the third world seems to us in the underdeveloped nations to be subject to a long, drawn-out piecemeal operation totally devoid of any sense of urgency.

126. Yet no extensive feasibility studies seem to be needed for the disbursement of funds for military hardware; no bureaucracy appears to delay the delivery of guns anywhere in the world; no battery of consultants

have to debate endlessly before vehicles of destruction are spread far and wide across the face of the earth.

127. The world's poor cry out for assistance to build and rebuild their land and their resources pillaged by centuries of colonialism and exploitation. However, the studies and the consultants and the bureaucracy, often with consummate ease, erode the resources which could be better spent on implementing agricultural programmes, coming to grips with the problems of international economic and commercial policy, inflation and the conservation and utilization of resources. Instead, there appear to be deterrents of every kind to the relief of human suffering and want. I must remind the Assembly that help delayed is help denied.

128. People throughout the world are looking to us to lead them to a better way of life.

129. This Organization—the United Nations—was produced in the furnace of war, but it was forged on the anvil of peace. It has hastened the sunset of colonialism, but the process does not end with the raising of the flag, because we are still faced with the problem of economic subjugation. We seek the establishment of a new international economic order, for a redeployment of the world's resources and for the implementation of mechanisms to increase the flow of assistance towards the world's poor.

130. At a time when the vast majority of the world's nations subscribe to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, which is dedicated to the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples, it is an anachronism that the revolting system of *apartheid* in South Africa should still exist. We condemn *apartheid* and pledge our energies to its total elimination.

131. Such a policy, not only of racial segregation but of racial dehumanization, and any other system which fails to recognize the innate equality of man and which undermines the dignity of the human being are an affront to the ideals of this Organization and to basic standards of human rights.

132. We shall give our full support to the people of Namibia in their struggle for freedom from an oppressive and racist régime. We believe that freedom is the inalienable right of all people and should not be compromised.

133. Unlike land-bound nations, our frontiers incorporate the waters that bathe our islands' shores; though we are not large in land mass, our potential for development far exceeds our land area and incorporates the full extent of the sea which falls within our sovereignty. Mechanisms for the development and deployment of the resources of the ocean are of paramount importance to us.

134. We therefore congratulate the successive teams of officials of the United Nations who have devoted themselves with such perseverance to producing a law of the sea convention during more than a quarter of a century of the most minute examination.

135. The developed countries of the world now have in the emergence of this comprehensive treaty a glorious opportunity to demonstrate an adherence to the principle that we should all share equally in the world's bounty, and we call upon all nations speedily to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Saint Christopher and Nevis will do so with alacrity. The world's poor await the decision of the developed countries with expectation.

136. Saint Kitts and Nevis wishes to pay a tribute to the specialized agencies of the Organization for their sterling

contributions to the relief of human suffering throughout the world. However, it is our view that the plight of the world's poor must concern the United Nations at every level.

137. The new nation of Saint Christopher and Nevis brings to this august and celebrated family of nations a burning desire to advance the cause of world peace, to uphold the dignity of all mankind and to contribute to improving the quality of life of people everywhere. I thank you all for affording us the opportunity to make our contribution. May all our contributions together—collectively—bring an end to violence and herald in a new day of progress in the world.

138. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I thank the Prime Minister of Saint Christopher and Nevis for his statement and for his kind words to me on my election.

AGENDA ITEM 8

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work: reports of the General Committee

139. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): The Assembly will now take up the first report of the General Committee, document A/38/250. We shall examine first section II, which deals with the organization of the session. Members are aware that by its decision 34/401, which has been reproduced as annex VI to the rules of procedure, the General Assembly adopted a number of provisions aimed at rationalizing its procedures and organization. Many of these provisions have already been implemented at the thirty-fourth to thirty-seventh sessions, but some have not yet been or have been only partially implemented. It is hoped that at the present session the Assembly will endeavour to advance this process of rationalization.

140. The provisions of General Assembly decision 34/401, to which I have just referred, that directly affect the organization of the work of the General Committee are reproduced in paragraph 2 of document A/38/250.

141. May I consider that the General Assembly takes note of the action taken by the General Committee in that paragraph?

It was so decided.

142. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): Regarding the schedule of meetings referred to in paragraph 3, the General Committee draws the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 3 of its decision 34/401. In this connection I should like to remind the Assembly that rules 67 and 108 of the rules of procedure provide that the President may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when at least one third of the Assembly's members are present, and the Chairman of a Main Committee may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when at least one quarter of the members are present.

143. I should like to assure the Assembly that, as I have already indicated in the General Committee, I shall be in the Chair punctually at the scheduled time, and I urge the Chairmen of the Main Committees to do the same. It is essential that at least one member of each delegation be present at the scheduled time in order to avoid the problem of a quorum. I am sure that all delegations will make a special effort to co-operate in this regard, and I congratulate the delegations that were present at the scheduled time this morning.

144. We turn now to paragraphs 4 and 5 of the report concerning the general debate. May I consider that the

General Assembly approves the recommendations in paragraph 4 (a) and (b)?

It was so decided.

145. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): In connection with what I have just said, I should like to draw the attention of the Assembly to the difficult situation with which it will be confronted during the general debate. I have been informed by the Secretariat that it is physically impossible to accommodate all the speakers already inscribed within the three weeks usually assigned for the debate and that the position is especially difficult during the first week of that period. In paragraph 5 of its report, therefore, the General Committee recommends that during the period of the general debate the morning plenary meetings should begin at 10 a.m. instead of 10.30 a.m. In addition, I should like to propose that the Assembly meet on Saturday, 1 October. May I take it that those recommendations are approved by the General Assembly?

It was so decided.

146. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): Regarding the explanations of vote referred to in paragraph 6 of its report, the General Committee draws the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 7 of its decision 34/401. Paragraph 7 of the report deals with the closing date of the session and paragraph 8 with the records of the Main Committees. I take it that those recommendations are approved by the General Assembly.

It was so decided.

147. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): In paragraph 9 of its report the General Committee draws the Assembly's attention to paragraphs 18 and 19 of its decision 34/401 concerning the election of the Chairman of the Main Committees. I hope these provisions will be fully implemented to facilitate the organization of the work of future sessions of the General Assembly.

148. The General Committee also draws the Assembly's attention to paragraph 17 of decision 34/401 concerning concluding statements in the General Assembly and its Main Committees.

149. Paragraphs 11 and 12 of the report refer to questions related to the programme budget. In this connection, the General Committee draws the Assembly's attention first to paragraphs 12 and 13 of decision 34/401.

150. As members are aware, this has been a serious problem, especially towards the end of the session. This year Friday, 9 December, is the target date for the conclusion of the work of the Main Committees, except for the Fifth Committee.

151. In this connection, the General Committee also draws the Assembly's attention to regulation 4.9 of the Regulations Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, which reads as follows:

"No Council, Commission or other competent body shall take a decision involving either a change in the programme budget approved by the General Assembly or the possible requirement of expenditure unless it has received and taken account of a report from the Secretary-General on the programme budget implications of the proposal." [Resolution 37/234, annex.]

152. Paragraphs 13 and 14 of the report refer to documentation. In paragraph 13 the General Committee draws the Assembly's attention to paragraph 28 of its decision 34/401.

153. Regarding paragraph 14, may I consider that the General Assembly approves the recommendation of the

General Committee regarding the need for maximum restraint in requests by Member States and subsidiary organs for circulation of material as official documents of the General Assembly?

It was so decided.

154. We turn now to paragraph 15 of the report. The General Committee draws the Assembly's attention to paragraph 32 of decision 34/401, concerning resolutions.

155. In paragraph 15 of the report, relating to special conferences, the General Committee draws the Assembly's attention to recommendation 6 of the Committee on Conferences, adopted by the Assembly in paragraph (b) of its decision 34/405.

156. In paragraph 17 of the report the General Committee, in the light of recommendations submitted by the Committee on Conferences, recommends to the General Assembly that the following subsidiary organs of the Assembly be authorized to hold meetings during the thirty-eighth session:

- (a) *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Indian Ocean;
- (b) Advisory Committee on the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa;
- (c) Committee on Relations with the Host Country;
- (d) Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People;
- (e) Group of Experts on the Supply of Oil and Oil Products to South Africa;
- (f) Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development;
- (g) International Civil Service Commission;
- (h) Meeting of permanent representatives to the United Nations of the oil-producing and oil-exporting countries committed to the oil embargo against South Africa;
- (i) Special Committee against *Apartheid*;
- (j) United Nations Council for Namibia;
- (k) Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

May I consider that it is the wish of the Assembly to approve that recommendation?

It was so decided (decision 38/403).

157. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): Finally, I draw the Assembly's attention to paragraph 18 of the report, concerning the question of smoking in conference rooms. On the basis of a suggestion by the Director-General of the World Health Organization, the General Committee decided to recommend to the Assembly that (a) smoking be prohibited in small conference rooms, such as rooms 5 to 10 and A to E; (b) smoking should be discouraged in large conference rooms, such as rooms 1 to 4. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to adopt these recommendations?

It was so decided.

158. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I trust that the General Assembly will take duly into account the provisions of its decision 34/401 which the General Committee has drawn to its attention, namely, paragraphs 3, 7, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, 28 and 32.

It was so decided.

The recommendations of the General Committee concerning the organization of the session (A/38/250, paras. 2-18) were adopted (decision 38/401).

159. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): We shall now turn to section III of the report, relating to the adoption of the agenda.

160. May I recall to members of the General Assembly rule 23 of the rules of procedure, which provides that: "Debate on the inclusion of an item in the agenda, when that item has been recommended for inclusion by the General Committee, shall be limited to three speakers in favour of, and three against, the inclusion."

161. Of course, limitation of the number of speakers does not apply to other recommendations.

162. I should like to stress that at this time we are not discussing the substance of any item.

163. I should also like to remind delegations that statements will have to be made from their seats, in keeping with paragraph 11 of annex VI to the rules of procedure.

164. May I call the Assembly's attention to paragraph 20 of the General Committee's report, in which the Committee recommends to the Assembly the inclusion of the question entitled "New international human order: moral aspects of development" as subitem (n) of item 78 of the draft agenda, "Development and international economic co-operation". May I take it that the Assembly adopts this recommendation?

It was so decided.

165. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): In paragraph 21 of its report, regarding item 17 (f) of the draft agenda, "Appointment of the members of the Peace Observation Commission", the General Committee recommends that the General Assembly clarify conclusively its intention to abolish the Peace Observation Commission and, consequently, delete subitem (f) from the draft agenda. May I take it that the Assembly adopts the recommendation of the General Committee?

It was so decided.

166. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): In paragraph 22 of its report the General Committee recommends to the General Assembly that consideration of item 103 of the draft agenda, "Question of East Timor", be deferred to the thirty-ninth session and that, consequently, the item should be included in the provisional agenda of that session. I take it that the Assembly adopts this recommendation?

It was so decided.

167. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): In paragraph 23 of its report the General Committee merely informs the General Assembly that it has taken note of the suggestions made by the Secretary-General regarding the grouping of related items under a single heading and the staggering of more items over two or more years.

168. We turn now to the agenda which the General Committee recommends for adoption by the General Assembly.

169. In accordance with past practice, we shall follow the numbering given in paragraph 24 of the General Committee's report and shall consider together several items in groups, where that seems appropriate. I should like to remind Members once again that we are not discussing the substance of any item, except when such discussion can assist the Assembly in deciding whether or not to include an item in the agenda.

170. I now invite representatives to turn to paragraph 24 of the report of the General Committee.

171. Items 1 to 6 have already been acted upon in plenary meeting. Therefore their inclusion has been approved.

172. We come now to items 7 through 28. I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to include those items in the agenda?

It was so decided.

173. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): Next, we turn to item 29, "The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security: report of the Secretary-General".

174. Mr. ZARIF (Afghanistan): The delegation of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan has requested to speak merely to reaffirm its position which was stated during the debate on this item in the 1st meeting of the General Committee. We have given ample explanation of our position on that matter and we reiterate our objection to the inclusion of this item in the agenda of the General Assembly.

175. Mr. KHAN (Pakistan): At the 1st meeting of the General Committee, on 21 September, my delegation had the opportunity to express our views in support of the inclusion of item 29 in the agenda of the thirty-eighth session and explained why the consideration of this item by the General Assembly is imperative. Since an objection has been raised once again to the recommendation of the General Committee in respect of this item, my delegation deems it necessary to restate those arguments.

176. The item on the situation in Afghanistan was inscribed on the provisional agenda of the session in accordance with a decision by the General Assembly in its resolution 37/37, adopted in 1982 with the support of 114 Member States. There has been no material change in the situation since the adoption of that resolution which would warrant a revision of that decision and an exclusion of the item from the agenda of this session. If anything, the continuation of this tragedy for four years now demands even greater attention from the Assembly.

177. Since its sixth emergency special session, convened in January 1980 to consider the foreign military intervention in Afghanistan, the General Assembly has examined this problem at each subsequent session and has repeatedly demanded in its resolutions the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan, respect for the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and non-aligned status of that country and the exercise by the Afghan people of the right to determine their destiny free from outside intervention, coercion and constraint, and of course the voluntary return of the Afghan refugees to their homes. These resolutions remain unimplemented. The foreign intervention in Afghanistan continues unabated, as does the liberation struggle of the brave Afghan people. A grim consequence of these developments is the millions of Afghan refugees who have sought shelter in neighbouring Pakistan and Iran.

178. The General Assembly has pronounced itself in unequivocal terms on the situation in Afghanistan, which is a matter of direct concern to the international community because it constitutes a grave violation of the Charter principles and the universally accepted norms of inter-State conduct. Unless the problem is solved in a manner consistent with the Charter principles and the resolutions of the General Assembly, it is incumbent on the Assembly to remain seized of the matter.

179. In conclusion, the contention by the previous speaker that the consideration by the General Assembly of the Afghan question could impair the process of the negotiations is misleading. Therefore, Pakistan states once again that it will co-operate fully with the Secretary-General's initiatives in this regard and accordingly my delegation strongly supports the General Committee's recommendation that item 29 should be included in the agenda of this session.

180. Mr. TROYANOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (*interpretation from Russian*): The delegation

of the Soviet Union entirely supports the position of the delegation of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, which opposes the inclusion of the question of the situation in Afghanistan in the agenda of this session of the General Assembly.

181. As was already stated in the General Committee, the consideration of this question would be an inadmissible act of interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign State, a Member of the United Nations, and would be contrary to the cause of a prompt political settlement of the situation surrounding Afghanistan.

182. Mr. LIANG Yufan (China) (*interpretation from Chinese*): As everyone knows, the crux of the question of Afghanistan is the armed aggression and military occupation by foreign troops against a third-world, non-aligned, Islamic country, which constitutes gross interference in the internal affairs of that country, Afghanistan.

183. This question has been repeatedly considered by the General Assembly, which has adopted by overwhelming majorities resolutions demanding the immediate withdrawal of foreign troops and the safeguarding of the independence, sovereignty and non-aligned status of Afghanistan and respect for the right of the Afghan people to self-determination. The United Nations resolutions, however, remain unimplemented. Foreign troops still occupy Afghanistan, and the efforts toward a political settlement of the question of Afghanistan have not made any progress.

184. In those circumstances, in order to safeguard the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, to safeguard international peace and security and to oppose foreign aggression and military interference, the Chinese delegation deems it highly necessary to continue at the present session of the Assembly the consideration of the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security.

185. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I call on the representative of Afghanistan on a point of order.

186. Mr. ZARIF (Afghanistan): This might not be a point of order, Mr. President. I have been prompted to make a second statement by the observations made by the representative of Pakistan.

187. In order to save the Assembly's time, I shall refrain from going into any detail about why Afghanistan—

188. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I apologize for interrupting the representative of Afghanistan, but I would ask him to wait until the end of the morning meeting to speak in exercise of his right of reply.

189. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to include item 29 in the agenda?

It was so decided.

190. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): We come now to the question of the inclusion of items 30 to 139. May I take it that those items are included in the agenda?

It was so decided.

191. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): We turn now to item 140, entitled "Question of Antarctica". It will be recalled that at the 2nd meeting of the General Committee a number of States—namely, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, the German Democratic Republic, Japan, Norway, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America—indicated that they would not participate in the Committee's decision regarding the inclusion of this item, and

it was agreed that their intention would be duly reflected in the record.

192. Mr. WOOLCOTT (Australia): As this is the first time since your election that I have spoken, Sir, I should like to congratulate you warmly on your election to preside over the thirty-eighth session.

193. I do not wish to take up much of the Assembly's time, but I wish to address briefly item 140 of the provisional agenda. I do so under rule 23 of the rules of procedure. That rule sensibly limits the scope for protracted debate, but it also means that, in addition to speaking for Australia, I speak in my role as Chairman of the New York Group of Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties.

194. The views of the consultative parties are set out in document A/38/439 and were read into the records of the General Committee two days ago. I invite the attention of all delegations to that document. It embodies a position paper adopted by the consultative parties on 19 August 1983. The position set out in that document is one to which the delegations concerned continue to adhere. I commend that document to the Assembly.

195. Essentially, the Australian delegation wishes to join those other delegations which, in the General Committee two days ago, stated that they could not participate in any decision inscribing this item on the agenda.

196. It is the considered view of the Australian Government that, despite pronouncements to the contrary, the initiative proposed under provisional item 140 could lead the Assembly down a path which might ultimately imperil the functioning and integrity of the Antarctic Treaty. Australia would regard that as a major setback to the cause of international co-operation.

197. The Treaty has proved a uniquely successful instrument of co-operation. Those countries that have been active in Antarctica—including, which is important, the two super-Powers—have been obliged to set aside the differences which often divide them elsewhere and to co-operate peacefully in all areas of Antarctic activity.

198. The Treaty is a major disarmament agreement. It explicitly prohibits military activities. It forbids nuclear explosions in Antarctica. It prohibits the dumping of nuclear waste.

199. These are no mere prohibitions on paper. On the contrary, there is a comprehensive system of on-site inspection, with observers being guaranteed complete freedom of access at any time to any or all areas of Antarctica. The Antarctica is the only functioning nuclear-free zone.

200. The resulting demilitarization of the continent is of great value globally. It is of specific value to Australia as a neighbouring country, and it is not something we could lightly discard.

201. Effective measures have also been taken to promote scientific research and to protect Antarctica's extremely fragile environment, including the living resources of the continent.

202. As others have noted, otherwise difficult problems stemming from rival sovereignty claims have, under the Treaty, been set aside. No new claim or enlargement of an existing claim may be asserted while the Treaty is in force. That is surely something which Member States of the United Nations should welcome and applaud.

203. Nor is the Treaty exclusive. Any State may become a party, and 28 countries with diverse economic and political interests have already done so. States carrying out substantial scientific activity may in addition choose to become consultative parties to the Treaty. It is not

unnatural that those heavily involved in scientific research should wish to consult together and then to make available to the international community the fruits of those consultations. Several developing countries have embarked on such programmes in the Antarctic, leading to their becoming consultative parties.

204. All parties to the Treaty, that is, the acceding members as well as the consultative party members, are currently attending the regular meeting of the consultative parties at Canberra.

205. Marine living resources, the only resources at present being exploited in the area, are the subject of a conservation convention. This convention is open to all—I repeat, open to all—including States not parties to the Antarctic Treaty.

206. Minerals have been mentioned. There is much doubt whether there are any commercially exploitable mineral resources there at all, but what is not in doubt is that if such resources exist, it could be well into the next century before their development becomes practical. Meanwhile, a moratorium applies in the continent on mineral exploration and exploitation. Discussions are under way to try to devise ground rules which might apply if and when exploitation ever does become feasible. But here too the parties have nothing to hide. Importantly, among the guiding principles already accepted is that any minerals régime should be open to all States and should serve the interests of all mankind.

207. Australia would accept that the present Treaty system may not be perfect. Clearly the Treaty must continue to evolve and to adapt to changing circumstances, taking into account the aspirations of all nations. The point is that the Treaty does allow for such evolution. One is hard-pressed to answer why those interested in Antarctica do not take the easy step of acceding to the Treaty.

208. Our concern, on the other hand, about having the Antarctica debate here in the United Nations is that this could put at risk the substantial achievements of the Treaty system. In the Australian view, any attempt to negotiate a new international agreement on Antarctica or to renegotiate parts of the Treaty would be likely to prove counterproductive, introducing uncertainty and possible instability into a region of hitherto unparalleled international harmony.

209. Finally, unlike outer space and unlike the deep sea bed, where attempts are being made to apply new arrangements and new concepts, Antarctica has been the subject of exploration, settlement and claims to sovereignty by a number of countries over many years. It is now the object of successful international co-operation. Australia could never accept lightly any moves which might overturn these arrangements.

210. It is for these reasons that Australia feels obliged to join other consultative parties which have already registered their inability to participate in the decision concerning agenda item 140.

211. Mr. ZEGERS (Chile) (*interpretation from Spanish*): I wish, Sir, on behalf of my delegation, to congratulate you on your election to the presidency of the Assembly and to express Chile's satisfaction at seeing so distinguished a representative of a sister Latin American country presiding over this body.

212. We wish also to express our satisfaction at the admission to membership in the United Nations of Saint Christopher and Nevis, a sister Latin American country which has chosen as the date of its national independence the very date on which Chile became independent.

213. Before the Assembly takes a decision concerning the recommendation of the General Committee on agenda item 140, "Question of Antarctica", the Chilean delegation would like to explain why it will not participate in that decision.

214. Yesterday, at the 2nd meeting of the General Committee, the document from the consultative parties to the Antarctic Treaty addressed to the Secretary-General concerning that agenda item [A/38/439] was read out. The representative of Australia has just referred to that document. My delegation subscribes to and reaffirms all parts of that document, which sets out the basis for our non-participation.

215. Chile is linked to Antarctica by its geographical position, by more than 100 years of activity by its citizens, by its presence, and by legal titles. It is a consultative party to the Antarctic Treaty and exercises sovereign rights within it. A developing country, it has contributed for more than a century, and continues to contribute, to the linking of the sixth continent with the rest of the world. Before a decision is taken on the inscription of this item on the agenda, we wish to say a few words.

216. The Antarctic Treaty established the world's first demilitarized, denuclearized zone of peace, the first scientific laboratory and the first ecological preserve—all for the benefit of mankind. In its 22 years of existence, complemented by the recommendations of its consultative parties, by their activities and legal acts in the frozen continent and by the supplementary régimes which have come about, such as that promoting the conservation of living resources, the Treaty has given rise to a genuine Antarctic system.

217. The Antarctic Treaty system, particularly the activities of the Treaty's consultative parties, has led to a knowledge of Antarctica and to its inclusion on the world map. Antarctica has been linked with the rest of the world by sea and by air and by earth and telegraphic communications. The system has made it possible to maintain the continent's unique ecosystem, which is vital for the world environment, and has kept it free of all conflict.

218. This Treaty system is actually a sub-system, integrated into the general international system. It enshrines the principles and purposes of the Charter and has given them clear expression in the fields of international co-operation, disarmament and many others. It is open to any Member of the United Nations and makes provision for co-operative relations with the specialized agencies; such relations have existed in practice and continue to do so.

219. That integration into the general international system and the service it has rendered to mankind have won it the acceptance and recognition of the international community. That has been manifested in accessions to the Treaty, in the stated views of numerous States, in co-operation with a variety of international bodies, in reports by several Secretaries-General and in explicit recognition by the world conference of FAO.

220. The Treaty is open to any country that expresses an interest in Antarctica, and the contracting parties, to which have been added recently countries such as Peru, Uruguay, Spain, Papua New Guinea and the People's Republic of China, now number 30. When one of the parties carries out substantial scientific activity, it is immediately recognized as having a right to participate in the consultative meetings. This occurred with regard to Poland and the Federal Republic of Germany and, more recently, with Brazil and India.

221. At this very moment those who have acceded to the Treaty are taking part as observers in the Twelfth Consultative Meeting of the parties to the Treaty, which is taking place at Canberra. Many of them are taking part in the scientific activities conducted by the consultative parties. Participation in the Treaty is thus open and depends upon the interests and activities of each State.

222. A large amount of literature exists today on Antarctica, the Treaty, its system and the activities which take place in that continent. The documentation of the Consultative Meetings is generally available to the public and can, for instance, be found in the *Handbook of Measures*,¹ which is available to whomever is interested. Freedom of scientific research and the free dissemination of the results, as well as seminars, films, conferences, and so on, supplement the ample information available today with regard to the sixth continent.

223. Moreover, the consultative parties are considering at Canberra an item relating to the functioning of the Antarctic system in order to improve its machinery and, if possible, the dissemination of information, communication and openness as regards the international community as a whole.

224. It therefore does not seem necessary to submit to scrutiny an established system which is operating very well indeed, is adequate and open and which represents one of the major and unquestionable successes of international co-operation.

225. Therefore, there seems to be no justification for the inscription on the agenda of an item on Antarctica. Whoever wants information on the facts and the Treaty can get it easily, as it is available to the public. Whoever wishes to participate in the Treaty itself, its system and Antarctic activities are free to do so within the very broad framework of its general régime. On the contrary, the inclusion of the item would give rise to the reservation described by the consultative parties in the letter to the Secretary-General, since this could be construed as a direct or indirect challenge to the Antarctic Treaty and the functions of the parties with respect to that Treaty in accordance with international law.

226. For those countries which exercise sovereignty in Antarctica and whose rights are protected under article IV of the Treaty—which also protects the position of those who may not recognize them and which constitutes one of the corner-stones of the system—inappropriate

treatment of the item might be construed as a violation of Article 2, paragraph 7, of the Charter of the United Nations.

227. Chile is an Antarctic country by title, presence, history and geographical continuity. Its activities span more than a century and, as a developing country, it has contributed and continues to contribute to linking Antarctica with the rest of the world and to the maintenance of its unique ecosystem.

228. As a founding country of the Antarctic Treaty, a consultative party, and a country which affirms and exercises sovereign rights in Antarctica, Chile cannot support the treatment of an item drafted in such broad terms. Therefore it will not participate in the decision, having expressly reserved its rights.

229. Mr. CULLEN (Argentina) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Mr. President, although the head of my delegation will have an opportunity to congratulate you personally, I should like to say how pleased we are to see you presiding over our work.

230. I also wish to welcome Saint Christopher and Nevis to our midst—a welcome has already been voiced by the representative of Ecuador on behalf of the Group of Latin American States.

231. The position of my Government on the inclusion of item 140 is reflected in the document adopted by the consultative parties to the Antarctica Treaty, which was mentioned by the representative of Australia in his statement this morning and later by the delegation of Chile. For these reasons, my delegation will not participate in any decision which may be taken by the General Assembly concerning the inclusion of item 140 on its agenda.

232. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I have no more speakers on the list. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to include item 140 in its agenda?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.

NOTES

¹ *Handbook of Measures in Furtherance of the Principles and Objectives of the Antarctic Treaty*, Third Edition (Department of Foreign Affairs, Canberra, April 1983).