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GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 7 October 1985, at 3 p.m.

<u>President:</u>	Mr. DE PINIES	(Spain)
later:	Mr. SARRE (Vice-President)	(Senegal)
later:	Mr. DE PINIES	(Spain)

- General debate [9] (continued)

Statements were made by:

Mr. Martins (Angola)
Mr. Al-Eryani (Yemen)
Mr. Affo (Benin)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 9 (continued)

GENERAL DEBATE

Mr. MARTINS (Angola): Allow me, in the first place, to express to you, Sir, my warmest congratulations on your election to the presidency of the fortieth session of the United Nations General Assembly. We are sure that the choice is intended not only as a symbolic tribute to your country but also as a way of expressing appreciation for your qualities as an experienced diplomat, one who has always firmly asserted your connection with the ideals of peace, equality and understanding among the peoples and nations of today's international community. We wish to express to you our best wishes for your success in the accomplishment of your important task and our conviction that your responsibilities will be performed in an exemplary manner, and with dignity.

We wish also to express our heartfelt esteem to the outgoing President, Ambassador Paul Lusaka, for the clear-headed and dignified way in which he carried out his mandate throughout the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly, for his praiseworthy professional qualities, which dignify both his own country and Africa as a whole, and for the important role he has always played within the African community in making a most positive contribution to the cause of African unity.

We should like to reiterate to the Secretary-General, Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, our deep appreciation and admiration for his efforts directed to the attainment of the objectives of the United Nations, giving heed to the concerns of all peoples and nations, small and large, and thus helping to bring about just resolutions of disputes and conflicts which threaten international peace and security in different parts of the world. We very much appreciate his example of courage and unselfish dedication.

(Mr. Martins, Angola)

I would like to join with the countries which have already delivered their message here and, on behalf of His Excellency President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and of the Government and people of the People's Republic of Angola, to assure the Mexican people of our sympathy and solidarity and to express our condolences to the bereaved families who lost loved ones in the 19-21 September earthquakes. We trust that, with the support of the international community, the Mexican people will, as in the past, be able to overcome this hardship.

The world is currently experiencing growing international tension created by militaristic policies and the belligerent practices of imperialism, which sustain the escalation of the uncurbed arms race in all forms, including nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, thus irrefutably increasing the risk of nuclear war.

The People's Republic of Angola thinks that the States which possess nuclear arms, together with those equipped with massive weaponry, should negotiate the achievement of effective measures conducive to an immediate reduction of their armaments expenditure. The adoption of specific measures towards disarmament should save considerable resources that could be used directly for the improvement of the critical economic and social situation in developing countries. The forthcoming meeting of the top Soviet and American dignitaries will constitute an opportunity to examine possible paths towards a new era in the universe, with more concern and renewed hope in relation to the problems of peace and co-operation for the benefit of all, and the establishment of a new, and more just and equitable, international economic order.

The People's Republic of Angola acknowledges the significance and importance of the environment and of science in terms of Antartica's potential, and reaffirms the need to extend co-operation to the Antarctic region without discrimination and for the good of all mankind. In our view, Antartica should continue to be used exclusively for pacific ends.

(Mr. Martins, Angola)

The current international economic scenario is characterized by a profound crisis whose causes are rooted in the present structure of international economic relations, which is based on inequality and dependence, with disastrous consequences for the economic situation of developing countries in particular. While world commerce registered an increase of 9 per cent the developing countries were experiencing a recession in their economies because of the manipulation of the terms of trade, a fall in commodity prices, protectionist measures and increased interest rates, which made it difficult for those countries to retain their international solvency and consequently the stability of their balance of payments.

A number of other factors are responsible for the worsening of the economic situation in the developing countries, particularly those of the African region. An unprecedented famine crisis can be witnessed today in our continent, with hunger and poverty striking a large number of people. The situation is made worse, on the one hand, by the poor technological capacity for the prevention of the effects of natural disaster, as in the case of land impoverishment, drought or hurricanes; and, on the other hand, by the lack of realistic action in implementation of development programmes, which consequently become impracticable.

(Mr. Martins, Angola)

In 1984 African countries faced an external debt amounting to \$158 billion, and in the current year estimates show an increase of 3 per cent even if restrictive measures are adopted by some of them in order to cut it down. The solutions to be adopted must necessarily focus on modern technology transfer, which can generate increased agricultural development, and implementation of an industrialization process for the transformation of the exportable basic products of those countries.

There is therefore a need for joint action to find appropriate forms of economic and financial co-operation in order to overcome the current debt situation. We consequently reaffirm our support of the decision of the Heads of State of the countries members of the Organization of African Unity which stressed the need for an international conference, under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of debtor and creditor countries, on reform of the international monetary system.

In the context of the importance of economic development being accompanied by social development, we laud and fully support the global initiative on the immunization of all children by 1990, a worthy endeavour in which Governments and United Nations agencies are co-operating. Taken in the context of the current international political scene, the situation in southern Africa is becoming more and more alarming in view of the increasing hostility of the illegal apartheid régime of terror, whose existence constitutes an offence to the world conscience and a threat to international peace and security.

We are today seized of yet another open invasion of the People's Republic of Angola by South African regular armed forces. In fact, neither the earlier resolutions of the Security Council nor Security Council resolution 571 (1985), of 29 October 1985, have been implemented, because of the arrogant intransigence of racist South Africa.

(Mr. Martins, Angola)

From 30 September until now, new bombing attacks and the occupation of parts of our territory have taken place, as stated in the text of the message by the President of the People's Republic of Angola addressed to His Excellency the Secretary-General of the United Nations from which I quote:

"I would like to inform you that the security conditions in south-east Angola continue to deteriorate dangerously as a result of the growing interference of South African armed forces in the internal affairs of Angola and of the direct involvement of the South African armed forces in aggressive military actions against the Angolan people and its sovereign nation.

"In addition to the air raids of 17 September and the intervention of battalion Buffalo in military operations against the Angolan forces, which the Angolan Government condemned and denounced at the time, pointing out the material damage and the loss of human lives caused, I am herewith reporting a new South African offensive, with the intervention of military forces whose number has not yet been determined and which were landed in the territory of the People's Republic of Angola from Namibia, the territory illegally occupied by South Africa. These forces are located in the vicinity of Mavinga, 250 kilometres from the Namibian border, and they have already launched several aggressive actions against our military units using Mirage aircraft and taking advantage of the lesser experience of our pilots in areas far away from their runways. Specifically, the treacherous, murderous attacks took place as described below just as our ground forces were breaking through the third and last defence line of the UNITA puppets as they entered Mavinga town: first, on 28 September five South African planes flew over locations where our forces were positioned between 9.50 and 5.48; secondly, on 29 September the South African planes flew again for lengthy periods over the

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locations where our troops were positioned; thirdly, in the early morning hours of 30 September, between 3 and 6.20, a formation of more than eight planes from the South African air force raided our positions and caused more than 50 casualties among our troops, as well as dozens of wounded men, and brought down six Angolan helicopters.

"In addition, our infantry soldiers clashed with South African armed forces in direct combat."

It can be verified that South African artillery units are in Angola to attack our armed forces which have been engaged in the establishment of peace and security in that region of our country. The pretext presented by racist South Africa does not convince anybody any more, not even those who defend the policy of constructive engagement.

South Africa does not respect the most fundamental principles of international law. Pretoria's soldiers make incursions into areas of my country that have never sheltered Namibian refugees. This was the case in Cabinda, where United States oil interests could have been harmed if it had not been for the prompt intervention of the Angolan defence forces, which neutralized the special racist commando unit whose mission it was to destroy the Malongo oil installation in Cabinda, a province situated more than 2,000 kilometres from the Namibian-Angolan border.

The actual situation is characterized by the direct intervention of the South African army against Angola with the objective of defending the puppets of the so-called UNITA, long since denounced as the South African army's surrogates, whose objective is to destabilize Angola.

On the other hand, the apartheid régime is doing everything possible to extend violence across the whole region in order to divert the attention of the international community from the serious situation in South Africa, where the black

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majority and other groups are determined to end a system that is inconceivable in the 20th century.

The South African régime is the main cause of the tension and destabilization experienced by the States in southern Africa. South Africa continues to violate the resolutions of the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, with the help of certain Western countries. The recent statement made by the United States Secretary of State before this General Assembly is a clear demonstration of the encouragement given to South Africa to pursue the policy of destabilization in our region. It is now high time for the Reagan Administration to demonstrate without ambiguity on whose side it stands: on the side of the sovereign States of southern Africa Members of this Organization or on the side of the apartheid régime, which is condemned by the international community, including a growing number of American citizens. The Government of Pretoria cannot prevent the liberation of the Namibian people by a facade of alterations, declarations of states of emergency or the blackmailing of neighbouring countries.

With regard to my country, there is no civil war in Angola. Rather, there is permanent aggression orchestrated by Pretoria, and joined by a group of ambitious Angolan traitors motivated by anti-patriotic, tribal and racial interests.

(Mr. Martins, Angola)

The Government of the People's Republic of Angola follows a policy of unity oriented towards the integration of all its citizens without discrimination. We reject categorically the pretended reconciliation with armed factions manipulated by and acting on behalf of the apartheid régime.

When Pretoria claims that the climate of tension and aggression created in southern Africa is a regional expression of the East-West conflict, that is nothing more than a justification of the reinforcement of the military aid it has been receiving to impose its political and economic diktat by force of arms on the independent countries of the region which do not conform to its political system.

The Cuban troops are in Angola at the request of the People's Republic of Angola under an agreement subscribed to by two sovereign and independent States.

As the international community knows, South African racist troops are illegally occupying the Territory of Namibia. Thus, the Cuban presence in Angola, which South Africa considers to be an obstacle to peace in southern Africa, is on the contrary a guarantee of stability and peace against Pretoria's expansionist designs. But in spite of the ambiguity and dishonesty of some of our partners, we are willing to pursue our efforts to achieve peace in southern Africa.

Our country has followed with a certain apprehension the evolution of the situation in other points of the African continent, for instance in Chad, where its people is in the midst of a serious crisis caused by multiple acts of foreign interference. We are therefore happy that the OAU is continuing indefatigably its efforts in favour of independence and national unity and to bring about a constructive dialogue between the parties involved.

As far as Western Sahara is concerned, we think that the development of direct negotiations between the parties and the holding of a referendum so that the Sahraouri people can exercise their right to self-determination, in conformity with

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OAU resolution 104 and General Assembly resolution 39/40, are the instruments for the settlement of the dispute.

As for the Middle East, we must point out that the Palestinian issue remains the core of the crisis in the Middle East. Just and lasting peace cannot be achieved without recognition of the legitimate right of the Palestinian Arab people to return to their homeland and establish an independent, sovereign State on its own national territory.

To that end, and in conformity with the recommendations of the Geneva Declaration on Palestine, we think that the holding of an international conference on the Middle East, with the participation of the parties involved, namely the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and permanent members of the Security Council, would certainly help create a climate of peace and stability in the region.

Meanwhile, very recently, in open defiance of the international community, Israeli armed forces committed an aggressive act against Tunisia, once again showing its true terrorist nature by presenting the most fallacious arguments to justify that criminal action. We vehemently condemn this aggressive act.

In the Persian Gulf we continue to witness an escalation of the war between two brother countries, both members of the Non-Aligned Movement, the consequences of which are tragic in terms not only of loss of human life but also of the destruction of economic infrastructures. We therefore strongly urge the belligerent parties to seek a peaceful, just and honourable solution, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of the Non-Aligned Movement, in order to restore peace, security and stability to the region.

In Central America aggressive action by imperialist forces is ever present. A constant threat hovers over Nicaragua and we regret that certain countries of the region have taken a hostile position in relation to Nicaragua, helping the United

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States in actions aimed at destabilizing that sovereign country, a Member of the United Nations and a member of the Non-Aligned Movement, through terrorist and armed forces.

The People's Republic of Angola supports Nicaragua in its struggle to maintain its territorial integrity and its efforts to bring about a peaceful settlement of the Central American conflict. Our country also fully supports the peace efforts of the Contadora Group.

The People's Republic of Angola urges all States in South-East Asia to co-operate in order to avoid new threats to peace and security in the region, and to adopt measures to create favourable conditions for permanent, balanced and harmonious relations among the countries of the region, in accordance with the principles of peaceful coexistence, respect for sovereignty and national independence, territorial integrity and non-intervention and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States.

In East Timor, we understand that progress is being made, through dialogue between Portugal and Indonesia, with the mediation of the Secretary-General. We trust that the legitimate interests and inalienable rights of the people of East Timor will be safeguarded in this process.

Rising from the ashes of a war that killed many millions, and caused mankind enormous material losses, which even today can still be felt, the United Nations has helped to avert new wars and major conflicts. The preservation of international peace and security is a vital need of mankind. This Organization is an instrument with the ability to guarantee satisfaction of that need, forming an appropriate forum in which to find solutions to the most complex problems of international relations today, in particular those related to colonization, development, peace and disarmament.

(Mr. Martins, Angola)

During the last 40 years, from 24 October 1945 to today, the United Nations has played an important role in the history of mankind, promoting the fundamental rights, self-determination and independence of peoples, as well as co-operation between developed and developing countries.

We would like to express our hope that the noble objectives for which the United Nations was created will be implemented on the basis of justice and the equality of Member States.

The struggle continues. Victory is certain.*

* Mr. Sarré (Senegal), Vice-President, took the Chair.

Mr. AL-ERYANI (Yemen) (interpretation from Arabic): Mr. President, allow me at the outset to express on my own behalf and on behalf of the delegation of the Yemen Arab Republic most heartfelt congratulations on your election as President of the United Nations General Assembly at this historic session, which coincides with the fortieth anniversary of the foundation of our international Organization. We are confident that, thanks to your wide experience and skill, you will be able to fulfil the tasks of this session in such a competent manner as to guarantee the positive results to which we all aspire and to meet the challenges faced by the international community. I wish to assure you that my delegation and I will spare no effort in co-operating with you and contributing to the success of the session and the achievement of its goals.

I wish, through you, to express great appreciation to your predecessor, Mr. Paul Lusaka, President of the last session, for his well known ability, wisdom and expertise with which he conducted its proceedings.

I should also like to express our sincere appreciation of the continuing efforts made by Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, Secretary-General of the United Nations, to find just solutions to the international problems and crises faced by our world. We wish to convey to him our heartfelt gratitude for his report on the work of the Organization during the last year.

Three years ago our country experienced a terrible earthquake which had extremely destructive consequences, so it is natural that we should sympathize with the anguish of the friendly Republic of Mexico as a result of the recent earthquakes that it suffered. In view of the great tragedy which has befallen it, we wish, in the name of the leaders, the Government and the people of the Yemen Arab Republic, to convey our sincere sympathy and condolences to Mexico, its leaders and courageous people. We appeal to the international community to

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spare no effort in assisting the friendly people of Mexico to overcome the consequences of the heart-rending ordeal which has befallen it.

We are all aware of developments in international relations. We live today in a world where anxiety and disturbances prevail, where relations among nations are characterized by tension and lack of trust. The international situation is replete with complexities and risks. As a result of the increasing number of instances of recourse to force as a method of resolving disputes and conflicts, to say nothing of the frantic escalation of the race to produce, possess and deploy nuclear weapons - even in outer space - we are also threatened by an extension of the threat posed by nuclear weapons.

We hope that the long awaited meeting between the two super-Powers, to be held next November, will pave the way for détente in international relations and curb the dangerous nuclear arms race. As a member of the Non-Aligned Movement, the Yemen Arab Republic, proceeding from its position of principle that calls for the achievement of peace and security in the world, maintains that the proliferation of these distressing phenomena and their implications for international relations are matters which constitute a comprehensive threat, not only to the States concerned, but also to international peace and security, and which are fraught with ominous and terrible consequences for the very existence of mankind.

As a result of this awareness, my country associates itself with other States which call for the cessation of the arms race and a limitation of the production of nuclear weapons, a halt to nuclear weapons tests and to programmes for the militarization of outer space, as a prelude to the elimination of all nuclear weapons and their stockpiles once and for all. At the same time, it emphasizes the need to return to the negotiating table to discuss complete disarmament in a responsible and constructive manner with a view to preserving civilization. My country supports all efforts aimed at the prevention of the use of

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nuclear weapons as well as the commitment by States not to be the first to use such weapons, just as it supports a freeze on those weapons, whether unilateral, bilateral or multilateral.

The Yemen Arab Republic has always advocated that disputes and conflicts should be resolved in a peaceful manner, without recourse to the threat or use of force. As we are marking the fortieth anniversary of the foundation of our Organization, this may be an ideal opportunity to recall the tragedies brought about by the terrible and destructive Second World War, when the world did not possess these enormous arsenals of sophisticated nuclear weapons that it has now. We are therefore under a duty to consider in a serious and responsible manner the destiny of mankind and ways of promoting its well-being and happiness. We have to make greater efforts to avert the scourge of war and the complete destruction and annihilation it would cause. It is regrettable that the enormous financial resources are being used to achieve supremacy in the arms race rather than to free peoples from hunger, disease and backwardness through economic and social development.

For these reasons, my country supports all sincere action aimed at diverting military expenditure to economic and social development in the developing countries and to the realization of all sound and legitimate aspirations.

In this respect, and since the time is close at hand for the convening of a conference on the Indian Ocean, I wish to reaffirm that my country rejects the idea of any military presence in the Indian Ocean and the Arab Sea. I wish to support the call to turn the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace and security, free from foreign fleets and nuclear weapons. I also wish to support all efforts aimed at maintaining nuclear-weapon-free zones.

(Mr. Al-Bryani, Yemen)

We believe that the Middle East is one of the most sensitive areas which should be free of nuclear weapons, and that there should be international guarantees not to introduce such weapons into this area. Their introduction would only increase existing tension in that area there and exacerbate the present situation which is the result of the policies and practices of Israel - aggressive policies, as you well know. For more than 37 years we have been repeating that the core of the Middle East conflict lies in the Palestinian cause.

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Today, we wish to reiterate before the whole world that international peace and security is constantly threatened by Israel as a result of its unchanging intransigence and its insistence on continuing to occupy Palestine, its denial of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, and its expansionist, aggressive and racist policies at the expense of the rights of the Palestinian people and the neighbouring Arab countries. It also persists in all types of repression and oppression, which constitutes a challenge to the whole international community, and a stark violation of the purposes and principles of the United Nations, and of its resolutions, as well as of all the international conventions and instruments on human rights and the freedom of peoples and nations.

Our Arab nation has suffered a great deal from the implanting of the Zionist entity in the heart of the Arab nation, since the usurpation of Palestine, from the time of the oppressive and aggressive wars against the Arab peoples up to the invasion of Lebanon in 1982. The world has constantly condemned the aggressive policy of Israel; it has constantly denounced that policy, as is evidenced by the numerous resolutions adopted by this body, representing the will of the international community.

Those resolutions attest to the continuous aggression of Israel, and the policy of occupation and annexation of territories by force which Israel has been pursuing. Those resolutions have called for its withdrawal from the territories of others that it has occupied, as well as for the recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people. However, Israel, despite those resolutions, has been acting with arrogance and conceit, and flouting the will of the international community. It has rejected all these resolutions. This conduct could not have continued without the unlimited moral, economic and military support, given it by one of the super-Powers, the United States of America, which is supposed to fulfil a major

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role in the maintenance of international peace and security. The strategic alliance between Israel and the United States today is the clearest evidence of this unlimited support.

It is high time for the international community to put an end to the arrogance and acts of aggression on the part of Israel, and to support the just rights of the Palestinian people, based on the justice of the Palestinian cause and the fact that it is the core of the Middle East conflict and that peace and security in the region will not be achieved except through a recognition of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, including its right to return to its homeland, to determine its own future, and to establish an independent State on its national territory under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), its sole legitimate representative.

Hence, we reiterate the call to the countries that stand by Israel - first and foremost the United States of America, with its very special relations with Israel - to review their policy in the area, as well as their biased stand towards Israel, so that they can make a positive contribution to solving the Palestinian conflict and the problem of the Middle East, and so that they can co-operate with the international community in bringing pressure to bear on Israel to comply with the resolutions of the United Nations for the preservation of international peace and security.

In this respect, the proposal to hold an international peace conference on the Middle East still represents, in our view, the only practical and sound framework for a solution of the Palestinian issue, because it is based on the participation of all the parties concerned, including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, with a view to reaching a peaceful and just solution in the area.

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The Yemen Arab Republic, which has taken up a position of principle in supporting the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, maintains that any settlement that ignores those rights is unjust and is foredoomed to failure. Unilateral solutions and settlements have not solved the Palestinian problem, but have made it more complex and diverted attention from the road to a sound and just solution. All the Arab countries have affirmed their sincere resolve concerning a just peace in the Middle East through the initiative based on resolutions of the 12th Arab Summit, which was welcomed and appreciated by many countries and organizations. It is an initiative which was reaffirmed by the resolution of the emergency Arab summit held in Casablanca last August.

However, Israel, which is an entity primarily founded on aggression and terrorism, is not really desirous of a genuine and just peace. Each day brings more evidence that confirms this fact, which is a secret to no one.

Just last week, military Israeli aircraft shelled civilian quarters in the sister State of Tunisia. Although this raid, as an act of aggression against the sovereignty of a Member State of this Organization, violated international law and the Charter of the United Nations, Israel had no shame in admitting its responsibility for this barbarous air raid, which caused great loss of life and destruction.

Since the United Nations is unable to punish Israel for its evil deeds, Israel will not give up its arrogance and its challenging attitude towards international public opinion, just like the racist régime in South Africa.

The world is even more convinced today that the aggressive practices of Israel against the States of the region will not cease, remembering what took place in Lebanon. Southern Lebanon is still suffering under the yoke of occupation, on various pretexts that have no basis in international law or the United Nations Charter, which Israel is violating with such arrogance and unprecedented brazenness.

(Al-Eryani, Yemen)

In view of this continuing occupation of parts of southern Lebanon, the United Nations must work for the immediate withdrawal of Israel, without any delay or conditions, in implementation of the relevant resolutions of the Security Council. At the same time we wish to affirm our unconditional support for the Lebanese people, which is steadfast in its legitimate struggle to liberate its territories, solve its problems without any outside interference or pressure, and exercise its sovereignty and freedom.

(Mr. Al-Eryani, Yemen)

Unfortunately, the Iraq-Iran war has entered its sixth year without a ray of hope for an end. There is even a threat of its being extended to neighbouring areas, with such terrible consequences and implications for the region and international peace and security. The Yemen Arab Republic highly values Iraq's positive position and its sincere response to all efforts and good offices, especially those of the Secretary-General, as well as those of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Organization of the Islamic Conference. It has accepted all the resolutions calling for a cessation of the war and sparing bloodshed, including Security Council resolution 540 (1983) and the resolutions of the Organization of the Islamic Conference issued after the Foreign Ministers' meeting in Sanaa last December.

In view of the foregoing, we appeal to Iran to respond positively to those resolutions, initiatives and mediation efforts. We also call on all the countries of the world, especially the major Powers and those which can be influential, to assume their responsibilities for a cessation of this war and work towards reaching a just solution in keeping with the dignity and the legitimate rights of the two warring countries and in accordance with the rules of international law, peacefully and through negotiations.

The continuation of the Afghan problem, without a solution, represents in turn a continuous threat to stability in this crucial area. Therefore, we reiterate here once more the position of the Yemen Arab Republic that stands by all the efforts being made to solve this problem in a peaceful manner through negotiations between the parties concerned, in order that the Afghan people may be enabled to exercise its right to sovereignty and to choosing its own form and type of political, economic and social system, without any foreign pressure or interference.

(Mr. Al-Eryani, Yemen)

We believe that a start to solving the problem can be achieved in the return of the refugees to their homeland as soon as possible and by putting an end to all kinds of external intervention in Afghanistan, whatever the source.

As for the question of Cyprus, the recent developments, including the problems confronted by the negotiators of the two communities, should not be the end of the road, because dialogue, in our view, is the only way to reach an agreed upon solution guaranteeing for all freedom of religion and equality in rights and duties, in a unified and independent Cyprus.

Although the world is today marking the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, we are still confronting the chronic problem of the occupation of the Territory of Namibia by the racist Pretoria régime. Hence we must renew our efforts in supporting the struggle of the heroic Namibian people, under the leadership of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), the sole legitimate representative of the Namibian people. We call on the international community to solve the Namibian problem and break the vicious cycle by putting an end to the occupation of the Territory of Namibia by racist South Africa and strongly condemning the current measures of the South African régime, that are completely in contravention of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and the Security Council.

We believe that the implementation of the resolutions of this Organization, especially Security Council resolution 435 (1978), constitutes the practical and suitable solution to this problem, which is one of the most invidious with regard to oppression, suppression and aggression.

The international community has continuously condemned the racist policy of South Africa, which is a blot on the annals of modern history. It is regrettable that the racist Pretoria régime should still be unashamedly pursuing its racist

(Mr. Al-Eryani, Yemen)

policy, thus flouting all relevant international resolutions and international public opinion.

Since birds of a feather flock together, this Fascist, racist régime has found no ally except Israel, with which it is linked in an unholy alliance; unfortunately, it is also supported by countries that pay unceasing lip-service to human rights and the defence of democratic freedoms. It is even more disturbing that such co-operation has not been confined to political co-ordination; it has been extended to something that is even more dangerous, the production of nuclear weapons.

My delegation notes with satisfaction the aspirations expressed by the Korean people, in the North and the South, for reunification. We believe that the achievement of these goals can take place only through peaceful means and on a democratic basis, free from all foreign influences.

My country, which is following with deep concern the disturbances and armed confrontations in Central America, is of the view that the best way to solve the problems and disputes lies in resort to dialogue and other peaceful means, in addition to the need of providing the peoples of the States of the region an opportunity to decide on their own future and to choose their own forms of government without any foreign interference.

The Yemen Arab Republic views with concern the continuation of instability in the world and the proliferation of tensions in international relations. Aware of its responsibilities and wishing to play a responsible role, both regionally and internationally, it decided to host the Fifteenth Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference last December in Sanaa. We were pleased that that important meeting was held on our territory, especially since its work was successful. The agenda contained a number of contemporary issues of interest to the Islamic nation which were considered in a spirit of responsibility and understanding.

(Mr. Al-Eryani, Yemen)

In keeping with my country's consistent position of principle, we have always adhered to the policy of non-alignment in all our practices and positions. We have always believed in promoting and supporting the activities of the Non-Aligned Movement, and in participating in forging its direction, as a safety valve for the developing and poor countries and as a shield against their being dragged into power rivalry. Non-alignment is the only way for third world countries to resist all forms of domination and hegemony on the part of the major Powers and support international peace and the promotion of détente and peaceful coexistence. Our concept of non-alignment is based on understanding and mutual co-operation with other countries, whatever the political system and the philosophies and ideologies, within the framework of mutual respect and non-interference in internal affairs. This has been embodied in our foreign policy and has always been reflected in our international relations.

(Mr. Al-Eryani, Yemen)

The worsening world economic situation and other crises are due above all to the widening gap between the developed countries and the developing countries which has the effect of weakening the basis of relations between them. As long as the rich countries regard the developing countries as mere sources of their commodity requirements and markets for their processed products and not as partners, the relations between the two parties will not produce the desired results for the world economy because they are lacking in equity.

There has been a proliferation of negative phenomena in the world economy, such as fluctuations of exchange rates and protectionist barriers that impede the progress of the developing countries. Action taken to restrict the transfer of technology to these countries has had the effect of aggravating economic crises. All this has negative and dangerous implications for the economies of the developing countries, which are experiencing a deterioration of the terms of their international trade and major deficits in their balance of trade, spiralling indebtedness, cutbacks in their development plans and a reduction of their economic growth. The continuation of this state of imbalance will lead to the collapse of their economies and make it impossible for them to meet their commitments, and will bring about the complete destruction of the world's monetary and commercial systems, which would be detrimental to us all.

For this reason, we call on the industrialized countries to show more understanding of the new international economic order, based on equity and justice, which would require the restructuring of economies and the establishment of a new international monetary system that would take into account all new circumstances and a balance between commerce and the prices of commodities. Indeed, the only way out of the deteriorating world economic situation is, to create new economic

(Mr. Al-Bryani, Yemen)

relations based on equity. We must therefore make a concerted effort to implement the resolutions of the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly concerning global negotiations as the most effective solution. In that way we could support and activate international economic co-operation multilaterally and implement the principles of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, as well as the plans of action relating to the establishment of the new international economic order. The developing countries have put forward a number of practical solutions to deal with the economic crisis; these include the Caracas Programme of Action and the initiatives of Buenos Aires, as well as the economic declarations of the seventh summit meeting of the non-aligned countries. What our world needs today is greater interdependence and complementarity; we can achieve more prosperity and happiness for mankind through an objective and comprehensive approach.

My country, which is one of the least developed countries, has been afflicted in the past two years with earthquakes and repeated droughts, which led to changes in the programmes that were to be implemented within the framework of the second five-year plan. However, we are still optimistic that, thanks to our rational leadership, with the help of our brothers and friends, and through this Organization and other bodies, we shall be able to overcome the consequences of these unfavourable conditions.

Despite the suffering endured by my country, it is following with extreme concern that of the African countries, especially Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia, Chad and others, brought about by the drought that has led to the deaths of thousands by starvation. It calls on the international community, and especially the industrialized countries, to assume their historical responsibility to help these countries to overcome these catastrophes. We believe that economic development assistance will enable these countries to overcome their crises on the basis of the

(Mr. Al-Eryani, Yemen)

substantial new programme of action adopted by the international community in favour of the least developed countries.

As we celebrate at this session the fortieth anniversary of the founding of this Organization, we in the Yemen Arab Republic are aware more than ever before that we have achieved, through our participation in the work of the United Nations, something that is in keeping with the interests and links that bind us to the rest of the peoples and States of the world. The importance we attach to this Organization and its role is indicated by the fact that respect for the instruments of the United Nations and other international organizations was laid down as one of the six objectives of the revolution in our country. Only a few days ago, on 26 September, my country celebrated the twenty-third anniversary of our glorious September revolution. Its achievements indicate the devotion of our political leadership, under the presidency of Colonel Ali Abdullah Saleh, to the aspirations of our people embodied in the six objectives of the glorious September revolution and its commitment to the approach clearly set forth in our Constitution. The progress made so proudly by our country along the path of economic development, especially in agricultural production, mining and oil prospecting, is regarded by our political leadership as a necessary step in consolidating the freedom of the individual, since man is both the means and the end of development.

The latest elections held to enlarge the membership of the General People's Congress and civic Councils have reaffirmed, through the approach adopted and the purpose envisaged, the principle of popular participation in assuming responsibility for the course of development. At the same time they reflect the resolve of our political leadership to pursue the democratic option which ensures individual and collective freedoms in an equal manner. It is gratifying that our people in the south and in the north have made great progress towards

(Mr. Al-Bryani, Yemen)

reunification, thanks to the success of the methods adopted by the political leadership in the two parts of Yemen in creating the basis for common institutions. Those two leaderships, through the higher Yemen Council, have decided to implement the recommendations of the unity committees in all fields - and that augurs well for unification.

The United Nations, which is now 40 years old, is called upon more than ever before to continue to promote the confidence of peoples in the Organization. The best way of doing so would be to solve, at this historic session, some of the chronic problems it faces, as the Secretary-General has suggested in his annual report. Despite the number and complexity of those problems, certain issues, such as those relating to Palestine, the Middle East, Namibia and South Africa, should be given priority.

(Mr. Al-Eryani, Yemen)

Those issues have remained unsolved for many years, even decades. If that were achieved we would make this session a historic one indeed.

Needless to say, the United Nations success in fulfilling its assigned role and implementing the aims of the Charter depends basically on the extent of the co-operation of the Member countries and their adherence to its resolutions - something for which all countries must strive to ensure the well-being, peace and tranquillity of mankind.

A world without the United Nations would be more prone to anarchy - and perhaps even to all-out war. In spite of our Organization's shortcomings, it still remains the best framework for dialogue to settle disputes among warring factions and reconcile different creeds and various interests - the best tool for resolving conflicts and disputes. Despite the criticisms directed against it, since its inception the United Nations has been able to play a tangible role in the maintenance of international peace and security, to contribute to the solution of many problems and crises in various parts of the world, and to lend its support in the struggle of many peoples that have now gained their independence and become Members of the Organization, thanks to the historic Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, adopted in 1960, the twenty-fifth anniversary of which, among others, the United Nations is commemorating this year.

In conclusion, I am honoured to convey to the Assembly greetings and best wishes from my country, its leadership, Government and people. I wish success for this historic session so that understanding, love, justice and peace may prevail in our world.

Mr. AFFO (Benin) (interpretation from French): I am especially pleased to address the Assembly at a time when it is marking the fortieth anniversary of the birth of the United Nations. On behalf of my delegation, I take this

(Mr. Affo, Benin)

opportunity to express our sincerest wishes for the strengthening of our Organization, which for 40 years has been able to preserve mankind from the scourge of a third world war.

My delegation is particularly gratified by the unanimous election of Ambassador de Piniés to the presidency of the General Assembly at its fortieth session and fully endorses the warm congratulations that have been addressed to him, a deserving tribute to his talents as an experienced diplomat well versed in the ways of our Organization. That is the most certain earnest of the success of our work. His election is also a tribute to his great and beautiful country, Spain. His predecessor, a worthy son of Africa, Mr. Paul Lusaka, successfully guided the work of the thirty-ninth session with wisdom, efficiency and firmness.

Our Secretary-General, Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, has once again in his annual report demonstrated the great courage and extraordinary far-sightedness for which he has always been so well known. Here I should like once again to renew my country's firm support for the way he is carrying out his lofty and onerous mission.

I wish to associate myself with preceding speakers to convey to the people and the Government of Mexico the deep sympathy of the people and the Government of Benin, in view of the earthquakes that ravaged Mexico City causing great loss of life and enormous property damage.

There is no more appropriate forum than the current session for dealing with those crucial problems that continue to confront our world today. We must work to bring about a world free from the fear of a nuclear holocaust, a world of security and peace. We must work to safeguard the rights of individuals and peoples and the establishment of a new international economic order. We must combat hunger and disease.

(Mr. Affo, Benin)

Unfortunately, despite the efforts made by every State and the numerous resolutions adopted here in this very Hall during the preceding sessions of the past 40 years, we are obliged to note that the international political situation is causing increasing concern and that numerous problems on which international peace and security hinge remain unresolved. Worse still, these problems continue to worsen because of the duplicity and diabolical manoeuvres of some countries which cynically turn difficult situations to their own advantage.

It is totally inadmissible that today, 40 years after the emergence of our Organization, some people still live under colonial domination. Hence the situation prevailing in southern Africa deserves particular attention by the international community.

Although the question of Namibia has been on the agenda of all the regular and special sessions of the General Assembly since the adoption in 1946 of resolution 65 (I), the racist régime of South Africa continues to apply its odious annexationist and colonialist policy. This arrogant attitude of South Africa, based on total disregard for black peoples, United Nations resolutions and, consequently, the entire international community, is based on the more or less active support of certain circles which long for the days of colonialism and are determined champions of any and all neo-colonialist adventures designed to subjugate third-world countries.

Defying the United Nations settlement plan contained in Security Council resolution 435 (1978), South Africa has set up a so-called interim government in Namibia. Benin vigorously condemns the establishment of the puppet interim government in Namibia and welcomes the unanimous indignation against and condemnation of the international community this illegal act of South Africa has caused throughout the world.

(Mr. Affo, Benin)

On this occasion my delegation reaffirms once again its unswerving support for the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) and solemnly appeals to all countries that cherish peace and justice to do all in their power to support the colonized and exploited Namibian people in its just struggle to rid itself of the South African monster and restore its national sovereignty.

(Mr. Affo, Benin)

There is no need to reiterate here Pretoria's crimes and the atrocities of which the apartheid régime is daily guilty within the Republic of South Africa itself.

After the pseudo-constitutional reforms and the electoral masquerade which was massively boycotted by mixed and Indian populations, the Pretoria racists continued to strengthen their despicable policy of blind, bloody and barbaric repression, mass arrests and the physical elimination of blacks.

The establishment of a state of emergency in 36 districts of the country is clear evidence of the confusion sown by the apartheid régime, confronted by the determination of the South African peoples, who wish to live in an egalitarian nation and who, under the leadership of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC), shrink at no sacrifice to defend their rights as free men. This is now an appropriate time to hail the unshakable courage of Nelson Mandela, a worthy son of Africa, of whom we demand the unconditional and immediate liberation.

The virtually continuous acts of aggression perpetrated against Angola, Mozambique and the other front-line countries illustrate the mad desire of South Africa to destabilize the countries of this region.

The Beninese people once again would like to express, through me, to all the peoples of southern Africa and in particular to the people of Angola its unswerving support and militant solidarity.

Today more than ever, the international community is convinced of the absolute need to apply global and binding sanctions under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter against the racist régime of South Africa.

We must welcome the fact that peace- and justice-loving States have finally understood that only strong sanctions against South Africa are likely to put an end to this great blot on mankind. We urge them to exercise all possible forms of pressure on Pretoria until our world is freed of the repugnant scourge of apartheid.

(Mr. Affo, Benin)

Finally I take this opportunity to reaffirm my country's full support of the ANC in its heroic struggle for peace, liberty, equality and social justice in South Africa.

The misfortunes of the South African people can be compared only with those of the Palestinian people hunted down and persecuted on its own land in the Middle East. The conflicts in this region continue to cause death, suffering, misery and deprivation of all sorts. Defying the efforts of the international community for a just and equitable solution of the Palestinian issue, Israel engages in acts of aggression directed against independent and sovereign countries. The recent case of barbaric aggression against Tunisia gave rise, and justly so, to practically unanimous condemnation by the international community. We vigorously condemn that act and reaffirm our support of the PLO and of the Tunisian people.

These terrorist expeditions far from intimidating the Palestinian people only strengthen its determination to struggle towards the recovery of its inalienable rights. Israel must finally acknowledge that the settlement of the Palestinian question must include its immediate and unconditional withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied since 1967.

With regard to Lebanon, the Beninese people hope to see that country emerge once and for all from the political crisis that has been besetting it so that it may effectively achieve its national unity and embark with determination on the task of reconstruction for the well-being of the whole Lebanese people.

As for the dispute which has for five years now been pitting Iran against Iraq, we fear that recent events in that merciless war waged by these two fraternal countries is now increasing the risk of the internationalization of that armed conflict.

In addition, massive acts of destruction carried out through the bombing of cities will not encourage efforts at development by the Iranian and Iraqi peoples, whose casualties are now innumerable.

(Mr. Affo, Benin)

My delegation therefore again urges Iran and Iraq to sit down at the negotiating table in order peacefully to settle the dispute that divides them and restore peace to their two peoples and to the international community.

My delegation's position in regard to the situation in Chad remains unchanged. We are convinced that only total peace and an effective reconciliation of all the sons of Chad can allow that people to engage, in peace and harmony, in the enormous task of rebuilding their country, so severely affected by years of civil war.

My country therefore supports all efforts aimed at establishing peace and harmony in Chad through a union of all citizens of Chad.

Once again it is clear that peace and security in the world inevitably depend on the elimination of all these focal points of tension which the great Powers and their allies unfortunately insist on maintaining.

Despite the relevant resolution of the nineteenth summit of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) regarding the Western Sahara approved by the General Assembly at its thirty eighth session, Western Sahara continues to be the victim of acts of aggression carried out by those who do not shrink at any crime whatever to satisfy their imperialist designs and egoist interests.

My delegation, faithful to the principle of the right to self-determination of all peoples, once again urges the General Assembly to do everything it can to ensure the effective implementation of the relevant resolutions of the OAU and the United Nations on Western Sahara.

The situation in Central America and in Asia is of just as much concern as those in the Middle East and in Africa. In the face of flagrant and daily violations of the legitimate rights and sovereignty of all the States in Central America, the international community must react with greater firmness and demand peace for all peoples of that region.

(Mr. Affo, Benin)

My delegation would like here to renew its support for the just struggle of all the oppressed peoples of Central America for their liberation from all forms of domination and exploitation and unreservedly supports the tireless efforts exerted by the Contadora Group in the search for peace.

In Asia the division of the Korean peninsula constitutes a source of tension in that part of the world.

Benin cherishes the firm and ardent hope of seeing the sons of Korea once again return to the path of dialogue that will bring them to a peaceful and independent reunification of their common homeland.

I take the present opportunity to say how much my country appreciates the numerous efforts continuously made by the People's Democratic Republic of Korea to implement this objective, which is supported by the whole international community because it is a champion of peace and security for our world of today. To this end it is important that all foreign forces be withdrawn from Korea so as to enable that country's sons to achieve a final settlement of their problem free from foreign interference.

In the present international situation characterized by the struggle being waged by the great Powers for military supremacy, the people of the whole world expect the United Nations to concentrate its efforts on finding a solution to the most crucial problem of our time, namely, the cessation of the arms race and the prevention of nuclear war.

My delegation is convinced that the problem of disarmament must take pride of place in the concerns of the present session of our General Assembly and must be dealt with objectively, with common sense and realism.

The exclusion of outer space from the sphere of the arms race must be treated as an issue that is closely linked to the global problem of preventing nuclear

(Mr. Affo, Benin)

war and the United Nations must exert all its influence to combat any plans for the militarization of outer space and do everything in its power to ensure that negotiations are undertaken immediately on this problem at the bilateral as well as multilateral level.

(Mr. Affo, Benin)

On the economic level it is regrettable that after 40 years of existence the mission of the United Nations still remains hampered by the egoism of the rich countries. In fact, the situation remains characterized by an unjust international division of labour. The countries of the third world, suppliers of cheap raw materials, continue to feed the factories of the developed countries for whom they form an enormous market outlet for finished products. In addition, the difficult efforts of economic restructuring undertaken by the developing countries are wiped out by the continuous deterioration in the terms of trade.

Therefore, the international economic order which prevails in our world today is that of imperialist domination, the pillage of the resources of third world countries and the exploitation of their peoples.

It therefore follows naturally that those countries which are called developing countries, but which over the years have in fact been sinking into total poverty, see their dependence on the countries of the North increasing every day as a result of the steady increase in the size of their external debts.

It is generally acknowledged that a charge of 20 to 25 per cent of export earnings for debt servicing is an unbearable burden for the economy of any countries. Yet the relevant figures for most of the third world countries go well beyond such levels, and the forecasts are even more gloomy.

The deplorable consequence of this situation is the present economic crisis which Africa is now experiencing, despite its vast riches and its great potential. All forecasts indicate that the threat of disaster will continue to loom over this continent for almost all of the coming decade, and the World Bank has warned us that in the South of the Sahara per capita income is likely to continue to decline, so that by 1995 four out of five Africans will be below the absolute poverty level.

(Mr. Affo, Benin)

In the circumstances there is no prospect of relief for the third world in general and for Africa in particular unless the international community reacts immediately to put an end to the present economic system, which has shown its obvious drawbacks during the forty years of existence of our Organization.

Africa, for its part, has shown its awareness of the threat which looms over it and is devoting the twenty-first summit conference of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to economic issues and an assessment of the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action. This assessment has made it clear that most of the suggested projects have not been carried out because of a lack of funds.

It is to meet these needs that the OAU created the special emergency assistance fund to combat drought and famine in Africa.

While thus shouldering its responsibilities, Africa also has resolved to achieve self-sufficiency in food in order to put an end to famine, malnutrition and endemic illnesses in the continent.

The twenty-first summit conference of the OAU also decided to convene an international conference on Africa's external debt. My delegation cherishes the hope that the international community will be able to take advantage of this opportunity, in default of proposals for a broader-based conference at an earlier date, to simply deferring payment on all the present debts of the third world. This action should be understood as a contribution made by the developed countries to the implementation in the developing countries of minimal conditions for making use of the indispensable international assistance which is needed for their economic and social growth.

The General Assembly will undoubtedly respond to the urgent appeal of the OAU to convene a special session to consider questions relative to the critical economic situation now prevailing in Africa. We should like here to express our

(Mr. Affo, Benin)

great gratitude to the international community which reacted so positively to the alarming situation now existing in Africa.

The establishment of a new international economic order implies a radical transformation of the present abrasive economic relations between North and South.

The magnitude and complexity of the present problems of the international community require of our respective countries a steadfast political will to confront all these dangers which threaten the security and peace to which all mankind aspires.

The United Nations and its specialized agencies have demonstrated over the past 40 years that they are important forums whose mission is to unite all States on the basis of equality in order to maintain and strengthen that international peace and security. The People's Republic of Benin is convinced that it is possible to increase the effectiveness of this Organization through a serious effort to revise its Charter with respect to all provisions which are no longer in line with the realities of our times. The important questions of equitable representation of nations in the Security Council and the right of veto should be dealt with within this framework to ensure better application of the rights of peoples to self-determination with respect for the sovereignty and equality of States.

Regarding the prevailing situation in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), my country hopes that the great and noble mission of UNESCO to ensure that human civilization thrives will continue on a normal basis with effective participation by all States devoted to peace and justice. My delegation would like to appeal to all countries to ensure that in the higher interests of mankind a frank and sincere dialogue be established directed to the resumption of the active participation of all countries and all peoples in that organization.

(Mr. Affo, Benin)

Similarly, my country supports the actions undertaken by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to ensure the immunization of all children by 1990.*

In conclusion, I firmly hope that the work of the present session of the General Assembly will enable this fortieth anniversary of the United Nations to be a starting point for a new era during which our Organization will be able to take on an ever-greater role within the international community as a true guarantor of international peace and security, and serve as a forum for advancing the harmonious development of all countries and the emancipation of all the peoples of our planet.

We are ready for the revolution. The struggle continues.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): We have heard the last speaker for this afternoon.

I shall now call on those representatives who wish to speak in exercise of the right of reply.

May I remind members that, in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, statements in exercise of the right of reply are limited to 10 minutes for the first intervention and to 5 minutes for the second, and should be made by representatives from their seats.

Mr. ALAQUI (Morocco) (interpretation from French): In this Assembly on 3 October last, on the occasion of a statement made in the general debate, which was marked by a lofty tone and a complete lack of polemics, Mr. Abdellatif Filali, the Minister for Foreign Affairs to the Kingdom of Morocco, clearly explained in a wholly responsible manner the position of my country on what is termed the question of the Western Sahara. Then on 4 October, in this same Assembly, the

* The President returned to the Chair.

(Mr. Alaoui, Morocco)

representative of Algeria took advantage of the opportunity to make a statement in exercise of the right of reply and launched a veritable accusation against my country.

One might express some surprise at the animosity, nay, the spiteful tone of such a diatribe, at a time when Algeria wants to persuade the international community that it has no part in this matter. What is the situation? The Moroccan Minister has been reproached for having quoted, here in the United Nations, on 1 October last, a press conference at which the Algerian representative spoke as a senior member of the Algerian diplomatic corps, and it was found strange that he relied on that source. But were we supposed to satisfy the representative of Algeria by reproducing here in the General Assembly nearly half an hour of discussion with the press. In order to remove any ambiguity on the question and to provide further evidence, if that were needed, of our good faith, I wish to remind representatives that they may look up the entire press conference, which was recorded, and that the journalist's question was worded as follows.

(Mr. Alaoui, Morocco)

"Now, coming back to the question of Western Sahara, does it not seem that a major deadlock or some difficulty was created on the path to negotiations on a referendum by the recognition of POLISARIO as a State by the Organization of African Unity and, on the basis of Algeria's experience in its own war of liberation, I would have thought it premature for the Sahraoui to have requested that status."

The Algerian Minister, after having recalled Morocco's refusal to enter into direct negotiations with the Polisario, stated:

"With reference to your question, we quite agree that the admission of the Sahraoui Arab Democratic Republic would not solve the problem because, in order for the framework to be viable - and I must say that the African framework could not be used - both parties to the dispute must be present. This leads us to think of the Maghrebian framework and to work within an Algerian-Moroccan dialogue. That was when we became convinced that the African framework was no longer viable. But Africa, since Morocco refused to implement the resolution, was obliged to accept the Sahraoui Republic, even if Morocco should leave the room. But once again we agree that the admission of the Sahraoui Arab Democratic Republic to the Organization of African Unity does not settle the problem."

Those are the facts, and we cannot ignore their relevance by blindly rushing into useless polemics.

The Kingdom of Morocco has only recalled the facts. As the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity himself has just recalled in the report he addressed to the Secretary-General, he believes that there have been no developments since the admission of the Sahraoui Arab Democratic Republic. I wish to remind the representative of Algeria, who has often called resolution 39/40 a

(Mr. Alaoui, Morocco)

universal consensus, that that text at the last session was adopted by a simple majority. If there was a universal consensus, it was on the need to organize a referendum for self-determination, free and democratic, under appropriate international auspices, and without exclusions.

The allegations of the representative of Algeria according to which we only wished to gain time are shown to be baseless in view of the unambiguous statement by the Moroccan Minister for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation:

"We should encourage the Secretary-General in all initiatives he may deem appropriate, particularly in co-operation with the Acting Chairman and General Secretary of the Organization of African Unity and together with all the parties concerned in the final settlement of the question. The Kingdom of Morocco wishes to restate here that it stands fully ready to assist the Secretary-General and fully to co-operate in the holding of a free and democratic referendum under the auspices of the United Nations, and that it commits itself to accept the results."

Such is the process for a definitive and peaceful settlement of the question of Western Sahara, which has been described in detail by the decisions of the Implementing Committee of the Organization of African Unity. Morocco's political will is there, and we continue to await an equal readiness on the part of Algeria in order to reach a consensus solution which is indispensable. Beyond this conflict we could then, together, pursue the lofty work of building a Maghrebian area of solidarity and equality, something which our peoples fervently desire.

Mr. RAJAIE-KHORASSANI (Islamic Republic of Iran): I recall that in his statement, His Excellency Sheikh Mohamad Bin Mubarak Al-Khalifa, Foreign Minister of Bahrain, made a reference to the inspection of vessels in the Persian Gulf by the naval forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

(Mr. Rajaie-Khorassani, Islamic
Republic of Iran)

My delegation deems it necessary to clarify simply that these inspections are in accordance with the rules of international law, and the position of my Government regarding these inspections has been explained in detail in a letter addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, which has been circulated as Security Council document S/17496.

Mr. DJOUDI (Algeria) (interpretation from French): I understand the anxiety and distress shown by the Moroccan representative, anxiety and distress caused by isolation. He is isolated because he is trying to defend that which cannot be defended. The situation is such that he wished to distort the statement of a Minister of Foreign Affairs, to try and have him - flying in the face of all logic and after having listened to his statement in the General Assembly - espouse the Moroccan thesis. That goes beyond rationality and soundness.

Therefore it is normal that these points be made. In exercising its right of reply, which we did last Friday, my delegation was solely inspired by the will to recall here its continuing position regarding the Western Sahara. I can only here associate myself with the eminent Minister from Benin, who has just recalled the unanimous position of all of Africa on this issue.

Without going into detail, and without trying to anticipate the debate of the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly - which the representative of Morocco is trying to do - all our contacts with Algeria have from Algeria's point of view been designed to facilitate contact, bringing together points of view and a rapprochement between Morocco and the POLISARIO Front, the two parties directly involved and concerned.

Despite what has been stated by the Moroccan delegation, these direct contacts did take place: in 1981 in Bamako, Mali; in 1983 in Algiers; and this year, 1985, in Lisbon.

(Mr. Djoudi, Algeria)

Having thus fulfilled that duty here, my delegation is not going to allow itself to become involved in any attempt aimed at upsetting the serene atmosphere of the debates of the Assembly.

In conclusion, I can only associate myself with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Morocco in his statement recalling that, whether we like it or not, the peoples of the Maghreb have a common destiny that can be implemented only through the building of a Maghreb community in full solidarity, which the peoples of the region ardently wish to see - I would add here, all the peoples of the region, including the Sahraoui people.

Mr. ALAOUI (Morocco) (interpretation from French): I should like to put the representative of Algeria at ease: I am neither distressed nor upset; neither is my country. We are calm, we are in favour of international legality. I wish to remind him and the General Assembly that Morocco is in the Sahara after a decision and negotiations which were duly held, with a due agreement entered into in the United Nations.

(Mr. Alaoui, Morocco)

We are not aggressors. We consider ourselves to be at home. Algeria has always said that it has no territorial claims on the Sahara, that it is simply defending a principle, the principle of peoples' right to self-determination. That is why Morocco has gone beyond that wish and striven for peace to prevent a catastrophe.

We have accepted the holding of a referendum. We are in favour of a referendum organized by the United Nations in co-operation with the Organization of African Unity (OAU). We are in favour of a democratic, free referendum. We are in favour of the results which would come out of the ballot boxes, because we are not afraid of democracy; we are not afraid of the voice of the people.

If Algeria wishes to lend its assistance to having contacts between POLISARIO and Morocco, we would say, "Thank you", although we are disheartened when we see it organizing, arming and training people who commit aggression against Morocco, at a time when that alleged liberation movement does not exist on the territory.

In any event, the debate, as he has said himself, will take place in the Fourth Committee. He should know, however, that Morocco, as he has just recalled, will not let itself be drawn into polemics.

We are in favour of a just and democratic solution within the framework of international legality. We do not fear the voice of the people.

The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m.