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President: Mr. Mongi SLIM (Tunisia).

AGENDA ITEM 9

General debate (*continued*)

1. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): The Assembly is invited to listen to an address by the Prime Minister of the Republic of the Sudan, and I request the head of the Protocol Department to be good enough to escort the Head of the Sudanese State into this hall.

2. It is with genuine pleasure that I have today the great privilege of welcoming His Excellency General Ferik Ibrahim Abboud, President of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces and Prime Minister of the Republic of the Sudan, who has been good enough to offer to make to the General Assembly a statement on the main problems that at present face the United Nations, of which Sudan is a highly respected Member. I have the honour to invite His Excellency, the Prime Minister of the Republic of the Sudan to the United Nations to address the Assembly.

ADDRESS BY MR. IBRAHIM ABOUD, PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE SUDAN

3. Mr. ABOUD (Prime Minister of the Republic of the Sudan): 1/ May I, at the outset, pay my country's respectful homage to the memory of our late Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Dag Hammarskjold, and the devoted officers of the United Nations who fell with him in the battle for peace. The Government and people of the Sudan were profoundly shocked by this immense tragedy. In my country, Mr. Hammarskjold has always been held in the highest esteem for his remarkable ability, his integrity, his patience, his courage and his singular dedication to the ideals of this Organization. The loss of Mr. Hammarskjold is not only a loss to a family, or to friends, or to his country—that great nation which has sacrificed much in its dedication to this Organization—it is a grievous loss to humanity. We lost him at a time when men like him are so sorely needed. While we pray for these souls, let us also pray that they have not died in vain.

1/ Mr. Abboud spoke in Arabic. The English version of his statement was supplied by the delegation.

Mr. Hammarskjold is dead; but the Organization must continue to live and to flourish.

4. Mr. President, may I tell you how gratifying it is for me to address you as the President of this most important session. The year 1960 was fittingly called the year of Africa because of the impressive number of new nations from that continent admitted to membership in the United Nations during the fifteenth session of the General Assembly. But Africa will also always remember the sixteenth session as the first session in the life of the Organization to have been presided over by a devoted son of Africa. I feel I have no need to enumerate the unique qualities that so supremely fit you for this high office. These have by now become a matter of common knowledge and they are a full guarantee that the work of this session will be conducted with the greatest degree of wisdom, efficiency and impartiality.

5. While I congratulate you, Mr. President, on your unanimous election, let me also congratulate our brothers in Sierra Leone on their accession to independence and the admission of their vigorous nation to membership in our Organization. Our best wishes go out to them for happiness and prosperity in their independent and sovereign career.

6. By the time the present session rises, yet another youthful nation of Africa will have joined our ranks. We rejoice in that prospect. The Government and people of Tanganyika may be assured that a warm welcome awaits them.

7. It is both a pleasure and a privilege for me to have been accorded this opportunity of addressing this Assembly of men and women, gathered in this temple of hope to preserve and promote the noblest of all causes, the cause of peace, of progress, and of human brotherhood.

8. I am addressing you today to reaffirm anew the dedication of the Government and people of the Sudan to the lofty ideals of this Organization: to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war; to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of all nations large and small; and to promote justice, respect for law, social progress, self-determination of peoples, security and the capacity of men to live together in peace with one another as good neighbours.

9. Our membership of this Organization is proof of our belief in these basic principles. When those principles were enshrined in the Charter by the San Francisco Conference and adhered to by subsequent Members, the expectation was natural that a new era would dawn, and a new spirit would reign and that peoples with different social systems and divergent philosophies of life could coexist in peace within the framework of a larger and healthier human unity. But looking at the world today—fifteen years after San

Francisco—it is painful to perceive that these high and legitimate hopes have received serious setbacks.

10. My country has been a Member of this Organization for six years now; and reviewing the records of the United Nations in these six years I note that many vital problems of international life have become perennial items on the agenda of successive sessions. Of these vital problems I may mention disarmament, the denial of the right of self-determination to subject peoples, the questions of race conflict, the continued existence of a particular threat to peace in the Middle East and the plight of the under-developed countries. These problems are debated in session after session. Numerous resolutions are adopted only to be repeated at the following session. I must confess that we are disappointed at this state of affairs. It must not be allowed to continue if the Sword of Damocles, hanging over the entire human race, is to be safely removed.

11. At the top of the list of the problems, the continuance of which pose a real and grave threat to international peace and security, is the problem of disarmament. It is not a new problem, but with the achievements of science to date a solution to it has become a matter of extreme urgency. Since this matter concerns all and each of us, because of its threat to universal peace, its settlement should not be left to the great Powers alone. The United Nations, we maintain, should play the leading role in this field. It is not my intention here to add to the complexity of the problem by entering into a detailed programme of how disarmament should be achieved. Questions of vertical or horizontal disarmament or whether control should precede disarmament or vice versa should be left to the experts. What the General Assembly should now stress is the inescapable necessity of general and complete disarmament and the immediate cessation of nuclear and thermonuclear tests. This latter aspect of disarmament is of the utmost urgency and should not even await a comprehensive agreement on general and complete disarmament.

12. Opposition to the production and testing of nuclear and thermonuclear weapons for military purposes—by anybody, anywhere in the world—is a basic tenet of our foreign policy. We have therefore strongly supported all the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on this subject. To explode nuclear devices on one's own territory is reprehensible enough; and to do the same on the territory and at the doorsteps of others is morally, as well as legally, wrong.

13. May I from this rostrum solemnly renew appeals to the Governments of France, the Soviet Union and the United States to suspend, forthwith, these tests in order to facilitate an early resumption of negotiations aiming at an agreement on the question of general and complete disarmament. I strongly and hopefully urge them to enter into immediate negotiations for this purpose. I know that I am pleading for a good and worthy cause. My Government noted with satisfaction the joint communiqué issued recently by the United States and the Soviet Union. But we expect them to embark immediately on negotiations in order to realize fully the principles outlined in that joint statement.

14. When the Second World War was brought to an end, after claiming millions of precious lives from all continents and causing untold sorrows and miseries, the optimists thought that it would be the war ending wars. But, unfortunately those who won the war could not win the peace. The very peace settlements and

their direct results are now the sea-bed of tension, heralding the approach of an armed conflict, threatening the whole existence of mankind and civilization.

15. The present crisis in Germany is closely linked with this aspect and is one of its regrettable expressions. Shall we sit supine watching this sabre-rattling of the big Powers and wait for a spark to set off in that region a catastrophe which would, in less than no time, engulf the whole human race? The crisis in its essence is a crisis caused by mistrust, fear and lack of confidence. It is our duty to exert the utmost of moral pressure at our command to allay these fears and doubts and level the way for calm negotiations to be hopefully engaged in, by the two contending Powers. The only alternative to negotiations is bloc or unilateral action, which means a war impossible to localize. Negotiations taking into consideration, first and foremost, the preservation of world peace and the legitimate aspirations of the German people, who are directly concerned, conducted in an atmosphere of mutual good will, are the only safeguard for world peace, and peace is the equal concern of us all, without any conceivable exception.

16. The same two principles, that is, the preservation of world peace and respect for the wishes of the people directly affected, should guide the search for a solution to the Laos crisis.

17. We are unshakably of the conviction that one of the main causes of the ominous tensions engulfing the world today and posing a direct threat to international peace and security is the continued existence of colonialism, in its classical or modern forms, in many parts of the world. This conviction was endorsed by the overwhelming majority of this Organization when it adopted, on 14 December 1961, resolution 1514 (XV) relating to the granting of independence to all colonial countries and peoples.

18. In spite of this unambiguous injunction from this august body, it is sad to note that colonial wars of the most ruthless types are raging in several areas of the world. The one in Algeria has become the most notorious. It is about to enter its eighth year. The dimensions of this tragedy and the suffering and bitterness it has caused are well known to us all. They are too painful even to repeat.

19. It is not for me to tell you why this war has taken place and how it was allowed to continue for so long. The subject has been under discussion in the Assembly for the last six sessions. When we adopted the last resolution on the subject in December of last year [resolution 1578 (XV)] we honestly hoped that the familiar item, "Question of Algeria", would not come up for consideration again. We were encouraged in that hope by the fact that the two parties to the conflict had accepted the principle of self-determination as the basis for the solution of the Algerian question. What had then remained for the parties to settle through negotiation was the question of the modalities and guarantees regarding the application of the right of self-determination.

20. Therefore, when the representatives of the two sides met at Evian in June of this year the whole world rejoiced in the prospect that here, at last, the only point which divided them was on the way to a final solution, and that the end of this heartbreaking tragedy was at last in sight. The fact that the two parties went to Evian without an agenda was welcome proof of a common desire for peace. Consequently,

the suspension of the Evian talks and the breakdown of the resumed negotiations at Lugrin came as a great disappointment to us.

21. On a careful analysis of the position of the two parties—both at Evian and at Lugrin—as evinced from official pronouncements, my Government has come to the sad conclusion that the French Government has so far seemed to attach a meaning to the principle of self-determination which is at variance with the concept as contemplated by the Charter, as defined in various General Assembly resolutions and as so far applied in the case of all the ex-dependent territories which are now represented in this Organization of independent sovereign States. We earnestly hope that France will find a way of revising its position on this basic aspect and that negotiations will immediately be resumed. This grievous drama has continued for only too long. Should the two parties encounter difficulties regarding the modalities and guarantees of the application of self-determination, the United Nations should intervene immediately—through an impartial international commission—to organize, control and supervise the referendum whereby the Algerian people shall freely determine the future of their entire country. This is a duty which the United Nations, true to its basic mission of safeguarding peace and protecting fundamental human rights, cannot lightly abdicate.

22. Another colonial war of equal ruthlessness and inhumanity is the one that is being waged against the defenceless people of Angola. Both the General Assembly and the Security Council have decided that the continuance of the situation in Angola is an actual and potential cause of international friction and is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security. The Security Council particularly has called upon the Government of Portugal to desist forthwith from repressive measures against the Angolan people and further to extend every facility to the Sub-Committee appointed by the General Assembly to investigate the disturbing situation in Angola.^{2/} But the Government of Portugal has chosen to adopt a negative attitude, both toward the verdict of the General Assembly and the injunctions of the Security Council. Repressive measures against the Angolan people continue unabated. The Sub-Committee has not been accorded an opportunity to make inquiries on the spot. Whatever the contentions of the Government of Portugal, the General Assembly has unambiguously ruled that Angola is a non-self-governing territory within the meaning of Chapter XI of the Charter. This being the position, both Portugal and the community of nations have a sacred duty to perform towards the people of that unhappy territory. The United Nations cannot be expected to sit back as passive spectators to this frightful tragedy. A solution could and should be found—a solution based on right, on justice, on respect for the dignity of man and the right of the Angolan people to self-determination.

23. In speaking about Angola, I am also thinking of the Congo—a tragedy with which the world is only too familiar. The underlying causes of that drama and the circumstances responsible for its aggravation have been the subject of discussion in these chambers for over a year now. The constant and consistent attitude of the Sudan Government towards that situation is well known. So, also, is our conception of the

role of the United Nations there. Our policy has always been, and continues to be, the support of international efforts to preserve the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the young Republic, to safeguard it from outside interference, and thus to insulate it from the arena of the cold war. I do not like to go into the past, because it is a painful one. The duty of the world community now is to continue to do everything in its power to erase the consequences of the sad experiences of the past. Foreign intervention, overt or covert, from which the Congolese people have suffered so grievously during the past year, should not be repeated. We must make it possible for the Congo to embark freely upon the road of its independent development based on respect for its sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity. We should do this not for the sake of the Congo alone: if the Congo is allowed to drift into anarchy or civil war, or to fall, as an easy prey, into the clutches of foreign interference, the consequences of these things will not stop at the frontiers of the Congo. It will engulf the whole African continent. What such a prospect will mean for the peace and security of the world is not too difficult to imagine.

24. One of the poisonous phenomena from which mankind is suffering today is the practice of racial segregation and discrimination in some parts of the world. It is an anachronism that this practice should be regarded as a philosophy, should be backed by legal instruments, and should be carried out by force, as we witness it in the Republic of South Africa.

25. I do not intend to analyse the fallacy of the concept of racial superiority, as it has already been refuted by scientific facts and is no longer justified by established moral values. I should only like to point out that the perpetuation of such policies—a convenient political instrument for the degradation and exploitation of one race by another—will result in incalculable human misery and will further complicate an already complicated international scene. It is therefore our duty here to denounce the continuation of such policies and appeal to the conscience of man to take the necessary measures to discard this dangerous myth which is disturbing the happy relations between individuals and nations. In so doing we shall have achieved peaceful coexistence between the races, irrespective of their colour or creed, on a basis of respect, equality and dignity.

26. A constant source of anxiety and unrest in the Middle East for the last thirteen years has been the unsettled question of Palestine and the tragedy of the Palestinian Arab refugees. In its simplest terms it is a tragedy of an entire nation uprooted from its ancestral land and forced into the frustration and agony of camp life, with no security in life except the United Nations ration card and nothing to sustain it but the hope of returning to the land from which it was forcibly and unjustly torn away.

27. Without dwelling on the sad episode that preceded and resulted in this unique situation, we must state frankly that the United Nations bears a great responsibility for finding a just solution to this problem. We feel that a just and civilized solution is long overdue. But any solution which overlooks the facts and origins of the problem is bound to be a false one and cannot endure. The search for any such solution must start from the basic premise that the refugees will be given, in freedom, the right to determine their future by choosing either to return to their homes or to be

^{2/} Official Records of the Security Council, Sixteenth Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1961, document S/4835.

fully compensated for their losses, as has been decided by the United Nations in about a dozen of its resolutions. The world cannot afford to allow this tragedy to continue and gain in magnitude and ramifications as time marches on. It is our greatest hope that this Organization, guided by its Charter and the principles which motivated its creation, will rectify the errors and save a situation fraught with dangers to peace and security in a most explosive part of the world.

28. What I have said about the situation in Palestine posing a threat to peace applies also to the tense situation obtaining in some parts of the Arab peninsula. We have always urged, in all sincerity, that solutions corresponding to the aspirations of the peoples of these areas and in keeping with their right of self-determination be found without delay. We believe that the cause of peace and the maintenance of friendly relations will be served if approaches consistent with the spirit and letter of the Charter are brought to bear to settle the issues involved.

29. Yet another cause of the existing unrest and disharmony on the international scene can be found, in our view, in the disparity in the economic and social fields which characterizes our present time and divides the world into the very rich and the very poor. These unbalanced standards of economic development have resulted in psychological trends which do not inspire satisfaction or complacency. In fact, they sow the seeds of discontent and jealousy. How can we expect stability and peace to prevail while half of the world population possesses less than one-tenth of the wealth of the world? This situation undoubtedly has created a psychological gap between the northern and southern hemispheres of the globe which is in no way less dangerous, and is perhaps potentially more destructive, than the ideological differences now existing between the East and the West.

30. The sharpness of this disparity has not been smoothed to an appreciable degree by the bilateral or multilateral assistance offered in the post-war era by some industrially developed countries, as these types of assistance were motivated in most cases by short-term political aims and were not based on genuine long-term economic and social policies.

31. The under-developed countries have also suffered from the fall in world prices of raw materials, as a result of the commercial policies adopted by the industrialized countries; this has been greater than what they have ever gained from international assistance. The recent trends toward economic grouping advocated by the developed countries, without giving due consideration to the interests of the under-developed nations, will eventually lead to the multiplication of the wealth of the "haves" and the aggravation of the poverty of the "have-nots".

32. This type of conditional and meagre assistance offered by the developed countries from the surplus of their accumulated wealth will not solve the problems of the under-developed countries. Accordingly, we believe we are justified in urging that all assistance to the poor countries should be channelled through the United Nations and its specialized agencies. At the same time, the developed countries should be urged to increase the amount of their assistance. And, in this respect, we believe that if we could come to an agreement on complete disarmament, there would be released huge funds which could be directed to enhancing the economic development of the poor

countries and raising their standards of living. Moreover, the developed countries could prove their goodwill and co-operation by facilitating the task of the Commission on International Commodity Trade in exploring ways and means of stabilizing the prices of primary products, and, consequently, strengthening the economies of the under-developed countries by protecting them against fiscal fluctuations. The developed countries are, no doubt, justified in following any policy that strengthens their own economies through co-ordination or economic integration. But they cannot be justified in using these policies as a guise to preserve old, or create new, monopolies, or indulge in economic discrimination as between countries of one region or one continent.

33. Lastly, we are aware that the under-developed countries themselves should share in shouldering the responsibilities of putting an end to the economic and social differences prevailing in their countries and in different regions of the world. They must aim at economic as well as social development, thus avoiding the shortcomings of the Industrial Revolution. The wide gaps existing between economic and social development have led, and will lead, to grave political disturbances which, in turn, can create opportunities for foreign influence and interference. This latter result cannot be conducive to the peace and stability of that area or country. Finally, economic planning must, in our view, aim at the welfare of all and not serve only the interests of a minority.

34. It is not much, we believe, to ask the developed countries to co-operate with the under-developed ones in achieving this noble goal. By so doing, they will also serve their own interests and, at large, serve the cause of peace and the security of the whole world.

35. During the last session, the General Assembly took an historic decision by adopting resolution 1514 (XV) on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples. At this session the Assembly is expected to consider the question of the implementation of that resolution. A vital point in the discussions will be the question of a target date by which all dependent territories should gain independence. The view of my Government is that all colonial countries and peoples should be freed without further delay.

36. These are some of the main causes which, in our view, are responsible for the tensions which characterize our present-day world. But the question is: can the United Nations solve them or contribute to their solution in a way that will ensure the preservation of peace? We honestly believe that this is possible. All we need is good will on all sides, mutual trust and respect for the decisions of the United Nations and the sentiments of mankind. The United Nations may have made mistakes in the past. It may make more mistakes. But this is only natural. It is a human endeavour, and it will serve no useful purpose to insist on perfection from all, or any, human endeavour. The Organization has from time to time been exposed to certain challenges and situations in the face of which it could not hold out as strongly as it should have done, incurring thereby certain waverings of confidence in some quarters and certain accusations of ineffectiveness in others. For this, the responsibility is not that of the Organization as such as much as that of the Member States. The United Nations is not yet a world government invested with the power to enforce its own decisions. The only power the United Nations can count upon is the willingness of Member

States to respect it and make genuine efforts—however sacrificial—to uphold its decisions. This, unfortunately, has not always been the case, especially when the interests of a great Power—or of a Member supported by such a Power—have been affected. I can quote many instances affecting very vital issues. The success or failure of the Organization, I may repeat, will in the last resort depend on the kind and degree of co-operation the Members are prepared to offer to it—on their obedience to its decisions, on their belief in its mission and on their unqualified respect for the spirit of the Charter.

37. What happened in the Congo is a most lucid example. It is an example of the kind of challenge that can face this Organization. It is an example, alas, of the way in which some Members can circumvent the decisions of the Organization. It is also an example of the extent of the sacrifice which some Member States can make to uphold the decisions of the Organization. It is in this last category of Members, prepared to sacrifice their sons on the altar of all for which this Organization stands, that the future of the United Nations resides.

38. Of course, there are weaknesses in the Organization. But when we perceive a weakness in it, our first impulse should not be one of despair. Despair is a bad counsellor. Our impulse should be one of determination to remove the causes of that weakness. One main weakness, for example, is caused by the exclusion from this community of the representatives of the People's Republic of China. We are convinced that the representation of China would not only recognize the legitimate rights of the Chinese people and their Government, but would surely enhance the effectiveness of the Organization. If this Organization is to be a true community of nations, it cannot close its doors to a quarter of the inhabitants of the globe. Moreover, some of the great problems plaguing the world today—like disarmament—cannot be settled without the effective participation of China.

39. In order to strengthen the United Nations and enable it to meet many of the requirements of present-day international political life, we believe that the Charter of the United Nations should be amended. The world has changed since 1945. The membership of the Organization has doubled. Many young, energetic States have emerged, influencing by their vigour and youth the form and spirit of the Organization. Its activities, especially in the functional field, are expanding very fast. These drastic changes in the facts of international life make corresponding changes in the structure of the United Nations organs imperative.

40. I have in mind the expansion of the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, so as to provide an adequate and just representation for all, especially the newly independent States from Africa and Asia. The use of the veto in the Security Council should, we believe, be curtailed, if not altogether abolished.

41. The United Nations Charter should also be amended to ban the production of nuclear weapons for military purposes and to condemn the armaments race. It should be amended to put an end to the myth of interference in the internal affairs of States, which crops up whenever the fate of a colonial people struggling for their liberation is brought to the attention of this Organization.

42. The main powers of the Organization should be concentrated in the General Assembly, as the most representative organ, and its decisions should have an effective mandatory character.

43. The scope and authority of the specialized agencies of the Organization should be expanded and strengthened in order to enable them to accentuate their most commendable efforts in the service of humanity.

44. About the current controversy regarding the reorganization of the office of the Secretary-General I have this to say. We are aware that the substantially increased membership of the Organization, and the rapid expansion of its activities, may make some administrative reorganization of the Secretariat desirable. But we feel that this could be achieved without sacrificing or undermining the authority, independence and international character of the office of the Secretary-General, as prescribed by the Charter. We do not believe that the substitution of one Secretary-General by a triumvirate body with possible veto rights will in any way strengthen the executive arm of the Organization. We feel that the result of such a step would be to carry the political and ideological differences, from which the world is unfortunately suffering today, into the executive organ of the United Nations and thereby paralyse its effective and impartial functioning.

45. These are, for the time being, our main comments in regard to strengthening the prestige and effectiveness of this Organization. This Organization is for us the hope of mankind at large and the last resort of the weak and small nations. May God bless our joint endeavours to live together in a world of peace, of harmony, and of human brotherhood.

46. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I wish very sincerely to thank Mr. Ibrahim Abboud for the enlightened statement that he has made to us this afternoon, and I beg him to believe that the noble ideas he has expressed will be carefully pondered by the Members of the Organization.

47. I would ask representatives to be good enough to remain at their seats while I escort the President of the Republic of Sudan from the hall.

Statements by the President of the General Assembly and the representative of Syria

48. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): Before resuming consideration of the discussion of the second item on our agenda, I should like to announce that since the declaration I made at the beginning of the meeting this morning, I have received no objection from any delegation or from any State Member of our Organization.

49. Accordingly, the necessary measures have been taken, and the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic has taken its seat in the Assembly as a Member of the United Nations, with all the obligations and rights accompanying that status. That being the case, I now call on the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic.

50. Mr. CHALAOUI (Syria) (translated from French): The Syrian Arab Republic is happy to return today to its place in the United Nations. It returns with the same principles that it has always observed: those of the respect of the rights of the peoples, of their sovereignty and independence. The principles of the Charter are those that it will always endeavour to

follow, since they underlie peace and international tranquillity.

51. The Syrian Arab Republic would like to maintain and develop the best of relations with all justice-loving countries. It reaches out its hand to all those who honestly and sincerely seek frank co-operation for the greater welfare of humanity and the strengthening of international peace. Internationally, it will follow a policy of friendship with all States, and will be a messenger of peace by adopting a policy of non-alignment, which is the only one that it considers valid and able to maintain a normal equilibrium in the world.

52. It will of course respect all international treaties, as stated in the Ministerial Declaration of the Government of the Republic.

53. It will continue to co-operate with its brothers of the Arab world and work with them in order to achieve a true and complete Arab unity based on equality and freedom, a unity for which Syria has always striven and for which it has sacrificed everything and is ready to do so again.

54. It cannot accept the dismemberment of any Arab territory whatsoever, which may be to the advantage of any form of imperialism, no matter what pretext may be given for such a dismemberment and what form it is intended to have.

55. The Syrian Arab Republic will never forget martyred Palestine nor the right of the Arabs to the lands of their forebears. It hopes that human conscience will finally know the truth and recognize the right of the refugees to their lands and their property.

56. Nor will it forget Algeria, which has been struggling for nearly seven years to regain its independence and freedom. It hopes that useful negotiations will once and for all settle that problem.

57. Oman, too, must still attain its goals of independence and freedom.

58. The Arab world is also faced with other problems, whose solution will undoubtedly depend on the collaboration of the brother Arab countries. Such collaboration will be sincere and open, in the best interests of all concerned, and in keeping with the principles of the Charter of the Arab League, principles which, by the nobility of their aims, resemble those of the United Nations.

59. The Syrian Arab Republic solemnly assumes once more the undertakings it accepted at San Francisco and reaffirms its faith in the organs and institutions of the United Nations.

60. Before I leave the rostrum, may I be permitted to express the thanks of the Syrian people and Government to the representatives who have just welcomed us to this Assembly. Our thanks go particularly to all the States which have already recognized the Syrian Arab Republic, and we trust that very soon all friendly nations—and they are many—will do likewise.

61. I would ask you, Mr. President, to accept my most sincere congratulations on the occasion of your election. I cannot find more eloquent or fitting words to describe your qualities than those already used by the speakers who have preceded me at this rostrum.

All I can say on this occasion is that Syria is happy to resume its place under your Presidency. Our best wishes go with you in the fulfilment of your great and difficult task.

62. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I wish to thank the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic and to extend to him my warmest congratulations.

AGENDA ITEM 8

Adoption of the agenda (*continued*)

THIRD REPORT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE (A/4920)

63. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): In accordance with established procedure, I wish to remind Members of the Assembly that we are not now discussing the substance of the items recommended for adoption by the General Committee. At this stage we are merely dealing with the adoption and allocation of these items and we are considering the substance of these items only in so far as this is necessary for their adoption and allocation.

64. As Members of the Assembly know, rule 23 of the Rules of Procedure applies in questions related to the inclusion of items in the agenda.

65. The first of the two items dealt with in the third report [A/4920] of the General Committee is entitled: "An international investigation into the conditions and circumstances resulting in the tragic death of Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld, and members of the party accompanying him."

66. The General Committee has decided without objection to recommend the inscription of this item in the agenda and to recommend its allocation to the plenary meeting of the Assembly.

67. If there are no objections, I shall consider this item to be inscribed in the agenda of the General Committee and that the Assembly wished it to be examined in plenary session.

It was so decided.

68. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): The Assembly will now consider the second item which the General Committee recommended for inscription in the agenda of the General Assembly and which is entitled: "Enlargement of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions."

69. The General Committee has decided without objection to recommend the inscription of this item in the agenda for allocation to the Fifth Committee.

70. If there are no objections, I shall consider that this item is inscribed in the agenda and that the Assembly wished it to be allocated to the Fifth Committee.

It was so decided.

71. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): The Assembly has now completed its consideration of the third report of the General Committee. The Fifth Committee will be informed of the decisions that have just been taken.

The meeting rose at 4.25 p.m.