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ASSEMBLY**

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PLENARY MEETING**

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at 3.00 p.m.

**NEW YORK**

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*President: Mr. Carlos SOSA RODRIGUEZ*  
*(Venezuela).*

Statement by the President

1. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): In accordance with the request made by a number of delegations, the consideration of agenda item 12, the first item on our agenda for today, will be postponed to a day next week. This was announced in the Second Committee, and I am repeating it now for the benefit of any members of the Assembly who may not be aware of the change.

AGENDA ITEM 16

Election of three non-permanent members of the Security Council (concluded)\*

2. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): Delegations will recall that we have already taken ten ballots in order to elect a non-permanent member to fill the remaining vacancy on the Security Council.

3. Because of the unlikelihood that further balloting would solve the problem and in order to facilitate the task of the General Assembly, the heads of the two delegations directly concerned, that is to say, Czechoslovakia and Malaysia, have informed me that, in consequence of various consultations between the delegations, they are prepared to come to an informal agreement under which each of the two countries would occupy the seat in turn. At the request of these delegations, I have decided to submit the matter to the General Assembly.

4. If the Assembly accepts this arrangement, Czechoslovakia will be the only candidate for election at this time, but its seat on the Security Council will fall vacant on 31 December 1964. In the election to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the two-year term, Malaysia will be the only candidate for the period from 1 January to 31 December 1965.

5. If the Assembly has no objection to the arrangement proposed by the representatives of Czechoslovakia and Malaysia, the election of Czechoslovakia in the next ballot will be regarded as a confirmation of this arrangement.

6. As I have heard no objections, the Assembly will now proceed to the election of one non-permanent member of the Security Council. The ballot papers are being distributed, and Members are requested to write the name of only one State on each ballot paper; any ballot paper containing more than one name will be regarded as invalid.

*At the invitation of the President, Mr. Dashtseren (Mongolia) and Mr. Lynch-Shyllon (Sierra Leone) acted as tellers.*

*A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	102
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	0
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	102
<i>Abstentions:</i>	3
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	99
<i>Required majority:</i>	66

*Number of votes obtained:*

<i>Czechoslovakia</i> . . . . .	89
<i>Malaysia</i> . . . . .	10

*Having obtained the required two-thirds majority, Czechoslovakia was elected a non-permanent member of the Security Council.*

7. Mr. HAJEK (Czechoslovakia): Wishing to facilitate the proceedings of the General Assembly with regard to the election of non-permanent members of the Security Council, and in the spirit of understanding and co-operation, the Czechoslovak delegation indicated its willingness to adhere to the solution proposed by you, Mr. President, before the voting took place. In accordance with the agreement outlined by you, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic will submit its resignation at the end of the first year of its term as a non-permanent member of the Security Council, that is, at the end of 1964, in order that the seat may go to Malaysia for the second half of the term, that is, for the year 1965.

8. This agreement does not constitute any change in Czechoslovakia's position on the consistent application of the principle of geographical distribution of the seats of non-permanent members of the Security Council, nor can it be interpreted as a precedent of any kind.

9. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all those who, by their consistent efforts, facilitated the attainment of an agreed solution which, though far from being fully satisfactory, enabled us to overcome the impasse. In particular, I wish to thank you, Mr. President, and the representative of Jordan, Mr. Rifa'i, for the good offices rendered in order to attain this agreement. At the same time I would like, on behalf

\*Resumed from the 1252nd meeting.

of the Czechoslovak delegation, to express my deep appreciation to those who, by their consistent votes during the whole series of ballots, supported the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and thus contributed to its election.

10. Mr. RAMANI (Malaysia): May I at the outset join the representative of Czechoslovakia in expressing to Ambassador Rifa'i of Jordan and the other friends who helped, the deep appreciation of the Malaysian delegation for the part played by them in achieving this happy result to which you, Mr. President, referred in the opening statement by which you announced the new ballot for the election of the last remaining non-permanent member of the Security Council.

11. My delegation is grateful to the representative of Czechoslovakia for the statement he has just made, in which he confirmed the arrangement by which Malaysia withdrew from the contest so as to enable Czechoslovakia to be elected, as it was elected today.

12. I thank him also for his statement that Czechoslovakia will vacate its seat on the Security Council on 31 December 1964 so as to enable Malaysia to be elected to that seat for 1965. My thanks are also due to you, Mr. President, for your co-operation and help in achieving this happy compromise.

13. I cannot let this occasion pass without rendering thanks to the many delegations which consistently cast their votes for Malaysia during the several ballots that were held. May I conclude by also saying that my delegation is indebted to the General Assembly as a whole for having ratified this arrangement.

14. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): The General Assembly has heard the statements made by the representatives of Czechoslovakia and Malaysia, which will appear in the official records of the General Assembly.

15. The representative of India has the floor to speak on this item.

16. Mr. MISHRA (India): The voting that has just taken place has made us happy because, after ten ballots, we did expect some agreement. However, my delegation would like to make it clear that this is a private arrangement between two delegations and that it cannot, under the Charter, bind the Assembly. Having said that, I would repeat that we welcome the settlement that has taken place today.

## AGENDA ITEM 85

Measures in connexion with the hurricane which has just struck the territories of Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago

17. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): In connexion with this item several Member States have submitted a draft resolution [A/L.430 and Add.1 and 2].

18. Mr. BOSSAY (Chile) (translated from Spanish): When they agreed upon the Charter which brought our Organization into being, the peoples of the United Nations, with a deep understanding of that which unites peoples and prepares the ground for the strengthening of peace and international friendship, provided in Article 1 of the Charter that one of the fundamental purposes of the United Nations is "to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of a ... humanitarian character".

19. This is indeed a lofty principle of the Charter which in years to come will show historians who analyse the work of this Organization that the master tool which enabled the United Nations successfully to carry out its mission of friendship, peace and disarmament was its ability to act promptly and effectively in a spirit of solidarity when suffering and tragedy struck any of the peoples of the Organization. Chile knows what such solidarity means.

20. Our people live in a land where the forces of nature periodically wreak suffering, destruction and death, and we have received from the United Nations and from most of the peoples of the world moral and material support which has enabled us to rebuild our cities, revive our courage and thus to continue the task in which we are engaged: the development of our economy and, side by side with this, the achievement of greater happiness for our people.

21. That is why my country always responds quickly and with understanding when confronted with the sorrow of others, when nature destroys man's works and even man himself. In tragic circumstances such as these, we have never made any political distinctions. For this reason, when, towards the end of September, hurricane "Flora" lashed Cuba, Haiti, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and a part of the Dominican Republic—bringing destruction and death to peoples differing in race, religion and political beliefs but all living within the geographical area of Latin America—my Government felt it necessary to call upon the United Nations to assist these afflicted peoples [see A/5566/Rev.1 and Add.1].

22. On Wednesday, 30 September, with a velocity which reached 110 miles an hour, the hurricane struck the island of Tobago, levelling coconut plantations and, in less than four hours, leaving 17,000 people homeless—almost half the population of the island. Some towns were completely wiped out, and in others more than 60 per cent of the buildings were destroyed. In addition, 85 per cent of the crops and plantations were ruined.

23. Then came the turn of Haiti, where the winds reached a velocity of 140 miles an hour and the hurricane ploughed a path seventy-five miles wide across the Tiburon Peninsula, destroying everything in that area. We do not know how many persons were killed in this region, and it is possible that we may never know exactly, although the number is estimated at about 4,000. The bodies of many of them will never be found, for they were dashed to pieces and lost in flooded fields or ruined villages.

24. From 4 to 8 October hurricane "Flora" raged over Cuba. Much more than the total rainfall of a normal year fell during those five days. The richest agricultural region in the country was totally devastated, and it is estimated that more than 1,000 people lost their lives. Thousands of dwellings were destroyed, besides roads, railways, bridges, highways, electrical and sewage facilities and other works. The agricultural losses were extremely high, and in the Province of Oriente alone—which with Camagüey was hardest hit by the hurricane—150,000 people had to be evacuated from the danger zone.

25. Although Jamaica and the Dominican Republic were not in the direct path of the hurricane, extensive damage was done there also. In Jamaica seventeen inches of rain fell in twelve hours, setting an all-time record there. There was some loss of life; the damage

to roads and bridges is estimated at \$6 million, and the value of the houses and crops that were destroyed at \$1.5 million.

26. In the Dominican Republic there was also loss of life, and many villages were isolated as a result of floods and the destruction of roads and bridges. The damage to crops was extensive. In certain areas epidemics have broken out as a result of the destruction of the water-supply installations. The total number of persons who have suffered from the effects of the hurricane is estimated at 9,000.

27. On 9 October, after having caused such tremendous destruction in these areas, the hurricane blew itself out somewhere over the Atlantic.

28. Thanks to the advances in technology, it was possible to announce the birth of this hurricane over the northern part of South America in good time, and the United States weather stations alerted the areas which lay in its probable path. Technology has not, however, advanced to the point where it can control these natural phenomena, so that the destructive effects of the storm could not be limited.

29. Hence it is at this point, where technology can do no more, that feeling and international solidarity must come into play in this kind of tragedy in the form of the moral support and material assistance which everyone is anxious to give to neighbours visited by misfortune. This was the case two years ago when Chile was struck by one of the worst earthquakes in history. This was the case last year when there was an earthquake in Iran. This was also the case a few days ago when the General Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution to assist Yugoslavia in rebuilding the city of Skoplje. And it should again be the case now so that assistance can be given to Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago.

30. Mr. ENCKELL (Finland): The delegations of Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Sweden have asked my delegation to express, together with ours, their feelings of deep sympathy with the Governments and peoples affected by the catastrophic events of last month in the Caribbean area. We have learned with grief and consternation of the terrible destruction caused by the recent hurricane and we deeply deplore the great loss of human lives, together with the enormous material damage. This is indeed a situation which has to call forth the co-operation and solidarity of the Members of this Organization. Urgent steps are needed in order to alleviate the suffering and to restore normal living conditions in the affected area, and these steps have to be taken with the contribution of the international community and its main organs.

31. Therefore we are particularly grateful to the delegation of Chile [A/5566/Rev.1 and Add.1] for having taken the initiative to have the present item inscribed on our agenda and to the delegations of Brazil, Mexico and Uruguay for having, as the original sponsors, together with the delegation of Chile, submitted for consideration by the Assembly the draft resolution [A/L.430 and Add.1 and 2] now before us.

32. Our five delegations would like to express their complete understanding of and their full sympathy with the motives and the aims of the sponsors of this draft as well as their accord with the general nature of the measures recommended in its operative part.

33. A little more than two weeks ago the General Assembly adopted a resolution on measures in connexion with the earthquake in Skoplje. Earlier the Assembly and sometimes the Economic and Social Council have adopted resolutions on assistance to be rendered to the victims of major catastrophes in other parts of the world: in Libya, Morocco, Indonesia, Iran, and Chile, to mention only some. The appalling magnitude of the destruction in the Caribbean area calls undoubtedly for special efforts, and it is to be hoped that an increasing awareness of international solidarity allows us to render more and more efficient our action in these tragic situations.

34. According to the draft resolution now before us the Assembly would, apart from inviting Member States and non-governmental organizations to furnish assistance, request the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the United Nations agencies concerned to bear in mind the needs of the affected countries and to take action. This is, of course, quite right and as it ought to be. But I think we have to provide the Secretary-General with a clear guideline by defining, as clearly and precisely as possible, the framework in which we should like him to take action. That will be even more necessary in this special case as, in accordance with operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution we should expect not only the Secretary-General but also the heads of some specialized agencies to deal with this situation. They will, of course, all want to know as much as possible about our intentions, and we in the Assembly should want them to interpret as adequately as possible our wishes. Were we not to strive towards attaining the greatest possible clarity in the language of the resolution, we should be in fact—and, in my view, rather unnecessarily—placing an additional burden on the Secretary-General.

35. I feel, of course, entirely confident that what the sponsors had in mind when phrasing operative paragraph 3 was that the Assembly would request the Secretary-General to provide all possible emergency relief and rehabilitation from available resources. At the same time, I feel that the Assembly ought to take great care to avoid, or at least limit, the possibility of misconstruing or misinterpreting its resolutions, even in cases where it may seem utterly unlikely that any such misconception might arise, as in the present case.

36. Therefore my delegation would like, in the interest of precision and of the effective implementation of the draft resolution on which we are going to vote, to appeal, together with the other Scandinavian delegations, to the delegations sponsoring the draft resolution to replace in operative paragraph 3 the words placed between commas and now reading "and to make available to them, in connexion with their rehabilitation plans, the necessary resources" by the words "and to provide emergency relief and rehabilitation assistance from available resources" or words to that effect. Such a clarification, which appears to be called for at least in the English translation of the original draft, would I believe, allow the Secretary-General and the heads of the specialized agencies to make the fullest use of all available possibilities to render assistance in the great human tragedy affecting the Governments and peoples of the Caribbean area.

37. Mr. TATTENBACH (Costa Rica) (translated from Spanish): The delegation of Costa Rica will be glad to vote in favour of the draft resolution submitted

by twenty-three countries [A/L.430 and Add.1 and 2] which refers to agenda item 85. It will do so as a matter of conscience.

38. The press reports on the scope of the disaster which struck the area of the West Indies in the wake of the recent hurricanes leave no doubt that these were very serious natural catastrophes. Moreover, the account we have just been given by the representative of Chile and the conversations we have had with our colleagues from the affected area have confirmed those reports. The raging winds unleashed floods and devastation and, what is even more serious, caused serious loss of life.

39. What can be done? We can share the grief of our neighbours and express our sympathy to relieve at least their moral anguish, and what is still more important, we can try to ease the situation in which they find themselves by specific economic measures and direct assistance.

40. That is the purpose of the draft resolution before us. Consequently, we shall not only vote in favour of it, but we appeal to all Member States to adopt it and then to implement it with the enthusiasm they should reserve for a matter in which political considerations should have no part, since it is solely a matter of helping countries through the dark hours of adversity and suffering. In the face of nature's pitiless violence and the tremendous losses it has caused we can have only one thought: we must not look back; we must look forward with determination to repair the damage caused by the fury of the elements. We must do what a certain King of Portugal advised sarcastically when asked what should be done the morning after one of the great tidal waves had swept his country. He replied: "Bury the dead, and let us concern ourselves with the living."

41. We feel the same way concerning the tragic situation of our neighbours: that there is nothing to do but to bury the memory of this horrible tragedy and our petty preoccupations as we bury the dead, and to see to it that the help of those who are able to help reaches the living and furthers their ideas and plans for living. Although the tragedy in the Caribbean has been brought about by the blind forces of nature which no human efforts can stop, the common efforts of all nations can still mitigate the suffering these forces have visited upon us.

42. My delegation appeals for such a joint effort and wants to be part of it and, in that spirit, to co-operate to the best of its ability in making the difficult situation now confronting its sister nations in the Caribbean area more tolerable.

43. Mr. BERNARDES (Brazil): The Brazilian people and its Government have followed with grief and anxiety the devastating passage of the recent hurricane through the Caribbean, leaving a picture of destruction and suffering in Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Haiti, Cuba and the Dominican Republic. Thousands have perished in its path, and terrible damage has been wrought to property, crops and to the economy of whole regions. Hundreds of thousands have been left homeless.

44. In Haiti alone, damage was so heavy that it has not yet been possible to determine the exact proportions of the destruction. Four thousand persons may have been killed. In Cuba the losses were tremendous in the most important farming areas. Equally disastrous were the consequences of the hurricane in

Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and the Dominican Republic.

45. My Government has already expressed the deep sorrow and sympathy of the Brazilian people to the people and Governments of the countries that suffered as a result of this catastrophe. The stricken countries are themselves taking the first steps, the emergency steps to relieve and rehabilitate the victims and the regions struck by the disaster. But a vast task now lies ahead. It will require great effort and substantial material resources, and, as was the case in other recent, equally tragic, events the international community cannot fail to render its effective assistance through the United Nations to the countries affected. In this spirit the Brazilian delegation has lent its most sincere support to the initiative of the delegation of Chile [A/5566/Rev.1 and Add.1] and has been given the privilege of co-sponsoring, together with twenty-two other delegations, the draft resolution [A/L.430 and Add.1 and 2] now before the Assembly. We are convinced that it will be adopted unanimously and that the appeal contained therein will meet with an immediate, effective and generous response from all Member States and the United Nations agencies concerned.

46. Mr. LEKIC (Yugoslavia): We were deeply moved when we heard the news of the catastrophic consequences of the hurricane which recently struck Cuba, Haiti, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and the Dominican Republic and which left enormous human and material losses in its wake.

47. The Yugoslav delegation takes this opportunity once more to convey to the delegations of the stricken countries and to their peoples the deepest sympathy and feelings of solidarity felt by the Government and peoples of Yugoslavia.

48. Mankind is not yet able to prevent, or render ineffectual, such elemental calamities which from time to time unhappily afflict various countries and their people. What men can do in such cases is to extend assistance, so that the aftermath of such catastrophes can be mitigated as much as possible. And it is no wonder that, precisely at such times, human understanding transcends national boundaries as well as political and other differences and that humanitarian feelings of solidarity and friendship are forcefully expressed.

49. It has been our lot to have felt all this as our own experience when, in July 1963, the capital of Macedonia, Skoplje, was devastated by an earthquake. This catastrophe was the subject of a debate in this very auditorium. The helping hand extended to us on that occasion from all over the world not only bore witness to the friendship and solidarity of man for man, and the world family of nations for our country, but also helped, and is still helping, to alleviate the suffering caused by the serious losses in men and material.

50. We are aware that the Governments of Cuba, Haiti, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and the Dominican Republic have already undertaken the necessary measures to remove some of the consequences of the calamity, with the purpose of creating the first indispensable conditions of life for the stricken areas. There is no doubt that the Governments of these countries will have to undertake long-range planning and direct their efforts towards the complete elimination of the painful consequences of this catastrophe. The main burden, therefore, will fall upon these countries themselves. We believe, however, that it is the duty

of the whole world community, and more especially of the United Nations, its specialized agencies and the other organizations in the United Nations family, to extend the maximum possible assistance to the efforts of the Governments concerned. The Yugoslav delegation therefore sponsored the draft resolution [A/L.430 and Add.1 and 2] whose initiators were Brazil, Chile, Mexico and Uruguay, and we hope that this draft resolution, as has been the case in the past, will be unanimously adopted. As such, it will be a proof not only of the feelings of solidarity felt by the world community for the stricken peoples, but will also be a tangible contribution to the efforts directed at overcoming the difficulties which the disastrous hurricane unexpectedly placed before the Governments and peoples of these countries.

51. Mr. LICHTVELD (Netherlands): Although our feelings of sympathy will always be awakened by countries stricken by disaster, in this case when a number of islands in the Caribbean area were ravaged by the recent hurricane my delegation is particularly moved to compassion for the victims of this calamity, a calamity which shows us once again how little we human beings can do against the powers of nature, in spite of all our technological achievements.

52. Because of the fact that two of the three autonomous parts of the Kingdom of the Netherlands are situated in the Caribbean area, namely, the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam, it is indeed a matter of good neighbourliness, not only that we identify ourselves with the stricken people, but also that we are desirous of helping them in every way in all attempts which will be made to ease their distress and to assist in the reconstruction of their homes. Still most vivid in our memory is the disaster which, not too long ago, struck one of the Netherlands Antilles, the island of St. Martin, which was ravaged by a hurricane. Therefore, we fully share the anguish of the recently stricken populations of Hispaniola and the two newly independent islands.

53. But just as the sorrow of children appeals more strongly to our pity than that of grown-ups, so our feelings are concerned especially with the small, peaceful island of Tobago, which had to pay such a heavy toll to nature. Apart from the close ties of friendship which exist between the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and the Governments of the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam, we have a historical tie with Tobago, which bore the name of "New Walcheren" during a certain period in its history, a name which one can still see on old maps. Like the island of Walcheren in the Netherlands which, during the last war, was totally devastated by floods but nevertheless surmounted this calamity in a very short time, in accordance with the proud device of the province of Zeeland: *Lucto et emergo*—I struggle and rise again—we hope that the former Nieuw Walcheren, Tobago, will likewise emerge and renew itself, assisted by the organizations of the United Nations family.

54. Needless to say, this special sympathy does not detract from our feeling of compassion for the other stricken islands, Jamaica, Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic. We therefore support wholeheartedly the draft resolution [A/L.430 and Add.1 and 2] before us and recommend it for unanimous adoption.

55. I am authorized to speak also on behalf of the French Republic, whose sympathy for the people of the Caribbean area fully equals that of the three parts of the Netherlands.

56. Mr. TARABANOV (Bulgaria) (translated from French): The General Assembly has before it a matter which is of special urgency and importance for certain countries since it involves a major disaster that has struck a number of countries belonging to this Organization. What we are witnessing seems a veritable repetition of the calamities with which we have previously had to deal. It is, however, important that the Organization should do all it can towards providing the assistance needed in such cases.

57. Between 30 September and 8 October a terrible hurricane, with torrential rains and exceptionally high winds, struck large parts of Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. I think it unnecessary to relate all the ravages and tragic consequences of this natural disaster which caused the death of several thousands of people and left hundreds of thousands homeless. The representative of Chile who was the first to speak on this item, has adequately described the events.

58. I wish to express here the profound feelings of sympathy of the Government and delegation of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, and, at the same time, on behalf of the Hungarian People's Republic and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, to express their delegations' deep sympathy with the afflicted countries.

59. The Governments of the countries concerned are to be congratulated on their courage and their prompt action to alleviate the plight of the victims and prevent further damage.

60. It is also very heartening that many countries hastened to offer generous and prompt assistance. I would venture to say that international assistance in such situations is becoming one of the finest traditions of the United Nations.

61. As we noted in connexion with the serious earthquake at Skoplje, Yugoslavia, this assistance, though very valuable, is merely a form of emergency relief. If such assistance is to be more effective, it clearly must be prolonged and must be co-ordinated with government plans for restoring normal conditions in the countries concerned.

62. For all these reasons we feel certain that the General Assembly will unanimously adopt the draft resolution [A/L.430 and Add.1 and 2] that has been submitted. This draft embodies a fervent appeal to all Member States and to the United Nations and specialized agencies to continue their assistance to the devastated countries in order that they might overcome the tragic consequences of the disaster as soon as possible. In performing its duty, the General Assembly of the United Nations will be effectively helping these unfortunate countries to cope with the difficulties now confronting them. We feel certain, I repeat, that the draft resolution will be adopted unanimously, indeed that it will be adopted by acclamation.

63. Mr. FEDORENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (translated from Russian): In the General Committee [157th meeting] the Soviet Union delegation wholeheartedly supported the initiative taken by the delegation of Chile [A/5566/Rev.1 and Add.1] for the inclusion in the agenda of the eighteenth session of the General Assembly of an additional item entitled "Measures in connexion with the hurricane which has just struck the territories of Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago" [A/L.430 and Add.1 and 2].

64. The Soviet Union is one of the sponsors of the draft resolution on this item. We were all deeply shocked when hurricane "Flora" swept over the territories of Cuba, Trinidad and Tobago, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Jamaica at the end of September and the beginning of October, causing wide-spread destruction and a heavy loss of life and inflicting enormous damage.

65. May I again express our deep sympathy and sincere condolences to the peoples of the States in the Caribbean region which have suffered from this natural calamity. Unfortunately, mankind has not yet succeeded in gaining full control of the elements, and it is therefore particularly important to exert our joint efforts without delay in order to overcome the tragic consequences of this natural disaster.

66. The peoples and Governments of many countries throughout the world have hastened to the assistance of the Caribbean States whose peoples have been hit by this tragedy. The Soviet Government in particular has decided to give disinterested and non-reimbursable aid to the stricken people of Cuba—to whom it is bound by ties of friendship—in addition to the drugs and food sent earlier as an emergency measure. Construction equipment, machinery and materials are being dispatched from the Soviet Union to Cuba. A complete plant for the construction of prefabricated housing will be sent to Cuba from the Soviet Union.

67. It is the duty of the United Nations to extend every kind of assistance to the stricken countries in the Caribbean region from the resources of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and the United Nations Special Fund in order to repair as quickly as possible the damage inflicted by hurricane "Flora".

68. The delegation of the Soviet Union has every confidence that the draft resolution on this item will be unanimously adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.

69. Miss GROZA (Romania) (translated from French): Permit me to reiterate the sincere and profound feelings of sympathy which the Romanian delegation expressed two weeks ago from this rostrum [1240th meeting] and in the Assembly's General Committee [157th meeting] at the great loss of life and damage caused by the hurricane which recently struck the Caribbean area. In so doing I also convey the sentiments of the Mongolian People's Republic.

70. In expressing his deep feelings of compassion to the Cuban people for the ordeal through which it was passing as a result of this natural calamity, the Chairman of the State Council of the Romanian People's Republic, in a cable addressed to the President and Prime Minister of the Revolutionary Government of the Republic of Cuba, conveyed to them the fraternal sympathy of the Romanian people and its sincere condolences to the stricken families.

71. The Romanian Government and the Governments of other countries have joined in the efforts of the Cuban State to aid the victims and to rebuild the areas which were particularly affected by the hurricane. We believe that assistance to the afflicted population in Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago is a profoundly humanitarian undertaking to which the international community cannot fail to give its wholehearted support. We appreciate the prompt initiative of the delegations of Brazil, Chile, Mexico and Uruguay, and we think that

the draft resolution submitted to the General Assembly [A/L.430 and Add.1 and 2] properly reflects the international solidarity with which this tragic situation has been met. Individual and collective assistance to the affected areas by the United Nations, non-governmental organizations and the Governments of all States, as provided in the draft resolution, will be particularly welcome as the affected countries are in the midst of trying to achieve their economic recovery. Such assistance will contribute to the rapid rehabilitation of the devastated areas and thus to the continuation of the general development effort which these countries have undertaken.

72. It is for this reason that the Romanian delegation has asked to be included among the sponsors of the draft resolution that has been submitted to the Assembly.

73. Mr. TARAZI (Syria) (translated from French): Speaking for my own delegation, for all the Arab delegations and for the delegation of Afghanistan, I should like to express our deep sympathy to the victims of the hurricane which has ravaged Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

74. As one natural disaster succeeds another, man seems to stand helpless before the unleashing of the elements and the spectacle of the misfortunes that follow. Yet his helplessness is not complete, for in the face of misfortune mankind stands united, as we have been able to observe in this very hall.

75. Our Organization, which is a universal one, must devote its attention to affliction and misfortune, and we are therefore indebted to the Chilean delegation and to the delegations which have joined it in requesting the inclusion of this item in our agenda. We are well aware that the damage done can never be entirely repaired. Yet, if nothing else, the expression of our solidarity is a token of the indestructible ties between the different parts of our world; such ties can only bring us closer together, so as to make of mankind an indivisible whole.

76. By adopting the draft resolution before us [A/L.430 and Add.1 and 2] unanimously and by acclamation we shall simply be fulfilling one of the essential and basic tasks which places the United Nations in the front ranks of international activity. This task is an exalted one, and it is quite real.

77. Mr. ROSSIDES (Cyprus): On behalf of the Government and people of Cyprus, I wish to express our deep sorrow at the disaster which has befallen the countries of Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago, and to convey to the Governments and the peoples of those countries the expression of our profound grief. This is another instance of the solidarity which emanates from the General Assembly in the sense of the interdependence of peoples, which has already been shown in the case of Yugoslavia and is now being extended here. We hope that this same spirit will prevail on all similar occasions.

78. Mr. CHANDERLI (Algeria) (translated from French): My delegation is one of the sponsors of the draft resolution on measures in connexion with the hurricane which has just struck the territories of Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago [A/L.430 and Add.1 and 2]. I am sure that the Assembly is aware of the feelings which prompted my delegation to co-sponsor the draft



resolution submitted by Chile and other South American countries, and I shall not revert to them. The Assembly clearly shares these feelings with us, for all of us here want to express our solidarity and our sense of humanity in the face of this catastrophe which has struck certain Members of our Organization.

79. At this stage of our proceedings I merely wish to indicate that my delegation and the other sponsors of the draft resolution listened with great interest and respect to the statement made by the Finnish delegation on behalf of the Scandinavian countries. The representative of Finland was good enough to make a suggestion which would in fact clarify the operative part of our draft resolution. Since he indicated that he was not wedded to the specific words he put forward but could accept a similar form of words, I should like to propose to him and to the Assembly, having consulted with the other sponsors of the draft resolution and with a number of other delegations—and I might add that I have spoken with the Finnish representative and he has given his agreement—that the following wording should be accepted. In operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution, the words "and to make available to them, in connexion with their rehabilitation plans, the necessary resources", in the third and fourth lines, would be replaced by a text which I have only in English and which I would not venture to translate myself but shall read out for the benefit of the Secretariat:

*[The speaker continued in English.]*

"and to provide assistance, in connexion with their rehabilitation plans, from available resources".

*[The speaker resumed in French.]*

With this rectification, which incidentally is not an amendment and which I hope will be agreeable to the Assembly, we can, I am sure, close the debate on this item and adopt by acclamation, as I earnestly hope we shall, a resolution which will once again demonstrate the humanity, the universality and the international solidarity which inspire the thoughts and actions of the Members of our Organization.

80. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): The Assembly has just heard the proposal made by the representative of Algeria on behalf of the sponsors of the draft resolution [A/L.430 and Add.1 and 2] to amend the wording of operative paragraph 3 as he indicated in his statement.

81. If there is no objection, I shall consider that the Assembly accepts the amendment to operative paragraph 3 suggested by the representative of Algeria.

*The amendment was adopted.*

82. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): We shall now vote on the draft resolution [A/L.430 and Add. 1 and 2] as amended. I understand that the Assembly is prepared to adopt this draft resolution as amended by acclamation. If I hear no objection, I shall consider it adopted by acclamation.

*The draft resolution was adopted by acclamation.*

83. Mr. LECHUGA (Cuba) (translated from Spanish): The Cuban delegation takes pleasure in expressing its deep gratitude for the Assembly's manifestation of sympathy with the people of my country. Cuba is mourning the irreparable loss of over a thousand of its people and bravely facing an economic loss of several hundred million pesos as a result of a hurricane which, striking with savage fury, caused rivers

to overflow their banks, inundated crops, destroyed vast expanses of homes, sweeping whole towns before it, and demolished bridges, railways, highways and roads in the eastern part of the island.

84. We wish to take this opportunity to express our special gratification to the delegation of Chile, which proposed the inclusion of this item in our agenda and introduced the draft resolution, and to the other delegations which, by endorsing the latter, brought about the agreement which we so deeply appreciate.

85. The hurricane, which raged for ninety hours, affected a little over half the country's territory comprising a population of some 3 million people and containing many of the most important agricultural areas.

86. The two provinces which bore the brunt of the hurricane are the principal producers of sugar-cane and constitute the area in which there is the greatest concentration of cattle and the greatest production of coffee and cocoa. It is estimated that out of an anticipated coffee crop of 850,111 quintals in Oriente Province, from 300,000 to 500,000 quintals have been lost. Eighty per cent of the minor crops were rendered unusable; rice and cotton suffered severely; agricultural and transport equipment, crops which had already been harvested and stored, seed and fertilizer were under water for a whole week. Tens of thousands of farmers have lost everything: homes, animals, farm implements, clothing and furniture. Many hospitals and schools and many businesses and warehouses have been destroyed.

87. The swift mobilization of the Government and the people, which made it possible to evacuate almost 175,000 persons by using all available means, prevented the casualties from being ten or fifteen times higher. The emergency care given to the evacuees in the very first hours and the care they have been receiving since have prevented any outbreak of epidemics although, of course, the circumstances were highly favourable for such outbreaks.

88. Our people made a tremendous effort to cope with the forces of nature, and the Government has pledged that no family will be deprived of what it has lost; no child will be deprived of aid and guidance; no home will remain without help; and everything that has been destroyed will be rebuilt and be rebuilt better.

89. The Assembly's manifestation of sympathy for our people will certainly be a source of encouragement in the task of reconstruction which has already been started. Factories and workshops are working overtime; the sowing of crops has been intensified; and the community is offering its unstinted assistance to its neighbours in the disaster areas. Cuba is relying on the help of many Governments and peoples and of United Nations bodies. It is receiving messages of sympathy and encouragement from all over the world.

90. We wish, before concluding, to express our appreciation for the words of sympathy, on the occasion of the hurricane, addressed to Cuba at this and previous meetings by many representatives, and to convey our sympathy to the peoples of Yugoslavia, Haiti, Trinidad and Tobago, Italy, Jamaica and the Dominican Republic on account of the similar hardships which they have suffered in recent days and months.

91. I wish once again to express our thanks for this agreement, which will be of great value to us in re-

habilitating the disaster areas, relieving the distress of the victims and restoring normal living conditions which, we are confident, will be much better than they were before the disaster struck.

92. Mr. RICHARDSON (Jamaica): The Jamaica delegation gladly takes this opportunity to express our Government's profound gratitude to the delegation of Chile and to the original sponsors of this resolution, the delegations of Brazil, Mexico and Uruguay, for their initiative in seeking the inclusion of this item on the agenda of this session. My delegation wishes also to express our appreciation to all the other co-sponsors of the resolution and all the representatives who have spoken in this debate for their sincere expressions of sympathy, and to the whole Assembly for adopting the resolution by acclamation. We value this action as further eloquent testimony to the general goodwill which we know is felt towards the people of our country and as a further striking manifestation of the true understanding and sympathy which binds us together in this international community.

93. Nature, which dealt with a lavish hand in giving to our island of her treasured gifts—physical beauty, a balmy climate and warm, clear seas—can also be unkind. Sometimes she chooses to issue a dramatic reminder that life is not always sunshine. Once in at least every ten years the people of Jamaica must look on helplessly while in a few short hours the physical capital accumulated over years of painful effort is wiped out.

94. The recent hurricane in the Caribbean did not pass over Jamaica. Compared with our neighbours Cuba and Haiti, therefore, our losses were not heavy; but for four whole days while the hurricane approached us and while it remained over Cuba and Haiti, our island was deluged with torrents of rain-fall combined with high winds which converted our rivers into raging torrents and caused us damage which we estimate at some \$17 million.

95. Even while suffering from the effects of the hurricane, one of our neighbour Governments readily extended not only its sympathy but gave tangible evidence of its true concern by an immediate offer of financial assistance. I am pleased to take this opportunity to acknowledge this generosity and also to express my Government's appreciation of the offers of help we have received from Member States outside the region.

96. We in turn gave what help we could to others whose tragedy was greater than ours—we gave help in food, medical supplies and cash—but the amounts we can afford amongst ourselves are necessarily small.

97. We have already taken care of immediate relief and our reconstruction programme is now being prepared. At present it appears that we might not find it necessary to seek technical assistance in order to carry out the rehabilitation of the ravaged areas, but we shall not hesitate to do so should it prove to be necessary. We shall certainly need financial aid towards that programme and it is our hope that one or another of the specialized agencies which the resolution has so kindly requested to extend us assistance will be able to provide it.

98. Again, I wish in the name of the Government and people of Jamaica gratefully to acknowledge the condolences for the loss of human life that we sustained

and to thank the whole Assembly for this kind and considerate resolution.

99. Mr. AUGUSTE (Haiti) (translated from French): The typhoon which swept across the Caribbean struck the south of Haiti with particular force, adding an unprecedented disaster to the chain of calamities of this kind which the southern part of the Republic of Haiti has suffered. Owing to its geographical position, this area is particularly exposed to hurricanes. Its coast extends for many miles and seems to invite all that passes to enter, which is all the more easy as nature in these parts displays all its riches without offering the slightest protection. Shaped by this environment, man in this region is also essentially of kindly temperament, sober, calm and hospitable, and is endowed with a remarkable sensitivity, which he derives from the extremely agreeable and beautiful tropical surroundings. One quarter of the Haitian population is concentrated in this area around the coastal towns, in the valleys, in the gorges of the hills and on the mountains which rise along the horizon.

100. As elsewhere in Haiti, the economy in this part of the country is largely agricultural. Coffee, cocoa, sisal, sugar-cane, fruits and vegetables are drawn from a generous soil, but the population pressure in this area of small, excessively cultivated farms gives rise to some very complex problems for production. It is these problems which the present Government is attacking as best it can with the country's meagre resources but also with a courage and determination that will ultimately bring success.

101. As you know, in less than a few hours this peaceful region which I have described, with its simple ways and modest agricultural economy, saw its fields ravaged, its cattle and poultry carried away and its homes destroyed, as coastal towns were pounded by a furious surf and swollen rivers flooded their banks sweeping everything before them.

102. For days, with all the means of communication in the area destroyed, the towns, villages and hamlets were completely isolated. The loss of life was the worst we have ever suffered in catastrophes of this kind; over 5,000 dead, according to the most optimistic statistics. In addition, 125,000 families were left homeless; 60 per cent of the coffee crop was destroyed; food crops, in the areas where not totally destroyed, suffered losses of about 85 per cent; and all cattle and poultry have ceased to exist.

103. Faced with this situation, which without any doubt represents an unprecedented ordeal for Haiti, the Government immediately did whatever it could to aid, to heal and to repair. It received moral support in the form of the many expressions of sympathy that came spontaneously from all over the world, and it was further supported by the spontaneous relief kindly given and offered to Haiti by its many friends. I apologize for not naming them, but I do not wish to offend anyone's sense of discretion or modesty.

104. Nevertheless, as regards the appeal which has just been addressed to the United Nations, I should be gravely remiss if, on behalf of the Haitian people, the President of the Republic, the Government and myself personally, I did not thank, first of all, the twenty delegations which took the initiative in sponsoring the draft resolution just submitted to the General Assembly.



105. I also thank, for my country and its Government, all those who have supported this draft resolution in the name of human solidarity. The Haitian people, which cultivates gratitude as one of the finest virtues which can flower in the heart of man, will, I am sure, never forget this memorable gesture which takes its place among the grandest actions taken in the General Assembly by acclamation. In concluding I should like to renew our expressions of sympathy to our brothers in misfortune.

106. Mr. VELAZQUEZ (Dominican Republic) (translated from Spanish): The Dominican Republic is deeply grateful for the resolution which has just been adopted by the General Assembly. It alleviates to some extent the hardships visited upon the Dominican people, in particular the inhabitants of the south, south-west and north-west of the country, as a result of hurricane "Flora", which ruined crops, sowed death and destruction and had so relentless an impact on the nation's economy that the affected regions were declared disaster areas. The burden of the catastrophe which has struck the country, leaving thousands of families destitute and plunging countless farmers into ruin, will be partly lightened by the resolution that has been adopted.

107. In this house of anguish, the Dominican people will feel morally, even more than materially, relieved by the assistance which the United Nations has promised. The Government of my country will provide the Secretary-General with the relevant information in due course, so that the assistance may be furnished as urgently as the circumstances require.

108. Sir Ellis CLARKE (Trinidad and Tobago): I should like, on behalf of the Government and people of Trinidad and Tobago, to express our sincere thanks to, first of all, the delegation of Chile for the initiative which it showed in suggesting the inclusion on the agenda of this item, in connexion with which a resolution has just been adopted by acclamation. We also express our thanks to all those who sponsored the resolution, to all those who spoke in favour of it and to the entire Assembly, which has given its wholehearted and generous support to the resolution.

109. The island of Tobago is a very tiny one, and perhaps for that reason the death-roll there was not

as large as it unfortunately was in the case of some of our neighbours. But Tobago, with its population of 35,000 and an area of some 116 square miles, was more devastated, in proportion to its size, than any other territory. The damage to crops was about 85 per cent and the destruction and irreparable damage to buildings, mainly houses, was 80 per cent. In other words, the economy of Tobago has been not only disrupted, but virtually destroyed.

110. Fortunately, Trinidad suffered only the side effects of this dreadful hurricane and has come to the help of the devastated part of the combined territory of Trinidad and Tobago. Efforts are being made to restore Tobago, in the way envisaged by the representative of the Netherlands, who expressed the hope that Tobago would rise again. I am happy to be able to say that we have already received certain assistance from the Secretary-General, from the specialized agencies and from other Governments, particularly the Governments of the United States and the United Kingdom. We have had messages of sympathy and promises of assistance from many other Governments, and we are sincerely grateful to them as well.

111. We would stress that, despite the ravages of the hurricane, we have begun the work of rehabilitation. We hope that those who in the past considered Tobago a place worthy of a visit will continue to think so and that, in the forthcoming season, they will not fail to come to see what has been done to restore Tobago to its pristine condition.

112. Again, let me say how much we appreciate both the moral and material assistance already received and, this evening, so generously promised.

#### Organization of work

113. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): Before adjourning the meeting, I should like to recall that the next plenary meeting of the General Assembly will be held on Wednesday, 6 November, in the morning and will deal with items 75, 20 and 61 of the agenda. Subsequently, perhaps at that same meeting or at another held the same week, we shall take up item 12, which we deferred today.

*The meeting rose at 5 p.m.*