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President: Mr. Gaston THORN
(Luxembourg).

In the absence of the President, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar (Peru), Vice-President, took the Chair.

Address by His Majesty King Olav V of Norway

1. The PRESIDENT: On behalf of the General Assembly, it is my honour to welcome to the United Nations His Majesty King Olav V of Norway and to invite him to address the General Assembly.
2. His Majesty King OLAV V (Norway): It is indeed a great pleasure for me to address this Assembly in the year of the thirtieth anniversary of the United Nations.
3. Thirty years may not be regarded as a long period of time. During these first three decades of the United Nations the world community has, however, undergone far-reaching changes and has developed in a more diversified way than the founding fathers at San Francisco could possibly have foreseen. The geopolitical structure of the world is today much more complex and faceted than it was in 1945. At the same time, the international community is in many ways exposed to greater danger than at the time of the drafting of the Charter of the United Nations.
4. During this period the United Nations has also experienced many difficult times and has been put to severe tests. Fortunately, it has stood these tests well and has emerged as a more comprehensive, more versatile and, above all, more universal Organization. We have, therefore, every reason today to congratulate and pay tribute to the United Nations on the occasion of its thirtieth anniversary. As the Secretary-General points out in the introduction to his report on the work of the Organization [A/10001/Add.1, sect. I], the latter has shown a remarkable capacity to take on new tasks, to adjust to a changing world and to meet new and unforeseen challenges within the framework laid down by the Charter.
5. The United Nations has been able through these years to make substantial contributions to the solution and prevention of dangerous conflicts. However, all the hopes voiced at San Francisco 30 years ago for a safer and better world have not been fulfilled. The Organization has not yet been given the possibilities to become the central and universal instrument for the maintenance of peace and security foreseen by the Charter. On the other hand, the United Nations has

come to play a steadily increasing and indispensable role in another important field of peace-building—the crucial task of furthering greater economic and social solidarity in the world.

6. During the first 30 years the Charter has basically remained the same. In a changing world the Charter has proved flexible enough to respond to new needs and tasks without revision. The capacity of the Organization to act is, as we all know, first and foremost decided by the political will of its Member States and less by its legal structure.

7. My country believes that the need for fully using the Organization for concerted action is greater today than at any other time in its history. Such concerted action must be wider than the sum of diversified policies and interests of the Member States.

8. First of all, we must continue our efforts to reach agreement on positions and procedures which will prevent political conflict from leading to war and nuclear holocaust. Peace-keeping has been and will be the main objective of the United Nations.

9. But the demands that are being made on the United Nations today are much more manifold. These demands involve fundamental tasks in the economic, social and humanitarian field: the gap between poor and rich countries, the management and the distribution of resources and food in the world, the population explosion and the increasing threats to the human environment.

10. Technological developments over the last decade have given man the opportunity to dominate vast new areas and so intensify the utilization of his traditional domain, for better or for worse. The exploration of outer space, the use of the sea-bed and the oceans above it, the management of scientific innovations and communications are all areas which transcend national frontiers and call for international action.

11. During its life span the United Nations has established new norms of international morality. Basic human rights and fundamental freedoms have been defined and accepted. Traditional ideas have been reinforced and refined and given new life in more obligatory forms. It is of direct concern to the United Nations and to each one of us to develop a world community based on the rule of law so that these basic rights should be respected in all parts of the world.

12. The nations of the world must, however, go beyond that. A broader and more realistic view of human values and human rights has imposed itself on the international community. It has been generally recognized that material conditions must be raised to a level consistent with human dignity before the equally important basic human rights can be fully realized.

13. As an extension of individual rights the world community has also recognized that nations and peoples which have been living under colonial rule have an undeniable right to self-determination, freedom and independence.

14. Generally, we have reached a stage where the concrete work of our Organization is more and more centred on each and every individual, his needs, his hopes and his aspirations. The preamble of the Charter begins with the words: "We the peoples of the United Nations". It is the peoples of the United Nations on whom the work of the United Nations will have to concentrate in the years and decades to come.

15. The successful conclusion of the seventh special session of the General Assembly has initiated a universal and co-operative process to effect changes in international economic relations which may have a far-reaching impact on the daily life of millions around our globe.

16. It is of vital importance that the political guidelines unanimously adopted by the seventh special session be rapidly translated into practical decisions which can contribute to the creation of a new and more equitable international economic order in the world.

17. For this process to be successful, it is important that the United Nations be given sufficient competence and authority by its Member States to be able to perform its tasks in an effective manner. For the same purpose, our Organization must also be truly universal.

18. The ability of our Organization to meet our requirements depends in the last resort on the attitudes of its Members and their will to co-operate.

19. We have the necessary framework for co-operation in the United Nations and the experience of 30 years. We know that, when we negotiate in sincerity, we can produce results that go beyond the sum of each individual Member's contribution. In this co-operative endeavour all nations, big and small, rich and poor, have a role to play. Those roles are complementary. Only by mutual respect can we reach agreement. The great Powers hold special responsibilities. This is recognized in the Charter. The smaller Powers also have their responsibilities. It is an equal obligation for all Members to seek, in mutual respect, joint and agreed solutions to those problems that will face the United Nations in the years to come.

20. Norway stands ready to work with others to expand the competence and strengthen the authority of the United Nations as a global Organization for the preservation of international peace and security and for the furtherance of international solidarity in solving economic and social problems. This policy has the whole-hearted support of the Norwegian people.

21. The PRESIDENT: On behalf of the General Assembly, I should like to thank His Majesty King Olav V of Norway for the important statement he has just made.

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.