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President: Mr. Gaston THORN
(Luxembourg).

In the absence of the President, Mr. Ålgård (Norway), Vice-President, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 22

**Admission of new Members to the United Nations
(continued):**

(b) Other reports of the Security Council

1. The PRESIDENT: This morning we shall consider first agenda item 22, entitled "Admission of new Members to the United Nations". In document A/10261 the Security Council has recommended the admission of Papua New Guinea to membership in the United Nations. The relevant draft resolution has been circulated in document A/L.764. May I take it that the General Assembly accepts the recommendation of the Security Council and adopts the draft resolution unanimously?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 3368 (XXX)).

2. The PRESIDENT: I declare Papua New Guinea admitted to membership in the United Nations.

The delegation of Papua New Guinea was escorted to its place in the General Assembly Hall.

3. The PRESIDENT: On behalf of the General Assembly it is both an honour and a pleasure to offer sincere congratulations and to extend a warm welcome to the delegation of Papua New Guinea.

4. Following an agreement reached with the chairmen of the regional groups, I shall invite the representative of Australia, the President of the Trusteeship Council, the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and the chairmen of the various groups to address the General Assembly.

5. I call first on the representative of Australia.

6. Mr. HARRY (Australia): By the unanimous decision of the Assembly, Papua New Guinea has been admitted to membership in the United Nations, and on behalf of the Australian Government and people, I extend hearty congratulations and a warm welcome to our friend and near neighbour. We are happy, indeed, to have Papua New Guinea in this great Organization, and we are particularly glad to see the Prime Minister, Mr. Michael Somare, seated in this Hall today. We look forward to hearing the voice of Papua New Guinea in a few minutes.

7. It is because of the former relationship between our two countries that the Australian delegation has the honour and pleasure to speak first on this happy occasion. But today the significant fact is not Papua New Guinea's history but its established status as a sovereign and independent country. Actually, attainment by Papua New Guinea of *de jure* independence on 16 September was only formally declaring what had long been the *de facto* position. There had been a steady and smooth transition through self-government to independence, an evolution stimulated and supervised by the United Nations through the Trusteeship Council and the Special Committee on decolonization. Consequently, the recommendation of the Security Council of 22 September 1975 was warmly unanimous.

8. I should like to take this opportunity to express the appreciation of my Government for the numerous references by delegations in their speeches in the general debate to the part played by Australia in assisting the people of Papua New Guinea to develop their free political institutions and to take the final steps of accession to independence and entry into the world community.

9. Australians are in a unique position to appreciate the eminent qualities of Papua New Guinea as a Member of the United Nations. That beautiful and dramatic archipelago lies close to Australian shores. If the first contacts between our peoples were motivated by strategy or trade, missionary zeal or simple scientific curiosity, they have grown through the years into a many-sided relationship of respect and friendship, co-operation and mutual interest. We intend to deepen that relationship further into an enduring partnership of peace, transcending cultural differences. We hope that this will continue to be facilitated by the use of a common language. Our only hope is that an excess of Australian accent will not hamper the international contacts of Papua New Guinea.

10. My Government has tried, particularly in recent years, to accelerate and correct by constructive measures the slow or unbalanced development of earlier periods. But it is primarily the people of Papua New Guinea themselves who have by their own efforts created in their own land this new State, able to take

its place proudly among the Members of the United Nations.

11. And there is no doubt that the Papua New Guinea Government has already demonstrated not only its determination but its capacity for the maintenance of peace, both in its domestic affairs and in its international relations. Its leaders have shown, sometimes in difficult circumstances, qualities of patience and tolerance, and the will to reach agreement. These qualities are in fact embodied in a deep-rooted Papua New Guinea tradition which I understand the Prime Minister describes as "the Melanesian way". It is a way which rejects the ephemeral victory of the vote in favour of the continuing harmony of consensus.

12. Our confidence that Papua New Guinea will carry out its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations in good faith is strengthened by the opportunity we have had to appreciate the quality of Papua New Guinea diplomacy. The delegation of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations will, we are sure, play an important role in this Organization. Papua New Guinea representatives have already participated actively in the proceedings of the Trusteeship Council and also in the law of the sea negotiations. The Papua New Guinea observer delegation at the most recent session of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea at Geneva made a notable contribution to the drafting of articles on archipelagic States and fisheries. A more recent example of Papua New Guinea's contribution in the international legal field occurred immediately after independence last month. Even while the independence celebrations were in full swing, Papua New Guinea showed its sense of international legal responsibility by promptly submitting to the Secretary-General a declaration on succession of States in respect of treaties.

13. In regional affairs Papua New Guinea representatives have already demonstrated their ability in meetings of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific [ESCAP] and the South Pacific Forum, as well as in negotiations with the European Economic Community, and in the Commonwealth of Nations.

14. This responsible attitude adopted by Papua New Guinea is particularly appreciated by Australia since there are inevitably questions to be discussed between our two countries, of the kind which arise mainly between neighbouring States. There are already some issues consequent upon independence to be resolved. But we are confident that we shall always be able to deal with such problems without increasing the length of the agenda of this Assembly. Indeed, we hope that Australia has learnt something from Papua New Guinea about solving problems in the Melanesian way, which has many lessons even for the United Nations.

15. In short, Australia looks forward to a close association with Papua New Guinea in the United Nations, because we have come to know the country, its leaders, its people. It is therefore a pleasure for my delegation to add to the universal welcome these special greetings.

16. The PRESIDENT: I now call on the President of the Trusteeship Council.

17. Mr. MURRAY (United Kingdom): It is rare that the President of the Trusteeship Council has the occasion from this rostrum to convey fraternal greetings to his rather more august colleague, the President of the General Assembly. Accordingly, it gives me the greater pleasure to have this opportunity to do so.

18. On behalf of the Trusteeship Council, I take great pleasure in welcoming Papua New Guinea most warmly as a Member of the United Nations. New Guinea has been a Trust Territory of the United Nations for nearly 29 years. During this time a close relationship was established between our Organization and the Territory. The United Nations dispatched no less than nine visiting missions to the area, each of which submitted detailed and constructive reports on the political, economic and social advancement of the Territory. Moreover, Papua New Guinea participated in the activities of the Trusteeship Council during the latter's annual examinations of conditions in that Territory. Papua New Guineans, therefore, are no strangers to the United Nations, its activities and what it stands for.

19. With the independence of Papua New Guinea, the objectives of the International Trusteeship System will have been attained in 10 of the original 11 Trust Territories. This, I believe, demonstrates quite clearly how useful and constructive the International Trusteeship System has been. It underlines the important role played by the United Nations in the last three decades in assisting Trust Territories to achieve national independence and to take their rightful place among the sovereign States of the world.

20. As current President of the Trusteeship Council, I had the honour last month of leading a delegation of the Council which took part in the colourful independence celebrations of Papua New Guinea at Port Moresby. I was also present along with colleagues from the Trusteeship Council and the Special Committee on decolonization and Mr. Tang Ming-chao, the Under-Secretary-General for Trusteeship Affairs, as official guests at the local independence celebrations at Wabag in the Enga district in the western highlands. Although our group spent only a few days in Papua New Guinea, we were much impressed by the striking beauty of its land and, above all, by the warmth and generous hospitality of its people.

21. Throughout the celebrations I was gratified by the frequency with which it was emphasized by prominent Papua New Guineans that the Australian flag was being lowered, not torn down. This is indeed a considerable tribute to Australia, and on behalf of the members of the Trusteeship Council I should like to congratulate that country once again on its co-operative and selfless efforts in fulfilling its responsibilities under the Trusteeship Agreement of 1946.

22. May I also congratulate most warmly the Governor-General of Papua New Guinea, Sir John Guise, the Prime Minister, Mr. Michael Somare, and his colleagues in the Cabinet, for leading their country so ably and successfully to independence, and for the efficient and skilful manner in which they have guided it to membership in the United Nations. I especially welcome Mr. Somare's presence here today, and the opportunity which it gives me to thank him personally for his Government's generous hospitality to myself and my colleagues on the Council during our visit.

23. I wish to say a word of thanks also to Mr. Tei Abal, the Leader of the Opposition in the Papua New Guinea Parliament, and to the district administration and people of Wabag and the neighbouring mountains for their touching and memorable welcome there. Our reception amply demonstrated a spirit of friendship on their part towards the representatives of our Organization, and a sense of gratitude towards their former trustee: the United Nations.

24. I know that the people of Papua New Guinea, as former wards of the United Nations, regard themselves as having a special claim on the services of the United Nations in their tremendous task of building a new and prosperous society which will not however neglect what is best in their ancient traditions. I hope that our Organization will not have to disappoint them.

25. That concludes my statement as President of the Trusteeship Council. I should like now to add a very few remarks on behalf of my own Government. The newest and youngest member of our delegation—and in International Women's Year I am glad to be able to report that she happens to be female—remarked yesterday that after the occasional acrimonies of the general debate it would be a pleasure for her to draft a report on an item where harmony was sure to prevail. It gives my delegation great satisfaction to join in extending our sincere congratulations and warm welcome to the new nation of Papua New Guinea on its admission to membership in the United Nations. It has already made its influence felt by altering the position of every delegation in the General Assembly this morning—no mean achievement. Papua New Guinea's presence amongst us and its participation in the activities of the international community is an important development and a proper step towards the goal of the universality of the United Nations.

26. The United Kingdom welcomes in particular the arrival on the international scene of a new member of the Commonwealth, with which we have had historical links and with which we hope to develop still closer links in future. Papua New Guinea has an important part to play in the affairs of the South-West Pacific, a region of the world in which my country continues to have interests and responsibilities. We look forward to maintaining a close association with our new partner. We anticipate with particular pleasure the forthcoming visit of Mr. Somare to London, where he can be assured of a warm welcome.

27. I should also like to add my Government's appreciation of Australia's role as a trustee. As a colonial Power with much—indeed, some would say too much—experience, we admire the way in which Australia has changed a colonial relationship into a relationship between free and independent nations.

28. I conclude by repeating the best wishes of my Government to the people of Papua New Guinea. We warmly welcome the new independent sovereign State in our midst, and we look forward to the valuable contributions that it will make to our deliberations here. We wish Papua New Guinea success and prosperity as it embarks on the great task of building a prosperous and united nation.

29. The PRESIDENT: I now call on the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard

to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

30. Mr. SALIM (United Republic of Tanzania): It is with a sense of great satisfaction that I am speaking now to welcome warmly the admission of Papua New Guinea to membership in our Organization. I am doing so in my capacity as Chairman of the Special Committee.

31. The independence of Papua New Guinea last month and its admission today to our Organization constitute an important victory not only for the people of that new country but, indeed, for the forces of freedom and independence. The United Nations, which had a particular responsibility over that Trust Territory, has every reason to rejoice at these developments. For the triumph of the people of that Pacific country constitutes yet one other victory for the purposes and principles of the Charter of our Organization. The freedom and independence of Papua New Guinea reinforces our collective freedom. The Special Committee on decolonization, which has steadfastly supported the struggle of the people of Papua New Guinea for self-determination and independence, is particularly gratified at the emergence of that State as a sovereign and independent nation and its assumption today of its responsibilities as a full Member of the international community. And I am sure that because of the Assembly's own involvement in the evolution of the process of the decolonization of Papua New Guinea, members of the Assembly will not consider it presumptuous on our part if we say that the Special Committee considers the independence of that country as its own victory.

32. The liberation of nations and their admission to our Organization is always a source of joy and inspiration. But the admission of Papua New Guinea has an added significance which we must not lose sight of. Like the liberation of Mozambique, Cape Verde, and Sao Tome and Principe, whose representatives we have already welcomed and acclaimed, the independence of Papua New Guinea and its membership in the United Nations is an outstanding reward for and vindication of our Organization at a time when we are commemorating its thirtieth anniversary and the fifteenth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

33. This solemn occasion today reminds us—if that reminder were indeed necessary—that given the determination of a people and the support of this United Nations, colonialism in all its forms and manifestations can be, and indeed is being, rapidly reduced to a relic. It is no exaggeration, therefore, that occasions of this nature inspire us to redouble our efforts towards the final liquidation of colonialism. The fact that the Trusteeship Council will very soon have outlived its usefulness and that the Special Committee is rapidly working its way towards its self-liquidation is something that all of us should be proud of. As we hail Papua New Guinea's membership in the United Nations, therefore, we must all strive to do our utmost to accelerate that process so that the international community can once and for all bring to an end the anachronism of colonial servitude.

34. As we all know, political independence only marks the end of one phase of a people's struggle.

And with it a new, and more often than not a more difficult, phase unfolds. That is the period of economic independence. That truism is equally valid in the case of Papua New Guinea. And I have no doubt in my mind that no one is more conscious of that than the Prime Minister, Mr. Somare, and his colleagues, who, through their dynamic leadership, have succeeded in charting their nation to the present status. But as they confront new challenges, the people and the leadership of that new nation will need, and have a right to expect, not only the sympathy but also, and above all, the active support of the international community. I therefore sincerely hope that the United Nations family of organizations will do its utmost in playing a catalytic role in supporting the development efforts of Papua New Guinea.

35. I should be remiss in making this address were I not to pay due tribute to the Government of Australia, the former Administering Authority of Papua New Guinea. Its role in positively fulfilling the responsibilities of the administering Power, in accordance with the principles and goals of the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, has repeatedly been commended both in the Special Committee and in this Assembly. I do not therefore need to labour that point. I should like, however, to place it on record that in my capacity as Chairman of the Special Committee for the last four years, I have been greatly impressed by the positive attitude of the Australian Government. Its total co-operation with the Special Committee in this regard has been exemplary. And I have no doubt that its approach not only has greatly assisted the United Nations in discharging its responsibilities over Papua New Guinea, but has indeed helped to create favourable conditions in the Territory facilitating the efforts of the people of Papua New Guinea in their struggle for self-determination and independence.

36. Following the precedent set up by my eminent colleague, the President of the Trusteeship Council, I should also like to conclude with a few remarks on behalf of my Government.

37. Tanzania is particularly proud to have had the opportunity of supporting in the Security Council the application of Papua New Guinea to admission in our Organization and to have reaffirmed that position today.

38. I should like here to salute the people of Papua New Guinea through their eminent leader and Prime Minister, Michael Somare, whose presence in our midst today we warmly welcome and appreciate. My Government, which has already benefited through contacts at various levels with the Government and with the people of Papua New Guinea, is confident of warm and friendly relations between our two nations. And we look forward to a close collaboration with the delegation of that State both in this Organization and other international forums and institutions. We shall certainly have many occasions to do so, since among other links both Papua New Guinea and Tanzania are members of the Commonwealth of Nations.

39. The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of Kuwait, who will speak on behalf of the Asian group.

40. Mr. BISHARA (Kuwait): The General Assembly welcomed very recently the admission of the People's Republic of Mozambique, the Republic of Cape Verde and the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe to membership in the United Nations. In my capacity as the Chairman of the Asian group for the month of October, I today welcome Papua New Guinea to membership in the United Nations. It is my privilege and honour to let the voice of Asia be heard on this great occasion.

41. It is indeed a cause of great satisfaction to note that the process of decolonization in Papua New Guinea has taken place in an orderly and peaceful manner. If evolutionary change is prevented, then revolutionary change becomes inevitable. Australia grasped this fundamental truth when, as an administering Power, it progressively transferred governmental powers to the people of Papua New Guinea, thus making it possible for Papua New Guinea to attain, by peaceful means, independent nation status. We commend Australia profoundly and with admiration, for this enlightened policy. We also praise the Special Committee for its tireless efforts on decolonization. We believe that other administering Powers should emulate the example of Australia, and have the readiness to understand the new forces in the world, the courage to accept change, and the wisdom to formulate and pursue viable means to make peaceful change possible. Otherwise, the inexorable forces of history will prevail and the colonial Powers will have to retreat when faced with the tide of liberation, self-determination and national sovereignty.

42. We should also like to congratulate the United Nations on its success in making our Organization more representative of the international community. We are confident that Papua New Guinea has a major contribution to make to the work of our Organization. It will definitely buttress the ranks of the Group of 77 and take part in the new constructive process of establishing the new international economic order. All of us fully realize that if peace is indivisible, so is prosperity. Fundamental peace is not a negative concept; it means not only the absence of conflict but the existence of real harmony among all the members of the international family. When every man, woman and child, regardless of race, religion or national origin is guaranteed the right to a full realization of their potentialities in freedom, then and only then will the world be at peace. This fundamental right can only be achieved within the framework of self-determination and independence. By welcoming Papua New Guinea in our midst, we are reaffirming our faith in human rights and the dignity and worth of the human person. We are also strengthening the cause of international security, because independence and freedom are the pillars of peace founded on justice and moral order.

43. Thus we, as members of the Asian group, see this as an occasion for rejoicing. It is an hour of triumph and great solemnity. Triumph because there are very few remnants of colonialism in the world today. Solemnity because independence is only the beginning of a long and arduous ascent. It is the beginning of a process to cement political independence with economic and social development, a process of collaborating with other countries to promote the cause of freedom

everywhere, and a commitment to the great task of economic and social development.

44. In conclusion, may I warmly congratulate Papua New Guinea on its great exploit, wish it good luck in the name of the Asian group and welcome it to the fold of the international community and the Group of 77, where it is expected to work hard for the establishment of the highly cherished, new international economic order and for the triumph of peace based on unblemished justice.

45. The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of Dahomey, who will speak on behalf of the African group.

46. Mr. ADJIBADÉ (Dahomey) (*interpretation from French*): It is with a genuine feeling of satisfaction and great joy that I undertake the very pleasant task of welcoming, on behalf of the African group, of which I am the Chairman this month, and also on behalf of the Government of Dahomey, the admission to the United Nations of Papua New Guinea, a State which became independent on 16 September of this year and whose admission the Security Council, at a meeting on 22 September, recommended to the General Assembly.

47. In approving unanimously the recommendation of the Security Council, the General Assembly has now given this Organization a chance to advance one more step towards its objective of universality. It is true that a certain delegation, to support a certain artificial thesis, has not hesitated to declare in this very chamber that universality is not mentioned in any part of the Charter of the United Nations. To this delegation, we are tempted to say that it is easy to prove anything, even starting from false premises, especially if they are founded on erroneous political concepts. But the purpose of the African group today is not to engage in new polemics with anyone, nor do we wish to reopen a suspended debate.

48. Thus, returning to the case of Papua New Guinea, I should like to say that as far as the African group is concerned, a group where the overwhelming majority of members are States that are relatively new in the concert of nations, the admission of a new Member to the United Nations can only be a source of pride and satisfaction. The African group can only rejoice at the smooth path which has brought this Pacific Territory from the status of a Trust Territory, through the Act of Papua New Guinea, 1949-1973, to the status of a self-governing territory with its own Government, with the assistance of the Australian authorities. The cordial relations between the Administering Authority and the Trust Territory, and the sincerity and the good faith with which the former has fulfilled its mandate, has enabled the Government of the Territory to work out a Constitution on the basis of independence, a Constitution which reflects the particular needs and the aspirations of that country.

49. It is therefore not surprising that the Trusteeship Council, on 29 August 1975, at its forty-second session [see A/10004, chap. V, sect. C], endorsed resolution 3284 (XXIX) of the General Assembly on the question of Papua New Guinea, and especially the operative paragraphs, which read:

"1. Resolves, in agreement with the administering Power, that on the date on which Papua New

Guinea shall become independent the Trusteeship Agreement for the Territory of New Guinea, approved by the General Assembly on 13 December 1946, shall cease to be in force;

"2. Requests the administering Power to notify the Secretary-General of the date on which Papua New Guinea will accede to independence and on which the Trusteeship Agreement shall cease to be in force."

50. By establishing, in agreement with the authorities of Papua New Guinea, the date of independence as 16 September, and by so informing the Secretary-General, Australia, in the view of the African group, could certainly not furnish a better token of its sincerity in the strict execution of its mandate in compliance with the resolutions of the United Nations. We have here before us an act which should be pondered by certain impenitent colonial Powers, which must understand that there is no need to resort to armed confrontation before negotiating independence with honour.

51. I should like to take this occasion to address to the Government and the people of Australia the sincere congratulations of the African group on the courteous, sincere and dignified manner in which they have carried out the terms of the mandate that was entrusted to them, and on the way in which they have respected the aspirations of the peoples under their administration.

52. I should like to address to our brothers of Papua New Guinea the warm congratulations of the African group on their accession to independence and on their admission to the United Nations. We wish the new nation every success, and all prosperity to the Government and people of Papua New Guinea.

53. I shall conclude by saying that, by admitting the new state of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations, the General Assembly has just given the best proof that admissions to this Organization are in no way selective. That is why we dare to hope that very soon there will be an end to the reactions of rancour which prompted a great Power, through the tyranny of a minority of one operating through the veto, to block the admission to the United Nations of two countries that fully deserve their seats in this Organization, and that this injustice will soon be corrected.

54. The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of Hungary, who will speak on behalf of the Eastern European group.

55. Mr. HOLLAI (Hungary): It is a gratifying event for us to be witnessing the emergence of a series of new independent States on the thirtieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations and the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. This is strong evidence of the results attained in consequence of the lessening of international tension, the strengthening of the national liberation movements, and the efforts made by the Member States in the process of eliminating the last vestiges of the colonial system.

56. The present session of the General Assembly, by the admission of Papua New Guinea—another country which has become independent following the

entry into our Organization of Mozambique, Cape Verde, Sao Tome and Principe—has taken a new step towards giving effect to the universality of the Organization.

57. The principle and practice of universality would assert themselves more strongly in our Organization had the veto of the United States of America not prevented us from welcoming to our ranks also the representatives of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Republic of South Viet Nam on this auspicious occasion.

58. It is a great satisfaction for me, on behalf of the group of the Eastern European States, to welcome Papua New Guinea on the occasion of its admission to membership in the United Nations and to express our best wishes to the people and Government of Papua New Guinea in their efforts for all-round development and progress.

59. The efforts of the people of Papua New Guinea to assert its right to self-determination and independence have for long years been a recurring item on the agendas of the different forums of the United Nations, particularly at meetings of the Trusteeship Council and the Special Committee on decolonization. Among the Member States of the United Nations, the representatives of the socialist countries have voiced their firm political determination, as a most important principle guiding the foreign policy of the socialist countries, to seek the complete liquidation of the colonial system and to give unconditional support to the struggle of peoples for independence.

60. We are convinced that the date of 16 September 1975, that of the accession of Papua New Guinea to independence, heralds the initiation of a new era in the political, economic and social life of the people of that country with a population of 3 million.

61. On behalf of the Eastern European group, I should like once again to convey our cordial best wishes to the people and Government of Papua New Guinea on the occasion of gaining independence and joining the family of the United Nations, and to assure the representatives of that country of our readiness for close and friendly co-operation in the interests of the realization of the objectives of the Charter of the United Nations.

62. The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of Argentina, who will speak on behalf of the Latin American group.

63. Mr. ORTIZ DE ROZAS (Argentina) (*interpretation from Spanish*): On behalf of the Latin American group, of which Argentina has the honour of being Chairman for this month, it is my privilege to extend the warmest welcome to this Organization to the young republic of Papua New Guinea. Latin America, which in the most difficult moments of this Organization was always among the first to support and promote the right of all peoples to eradicate all forms or vestiges of colonialism, wishes to be among the first to hail the emergence of the new, independent State which today takes its rightful place in our midst.

64. We rejoice to see that the action which began almost two years ago with the granting of autonomy culminated so swiftly and happily on 16 September 1975 in the accession of the former territory of Papua

New Guinea to the community of free and sovereign nations. We rejoice too that the transition was peaceful and harmonious as a result of the fruitful co-operation and understanding between the native leaders and the representatives of the administering Power.

65. Finally, we applaud the exemplary action of Australia, which, testifying to its complete identification with the principles and norms of the United Nations, has faithfully and efficiently discharged the important responsibilities entrusted to it by the General Assembly.

66. The entry of every new State brings us ever closer to the objective of universality to which we so steadfastly aspire for this Organization. This Assembly, which now has 142 full-fledged Members, is representative of virtually all the peoples of the world.

67. However, there still remains a great deal to be done before that ideal becomes an absolute reality. Colonial situations of flagrant injustice still persist by reason of the refusal of some States to abandon anachronistic and oppressive policies and practices. This is a propitious occasion for us to reaffirm our will to contribute actively to the process of decolonization. This process is one of the imperatives of our time and, as no one any longer doubts, is irreversible in character.

68. I would not wish to conclude without reiterating to the representatives of Papua New Guinea the satisfaction of Latin America at having them share in our important tasks. We are convinced that with their dedication and efforts they will make a positive contribution to the United Nations, and to that end we offer them our fullest co-operation.

69. The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, who will speak on behalf of the group of Western European and other States.

70. Baron VON WECHMAR (Federal Republic of Germany): As the last speaker for the regional groups it is difficult not to repeat what has been said before, and I shall therefore try to be brief.

71. It is a great honour and pleasure and a very pleasant duty for me, as the current Chairman of the group of Western European and other States, to welcome Papua New Guinea to our midst as a new Member of the United Nations. I should like to congratulate the Government of Papua New Guinea for its pragmatic and peaceful approach towards independence and the way in which it set up its administration before taking this important step. The positive attitude the Government of Papua New Guinea has shown towards international co-operation confirms my conviction that the presence of Papua New Guinea in the United Nations will be of great value to our Organization.

72. I should like also to take this opportunity to congratulate Australia, as the former administering Power, on its exemplary decolonization policy. If its example had been followed by others, the world would have been spared many difficult problems which have occupied the attention of the United Nations for decades.

73. The new State of Papua New Guinea is about to assume new tasks and responsibilities which I am

convinced its people will shoulder courageously. On this road to a happy future the members of the group of Western European and other States will be trustworthy partners.

74. The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of the Libyan Arab Republic who will speak on behalf of the Arab States.

75. Mr. KIKHIA (Libyan Arab Republic) (*interpretation from Arabic*): It is for me an honour and a pleasure on this historic occasion to welcome Papua New Guinea as the one hundred and forty-second Member of the United Nations. I extend my congratulations to the people of Papua New Guinea on achieving their independence, which was proclaimed on 16 September 1975, and on becoming a Member of this international Organization. I do so on behalf of the member States of the League of Arab States, and also on behalf of the Palestine Liberation Organization, a member of the League of Arab States.

76. The achievement of independence by Papua New Guinea and its admission to the United Nations is a step towards full liberation from colonialism, and the liquidation of colonialism throughout the world, to which we all aspire and which we hope to see achieved as soon as possible. It is also a step towards the universality of this Organization, and we hope that other peoples which are still deprived of their right of admission to our Organization will soon achieve it.

77. The admission of this new State to the United Nations undoubtedly gives new support to the forces of democracy, progress, freedom and peace, and is considered a consolidation of the position of the third world and the Group of 77 as well.

78. It gives me pleasure on this occasion to express appreciation to the Trusteeship Council for its constructive efforts in assisting the people of Papua New Guinea to build their State and attain sovereignty.

79. I should like also to congratulate other bodies of the United Nations, and in particular to express appreciation to the Special Committee on decolonization for their laudable efforts in this connexion.

80. I should like also to congratulate Australia on its co-operation with the Trusteeship Council and various other United Nations bodies in order to reach this happy finale.

81. I reiterate, on behalf of the Arab States, our welcome to Papua New Guinea, and pledge our fraternal support and co-operation, whether in this Organization, within the context of the League of Arab States or within that of our own relations with that nation.

82. The PRESIDENT: I call now upon the representative of Indonesia, who will speak on behalf of the Association of South-East Asian Nations [ASEAN].

83. Mr. ANWAR SANI (Indonesia): It is both a pleasure and a privilege for me to be able, on behalf of the delegations of the ASEAN countries—Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia—to congratulate Papua New Guinea on its admission to the United Nations. As we are now nearing the fifteenth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, we note with great satisfaction the rapid progress made by the process of decolonization. That process

has brought our Organization increasingly closer to the goal of universality, which constitutes one of the most important conditions for the effective functioning of our Organization.

84. At the beginning of the present session we welcomed with great joy and satisfaction three new Member States in our midst: the People's Republic of Mozambique, the Republic of Cape Verde and the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe. It is with singular satisfaction that today the ASEAN countries, together with the other Members of the United Nations, most warmly welcome another new Member, Papua New Guinea, a close neighbour, as it takes its rightful place among us. We are sure that our newly independent neighbour will soon play an important role in the affairs of the South Pacific region as well as in those of the South-East Asia region, and participate in our deliberations and efforts to ensure progress and well-being for our peoples. We are convinced that Papua New Guinea, as a full-fledged Member of the United Nations, will participate constructively in the work of seeking solutions to the global problems which confront us. The delegations of ASEAN look forward to working closely and fruitfully with the representatives of the new Member States throughout the United Nations system.

85. The ASEAN countries are glad to acknowledge on this occasion the important contribution which the Government of Australia, as the Administering Authority, has made to the progress of the people of Papua New Guinea towards freedom and independence. Australia has demonstrated a profound sensitivity towards the needs of the people of Papua New Guinea and a readiness to meet those needs, which have earned the appreciation of the international community as well as that of the people of Papua New Guinea itself.

86. I should like now to speak on behalf of the Government and people of Indonesia. Sharing as we do a common border, the peoples of our two nations have many close ethnic and cultural ties, which provide the basis for a harmonious approach to common problems. My Government recognized that fact when it established a consulate-general at Port Moresby over a year ago, which it recently raised to the level of an embassy. When the people of Papua New Guinea celebrated their independence on 16 September, Indonesia had the privilege of sending a special deputation to attend the ceremonies in the capital city of Port Moresby. That deputation included the President of the Supreme Court, as the special representative of President Suharto, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, Mr. Malik. They were accompanied by cultural groups and performers who took part in the festivities and shared the joy of our brothers and sisters in Papua New Guinea. While there, the Indonesian deputation had the opportunity to observe closely the spirit and determination of the people in facing their future as an independent nation. The deputation also noted the progress made by the Government of Papua New Guinea, under the leadership of the Prime Minister, Mr. Somare, towards encouraging development in every aspect of its society and in strengthening the bonds of unity, territorial integrity and common purpose, so essential to the new country's survival and growth as an independent State. Indonesia

is confident that the people of Papua New Guinea will continue to advance in every respect.

87. In conclusion I should like once more to extend, on behalf of the delegations of the ASEAN countries, a most warm welcome to the representatives of the newest Member of our Organization and to wish them every success as they participate in our work.

88. The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of Fiji, Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau, Deputy Prime Minister of Fiji.

89. Ratu Sir Penaia GANILAU (Fiji): The attainment of independence on 16 September of Papua New Guinea was a welcome event in Fiji. We were represented at the Papua New Guinea independence celebrations by our Governor-General and by our Prime Minister. Today it is my great pleasure and honour to represent the Government and people of Fiji in welcoming Papua New Guinea on this special and historic occasion of their admission to the United Nations. We warmly welcome the Prime Minister, Mr. Michael Somare, and the members of his delegation.

90. Fiji has enjoyed very close and warm relations with Papua New Guinea over a long period of time. Our ties, which were forged in the dim and distant past, have grown since the coming of Christianity to our part of the world almost one and a half centuries ago. In addition to our association in Christianity, we have over the years also co-operated in medical, educational, cultural and economic fields. Apart from our bilateral relationships, both countries are also members of the South Pacific Commission and the South Pacific Forum, where we participate fully in the activities connected with those regional bodies.

91. Because of our close association, the Government and people of Fiji have watched with admiration and satisfaction the steady political, social and economic developments in Papua New Guinea since the end of the Second World War, but more especially during the last 10 years. Remarkable developments have taken place, particularly in education, in the economic sector, and in the political awareness of the people, despite numerous divisive factors such as clan and regional differences, the extremely difficult geographic features and political rivalries which are normal aspects of a democratic society. Credit for those outstanding achievements must be given to the people and in particular to their leader. They are appropriately and well represented here today by their dedicated and tireless Prime Minister, together with the other members of the Papua New Guinea delegation.

92. Though Papua New Guinea is the youngest Member of this world Organization, their leaders are not young in wisdom, for to lead their country under very difficult circumstances from colonial status to one of internal self-government and to full independence and membership in this Organization requires wisdom, statesmanship and maturity of the highest order. Because of their successful experience in reconciling clan and regional differences in development work, I am confident that the Papua New Guinea representatives will soon begin to make worthwhile contributions to the work of the United Nations.

93. May I hasten to express my delegation's appreciation for the excellent part played by the former Admin-

istering Authority, Australia, in guiding the political and economic development that has taken place in Papua New Guinea. We have admired the well-planned, patient and systematic approach made by successive Governments in Australia in encouraging, training, guiding and aiding Papua New Guinea to attain independence. In this connexion, we should be sadly remiss if we did not mention the excellent contributions made by the Australian civil servants and others who have contributed so much to help make Papua New Guinea what it is today. In passing, we should also mention the contribution made by the Trusteeship Council, the Special Committee on Decolonization and the United Nations staff who have served Papua New Guinea's cause with dedication and perseverance.

94. The admission of Papua New Guinea gives us particular pleasure in that one more voice from our oft-forgotten region will now have to be heard in this world Organization in support of what is just and to oppose all injustices. They have all our best wishes when they take their well-earned place in this world Organization.

95. The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of Japan.

96. Mr. SAITO (Japan): The delegation of Japan finds extraordinary satisfaction in the action just taken by the General Assembly. As an Asian and a Pacific nation we are delighted with the unanimous decision to admit to the United Nations the newly independent State of Papua New Guinea.

97. On this historic and auspicious occasion, it is a great honour and privilege for me, on behalf of the Government and people of Japan, to extend our most sincere congratulations to the Government and people of Papua New Guinea on their admission to this world Organization.

98. I am especially gratified that the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, Mr. Michael Somare, who has made such brilliant preparations for the accession of his people to independence, is present among us on this memorable occasion. To him we should like to express directly our congratulations on the admission of his country to the United Nations and our best wishes for his success in the task of nation-building. If the Prime Minister will excuse a personal reference, I should like to recall that I had the honour and pleasure of knowing his great qualities during my last assignment before coming to the United Nations. We are all confident that this newly independent State, under his able guidance, will preserve its national unity and advance the nation's progress and the people's welfare.

99. Papua New Guinea's accession to independence on 16 September, followed so promptly and happily by its admission to this family of nations, constitutes an imposing achievement which is a tribute to the successful operations of the United Nations trusteeship system. My delegation wishes to express its deep appreciation to the Trusteeship Council, which is now presided over by Mr. Murray of the United Kingdom, the Special Committee on decolonization, which is at present presided over by Mr. Salim of the United Republic of Tanzania, and the other United Nations bodies which have provided valuable assistance for the emergence of the new State.

100. My delegation wishes to express its special appreciation to the Government of Australia for its faithful and devoted fulfilment of the high responsibilities entrusted to it by the United Nations as the Administering Authority of the Territory.

101. The good relations between Australia and the new State have been further demonstrated by the generous aid programme which the former Administering Authority is putting into effect for the advancement of economic and social progress.

102. It should go without saying that Japan, as a neighbour across the Pacific, rejoices to see this new emerging nation take its rightful place in the community of nations. It is significant also that the General Assembly's action today has brought the United Nations a step nearer its goal of true universality of membership and has assured us that Papua New Guinea's participation in the work of the United Nations will strengthen the functions of the Organization, in particular in the field of decolonization. For the Pacific region it is an important advance towards the achievement of a peaceful and prosperous era, based upon equal sovereignty and benefits for all the States in the region.

103. The Government and people of Japan have already given a warm welcome to the youngest of the newly independent States. In advance of independence, Japan established a consulate-general at Port Moresby last January with a view to promoting friendly relations and close co-operation.

104. On this welcome occasion, I wish to conclude by assuring the General Assembly that it is the desire of the Government and people of Japan to do everything within their power to strengthen the ties between Papua New Guinea and our own country and to develop good-neighbourly relations in the best sense. My delegation is thus looking forward to close co-operation with the delegation of Papua New Guinea in joint efforts, both within and outside the United Nations, to help in achieving a world in which peace and prosperity will prevail for all mankind. We take great pleasure in the fact that Papua New Guinea is already playing an outstanding and constructive role in promoting regional co-operation in the area as a member of the South Pacific Forum. Its independence and membership in the United Nations will now enable Papua New Guinea to expand further its activities in the international area, promoting in turn the stability and welfare of the people of the Pacific region.

105. The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of India.

106. Mr. JAIPAL (India): It gives my delegation a great deal of pleasure and satisfaction on behalf of the Government of India to welcome Papua New Guinea as the one hundred and forty-second Member of the United Nations. Furthermore, we are fortunate indeed to have among us here today the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, Mr. Michael Somare. Papua New Guinea is a nation-State with which India has had some links for several years in the educational field and we are keenly looking forward to the establishment of diplomatic relations with it and to developing mutual co-operation in all fields.

107. Papua New Guinea became an international Trust Territory some 55 years ago, in 1920, and,

since the founding of this Organization, the United Nations has been overseeing its administration and watching over its political destiny. With the ending of United Nations tutelage and the emergence of Papua New Guinea as a sovereign, independent country, the United Nations and Papua New Guinea are entering an era of new relationships.

108. One may well ask what are the new obligations of the United Nations towards Papua New Guinea now that its trusteeship has ended. One may well answer that the United Nations is obliged by 55 years of historical ties to continue to provide assistance and co-operation to Papua New Guinea, so as to ensure its further economic and social development. The bonds that were forged between Papua New Guinea, the world community and Australia during 55 years of international trusteeship are such that they can only deepen with the advent of independence.

109. The political evolution of Papua New Guinea to independence has been somewhat isolated from that of the mainstream of national liberation movements elsewhere. In that sense it is unique and Australia, as the administering Power, has played a progressive role in fulfilling the objectives of trusteeship. My delegation wishes to congratulate the Government of Australia no less than the people of Papua New Guinea for the remarkable and rapid progress made, particularly during the last 20 years, and for bringing about a peaceful transfer of power to the people and Government of Papua New Guinea.

110. Papua New Guinea is a large country, rich in natural resources, and it is a developing country with a bright future. It will no doubt go through the usual teething troubles common to all newly independent countries. My delegation welcomes Papua New Guinea with complete understanding of the aspirations of its people and with assurances of sympathy and support for their future development. We extend our congratulations to the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea and his Government and all good wishes for the future of his country and people.

111. The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of Canada.

112. Mr. STANBURY (Canada): The Canadian delegation has taken great pleasure in joining with many other delegations in the sponsorship of the resolution admitting Papua New Guinea to the United Nations, and we warmly welcome its Prime Minister and its delegation.

113. The Canadian Government applauds the steady progress which has taken place in Papua New Guinea in recent years, first towards internal self-government and now to self-determination and independence. We wish to congratulate the Government and citizens of Papua New Guinea on the progress they have made and which we feel certain they will continue to make in developing a strong and cohesive nation. We wish also to compliment the Government of Australia on the firm commitment it has demonstrated over 20 years, working in partnership with the people of Papua New Guinea to help them develop the institutions, infrastructure and the trained personnel necessary to an independent nation. It must be a matter of considerable pride and satisfaction to the United Nations that the trusteeship arrangement has facilitated the

peaceful emergence of this nation whose future prospects for stable social and economic development are so bright.

114. The Canadian Government was pleased to send a special representative to participate in the Papua New Guinea independence celebrations held at Port Moresby on 16 September, and looks forward to the conclusion of formal discussions which will lead to the establishment of diplomatic relations between Canada and Papua New Guinea. Ties already exist to bind our two countries; dozens of young Canadian graduates, for example, have for several years been working with Papua New Guineans on social and economic projects. We anticipate a steady growth in different forms of co-operation between our two countries, and look forward to a continuing development of our family ties as countries of the Pacific Basin, as members of the Commonwealth, and as Members of the United Nations.

115. The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of New Zealand.

116. Mr. TEMPLETON (New Zealand): I have asked to speak on this happy occasion as the representative of one of Papua New Guinea's neighbours in the South Pacific.

117. In his wise and percipient speech to this Assembly on 8 October [2380th meeting, paras. 42-95], the Prime Minister of Fiji remarked that the South Pacific was an area not so well known to Members of the United Nations. He pointed out that since 1961 there have been profound political changes in the region, all of them the outcome of a peaceful constitutional process. I like to think that this willingness to make necessary changes peacefully in a spirit of mutual understanding and consensus is a principal and maybe even a distinguishing characteristic of the Pacific way.

118. Since 1961, five South Pacific countries—Western Samoa, Fiji, Nauru, Tonga, and now Papua New Guinea—have attained independence. Other island countries in the South Pacific have completed an act of self-determination under United Nations auspices, and have opted for full self-government.

119. In the South Pacific the word "neighbour" has a special meaning. Separated we may be by wide expanses of the Pacific Ocean. Linked we are by a sense of common purpose, by a determination to work together for peace and prosperity in our region, by a desire to help one another in the development of our resources, by a concern to prevent the South Pacific from becoming an arena of military confrontation. Our determination to work together has been demonstrated in several regional organizations, the most important of which is the South Pacific Forum, in which nine heads of South Pacific Governments regularly meet and to which Papua New Guinea has been making a dynamic contribution for the past two years. This determination to work together is what we in the Pacific mean when we call each other neighbours.

120. Now, Papua New Guinea comes to join Australia, Fiji and New Zealand as a Member of the United Nations. Its progress to independence has had its difficulties. It is to the credit of the statesmanship of the leaders of Papua New Guinea, and of the Government of Australia, that these difficulties have been

successfully overcome. Papua New Guinea will make a strong addition to the South Pacific voice in the United Nations. It is a remarkable country, diverse in its language and culture, rich in natural resources, spectacular in its scenery, fortunate, if I may say so, in its leadership.

121. May I, on behalf of the Government and people of New Zealand, extend to Papua New Guinea, our newest Member, and to its Prime Minister, the Maori greeting which I am sure will be well known to him: Haeremai, haeremai—welcome.

122. The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of the host country, the United States of America.

123. Mr. BENNETT (United States of America): Just as we have warmly supported Papua New Guinea's candidacy, the United States has co-sponsored wholeheartedly the resolution on the admission of Papua New Guinea to membership in the United Nations. We extend enthusiastic greetings to Papua New Guinea as the newest Member of this ever more universal Organization.

124. As representative of the host country, my delegation welcomes Papua New Guinea's representatives at this Headquarters. May our hospitality match that for which Papua New Guinea is so justly renowned. I can testify personally to the warm and outgoing friendliness one meets in Papua New Guinea because, along with representatives of several other Member States, I had the honour of serving on the United Nations visiting mission there in 1972 to observe the elections for the House of Assembly. Those elections, which were an important element in Papua New Guinea's self-determination process, were carried off with smooth efficiency by Australia, the administering Power, and with the reasoned exercise of their free will by the people of Papua New Guinea. Permit me to underscore once again my Government's deep admiration for the exemplary manner in which Australia discharged its responsibilities as the Administering Authority under the Trusteeship Agreement.

125. My delegation warmly greets and salutes in this Assembly Mr. Michael Somare, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea. This distinguished leader is moving swiftly to establish his country in the family of nations. On 8 October, for instance, in Washington, where it was a special honour and pleasure for my Government to receive him, Prime Minister Somare signed the articles of agreement of the International Monetary Fund and of the World Bank. In so doing, he emphasized his country's will to play an active role in institutions important to the international community. As a member of the Trusteeship Council, the United States witnesses these developments with special interest and enthusiasm.

126. My delegation also salutes our friend and colleague, Ralph Karepa, as Papua New Guinea's representative in New York. We anticipate keenly the satisfaction of working with him and his delegation in the period ahead.

127. The United States wishes Papua New Guinea all the fruits of membership in the United Nations. It looks forward to Papua New Guinea's contribution in the deliberations and activities of our global Organization. Once again, welcome, Papua New Guinea.

128. The PRESIDENT: I now have great pleasure in inviting the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, Mr. Michael Somare, to address the General Assembly.

129. Mr. SOMARE (Papua New Guinea): Twenty-four days ago Papua New Guinea became an independent State. Now, as my country takes its place in this Organization, this is a second great moment in our history. I should like to take this opportunity to thank the Member States that have just complimented Papua New Guinea for the kind remarks that were made about my country and its people.

130. These events have taken time, not because there was any great opposition to our progress towards nationhood, but because the accidents of history and geography have combined to delay the formal birth of our nation. Despite these difficulties, we are a sovereign nation. Our people now has a national identity. This is the most significant achievement in our history and we will prize and protect the territorial integrity of our new nation.

131. I wish to acknowledge our debt of gratitude to others who have made possible the emergence of Papua New Guinea as an independent State. This debt is owed primarily to Australia, which assumed the responsibilities of an Administering Authority within a few years of its own attainment of statehood, and later accepted further obligations under a League of Nations Mandate, and again under the United Nations Trusteeship Agreement.

132. Probably because it was a new State itself, Australia did not inflict an authoritarian colonialist policy upon my country. This is shown most clearly by the fact that today 90 per cent of the land still remains under the traditional ownership of its people.

133. After the Second World War, Australia's role became less and less that of an overlord. As our political autonomy increased, on our own insistence, Australia took up a new role as a generous and sympathetic donor of aid. It has guaranteed that this role will continue in our new relationship as partners and neighbouring States in the Pacific. It is my sincere hope that the relationship of the past years will provide the basis for a continuing close bond of friendship and co-operation between our countries in the future.

134. I also express our gratitude to the Trusteeship Council and the Special Committee on decolonization for their role in our progress to nationhood, and to the President and those who have sponsored our admission to this distinguished body, because our acceptance represents a culmination of that progress.

135. Because I represent my country, and a new Member State, I wish to say a few words about the way in which Papua New Guinea sees its role in world affairs. Our every action and attitude will be dominated by our realization that our first commitment is at home. We must consolidate our programmes of social and economic development.

136. As leader of a new third-world Government, I state without apology that our first priority is the welfare of our own people. We wish to advance in conditions of peace and security, and realize that to achieve this we must also take our position in world affairs, even though our influence will be limited by size and inexperience on the world stage.

137. We understand the increasing interdependence of all Member nations of the world family and for this reason see the United Nations as the main hope for the third world. Within the limits of our slender financial means and human resources, we hope to play an active and positive role in this world body and in its subsidiary and affiliated organizations.

138. Papua New Guinea has had a long historic connexion with the Commonwealth of Nations and we are endeavouring to pursue this further. Already we have found friendship and understanding with our fellow Members. Our geographical location means that we are concerned with the affairs of two regions—the South Pacific and South-East Asia.

139. Ethnically and culturally, we are a South Pacific people. We believe in close co-operation among the island peoples for the protection of our environment. The strength of this conviction is shown by our intention to sponsor, with New Zealand and Fiji, a resolution in this Assembly to make the South Pacific a nuclear-weapon-free zone. It is appropriate that this should be our first contribution to the work of the Assembly. Our further commitments to this region have been expressed through our participation in the regional organizations to which we belong.

140. At the same time, we share a common border with our close neighbour, Indonesia, and no part of South-East Asia lies very far from our shores. Our priorities at home give us a direct concern for the peace and security of these two regions and the progressive social and economic development of their peoples.

141. The attitude we will adopt in our relationships with other countries will be best described as "universalist". We seek no involvement in conflicts that have originated in past history—a history to which we did not contribute. Similarly, if I may paraphrase the words of the African leader, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania: "We do not want our friends to choose our enemies for us." With very few exceptions—namely, those countries with social or racial policies that are unacceptable to us—we will recognize Governments that wish to recognize us. However, if the price of mutual recognition is that we must take sides in regional, ideological or internal conflict, then we will reject it.

142. As a country with significant but under-developed resources we realize that trade is a potent factor in the growth of relationships between States. As our trading partnerships develop it is inevitable that co-operation will be fostered at other levels. Countries in partnership depend on each other. Continuing dependence ensures friendship. Papua New Guinea therefore fully supports the principles on which the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development was established.

143. Papua New Guinea is one more developing country and this fact forms a basic element of future policy in relation to the world. The basis of the economic life of our people remains subsistence agriculture. Like all developing countries we are, therefore, faced with the difficulties and frustrations of bringing about development within an inequitable world economic system. Papua New Guinea will join whole-heartedly in efforts to reform that system. We

know we will find new allies in this cause, especially within the third world.

144. Finally, though such a statement might not seem important from a country so new and as yet so uninfluential as Papua New Guinea, I state our fundamental commitment to the maintenance of peace throughout our region and the world and to our undertaking to uphold the Charter of the United Nations.

145. The problems of the world today require a determined and constructive effort by all countries. I commit Papua New Guinea to making its contribution to this Organization.

AGENDA ITEM 121

Observer status for the Islamic Conference at the United Nations

146. The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of the Gambia, who wishes to introduce the draft resolution in document A/L.765 and Add.1.

147. Mr. N'JIE (Gambia): Since this is the first time I have spoken at this session, I should like to take this opportunity to offer Mr. Thorn my sincere congratulations on his election to preside over the thirtieth session of the General Assembly. His great experience and achievements in this Organization eminently qualified him to assume that onerous charge, and I wish him a successful and fruitful tenure of office.

148. May I also take this opportunity to salute and congratulate my colleague and brother his distinguished predecessor in office, Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Algeria, on the masterly and successful way in which he conducted the affairs of the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly—a success which redounds to the credit not only of him and his great country but also of Africa and, indeed, the whole international community.

149. This august house is aware that the Islamic Conference was established in 1970. The organization brings together 42 homogeneous communities bound to one another by ties of history, common heritage and the abiding Islamic faith. Its headquarters are located in the city of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

150. The Conference is dedicated to the same goals and objectives as are sought by the United Nations. Its charter enjoins on the member States respect for the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. The Conference in fact supplements the role and enhances the effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations.

151. Since its establishment, the Islamic Conference has emerged as an important forum for hammering out international differences, resolving conflicts, reducing tensions and promoting just and peaceful solutions to global issues and regional problems. It has turned out to be an effective instrument for finding common ground, settling disputes, harmonizing divergent viewpoints and strengthening solidarity. The Conference is seized of all the dominant issues faced by the United Nations. Some of the most sensitive problems like Palestine, Jerusalem, the Middle East, colonialism and racial discrimination in southern Africa, the danger of nuclear proliferation and the establishment of a new international economic order,

are under the continuing consideration of the Conference, and active interest is taken in finding a just and acceptable solution. The Islamic Foreign Ministers meet annually to examine old as well as emerging questions and, if circumstances warrant, summit conferences are convened to take decisions.

152. Apart from political matters, the Conference is engaged in the development and improvement of international economic relations. It is playing an increasingly significant role in restoring and maintaining the tempo of socio-economic development in the third-world countries. The member States are making an increasing contribution in the form of economic assistance and humanitarian aid for the welfare and prosperity of people all over the Afro-Asian continents. In the words of His Royal Highness Prince Saud al Faisal:

“The Islamic Conference organization has made notable and dynamic progress in dealing with various economic and political matters and has established financial, technical and other institutions.”

153. The similarity of the objectives and the common interests of the Conference and the United Nations make it desirable to institutionalize the relationship between the two and to have closer co-operation in all areas of mutual concern. The Conference accordingly wishes to be granted the status of observer in the General Assembly and its subsidiary organs.

154. On behalf of the member States of the Islamic Conference, my delegation has the honour to move the following draft resolution:

“*The General Assembly,*

“*Noting the desire of the States members of the Islamic Conference for co-operation between the United Nations and the Islamic Conference,*

“*1. Decides to invite the Islamic Conference to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly and of its subsidiary organs in the capacity of observer;*

“*2. Requests the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.*”

155. Mr. ZHIRI (Morocco) (*interpretation from Arabic*): The delegation of Morocco is indeed happy that, with the approval of the General Assembly, the item on observer status for the Islamic Conference at the United Nations has been included in our agenda.

156. This subject was requested for inclusion in the agenda by a large number of delegations, in accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. The Moroccan delegation has asked to speak to show that its joint support, with the various other States, of this request is in accordance with the line taken by Morocco since the idea of the Islamic Conference came into being.

157. I should like to mention that my country had the honour and pleasure of being the host for the First Summit Conference of the Islamic Conference on the occasion of the fire set at the Al-Aqsa Mosque by the Zionists on 21 August 1969. The idea and project crystallized, and the First Islamic Conference was held at Rabat at the request and the invitation of Morocco in September 1969, as a result of which the organ-

ization known by this name—Islamic Conference—came into being and has become today a permanent organization with its own subsidiary bodies, which is working well and producing results. There are 42 member States, members of the Islamic Conference, which are at the same time Members of the United Nations. All these States have a common cultural heritage based on a spiritual, cultural and historical foundation and aim at setting up a model for a community whose values are derived from the principles of the religion in which their peoples believe, the principles of equality, justice and solidarity.

158. The Islamic Conference has taken important steps during this last short period since its inception. This organization has proved since its birth that it is an effective means of bringing its member States closer together, settling disputes and strengthening means of co-operation and solidarity, both socially and economically, in a practical way and a praiseworthy manner. The organization has deployed, and is still deploying, efforts to co-ordinate the policy of its member States on a number of international problems such as the explosive situation in the Middle East, questions relating to the Arab States, racial discrimination as practised in South Africa and Southern Rhodesia, the question of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and the new international economic order. We are all well aware what the Islamic Conference did recently when it deployed its efforts to settle the dispute between Pakistan and Bangladesh, and its efforts have been crowned with success in bringing about an understanding between those two sister States.

159. The Islamic Conference was able to bring about peace, co-operation and understanding between these two States on the Indian subcontinent, instead of allowing the tension and futile disputes to continue. This is in itself an achievement, thanks to the efforts of the organization, but it also carries out economic activities to find practical, realistic means and methods of economic interdependence and social and cultural co-operation, as a result of the Summit Conference at Lahore held in February 1974.¹

160. Among the most important developments was the setting-up of the Islamic Development Bank with a capital of SDR 1,000 million to help member States to carry out projects of economic and social development. Added to that is the Islamic Solidarity Fund, which is devoted to alleviating the effects of natural catastrophes and to assisting scientific, technical and educational institutions in member States. That Fund was set up and has devoted \$50 million this year to such projects.

161. The Islamic Conference, seeking to establish constructive consolidation and co-operation among the peoples living in this world, and to bring prosperity and development to the various peoples of the world, belonging to various races, has similar principles to those enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and its objectives are very similar to the objectives of other international organizations which have common aspirations and an organic relationship between their members, namely, to redouble its efforts to achieve progress and development.

162. The United Nations has in the past given observer status to many of these organizations, thus

recognizing the complementary role they play side by side with the United Nations. What we are requesting today is that the Islamic Conference should also be granted observer status in our Organization.

163. The Moroccan delegation, fully convinced of the abilities of the Islamic Conference and what it has achieved, and plans to achieve in the future, considers that the granting of observer status to the Islamic Conference will not only be recognition of the efforts which it has made at the regional and international level, but also an enrichment of the United Nations and what that may entail in the way of fruitful co-operation between both organizations.

164. The Moroccan delegation firmly requests, as a participant with various other delegations in submitting the draft resolution, that the General Assembly should grant observer status to the Islamic Conference at the United Nations.

165. The PRESIDENT: As there are no more speakers on this item we shall now take a decision on draft resolution A/L.765 and Add.1. May I take it that the General Assembly adopts the draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 3369 (XXX)).

AGENDA ITEM 12

Report of the Economic and Social Council

REPORT OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE (PART I) (A/10284)

166. Mrs. SEKELA KANINDA (Zaire), Rapporteur of the Third Committee (*interpretation from French*): I have the honour to submit the first part of the report of the Third Committee on item 12 of the agenda, entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council". The report is contained in document A/10284.

167. In paragraph 4 of the report, the Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

"The General Assembly decides to invite the Chairman-Rapporteur of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on the Situation of Human Rights in Chile, established by the Commission on Human Rights by its resolution 8 (XXXI) of 27 February 1975,² to assist the Third Committee in its consideration of the progress report of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group."

The draft decision was adopted without objection in the Third Committee.

Pursuant to rule 66 of the rules of procedure, it was decided not to discuss the report of the Third Committee.

168. The PRESIDENT: As there are no requests to speak in explanation of vote, the Assembly will now consider the draft decision recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 4 of its report [A/10284]. The report of the Fifth Committee on the administrative and financial implications of that draft decision is contained in document A/10291. May I take

it that the General Assembly adopts the recommendation of the Third Committee by consensus?

The draft decision was adopted.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.

NOTES

¹ Second Islamic Conference of Kings and Heads of State and Government, held at Lahore from 19 to 22 February 1974.

² See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 4 (E/5635)*, chap. XXIII.