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President: Mr. Nasrollah ENTEZAM (Iran).

Address of welcome to Mr. Galo Plaza, President of Ecuador

1. The PRESIDENT (*translated from French*): It is my great privilege today to welcome, on behalf of the General Assembly, His Excellency Mr. Galo Plaza, President of Ecuador.

2. President Galo Plaza is no stranger to the United Nations. He took part in the consultations that paved the way for the San Francisco Conference, he actively collaborated in the work of that conference and, exactly six years ago today, on 26 June 1945, he signed the United Nations Charter on behalf of Ecuador.

3. Under the leadership of its President, the Republic of Ecuador has continued to adhere to the principles of the Charter. Its Government has in particular demonstrated its attachment to the principle of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It has sought, in the economic and social spheres, to raise the people's standard of living. We know that it has called upon the technical assistance services of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies to help it to fulfil its plans.

4. There can be no better way of commemorating the anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Charter than to hear President Plaza, whom I am very happy to invite to speak.

Address by Mr. Galo Plaza, President of Ecuador

5. The PRESIDENT OF ECUADOR (*translated from Spanish*): It is a special privilege for me to have this opportunity of speaking before this Assembly whose decisions may so profoundly affect the destiny of mankind. I wish to thank you, Mr. President, for your kind words and I should like, at this point, on behalf of the people of Ecuador, my Government and myself, to give expression to our sincere wish that the United Nations may enjoy even greater success, that it may

succeed in promoting and establishing on a lasting foundation the well-being and brotherhood of all the nations of the world.

6. On my visit to the United States and other friendly countries, I could not have failed to take advantage of the opportunity of appearing before the greatest international organization in order to bring it a message from one of its Members which continues to work and to cooperate, hopefully and confidently, in the Organization's efforts to ensure that there shall be genuine solidarity among the associated Nations. My presence here today has but one purpose, namely, to demonstrate once again the profound sentiments of fraternity which the people of Ecuador feel towards all the peoples of the earth, and it is in that spirit that I greet you today.

7. As a member of my country's delegation, I had the honour to attend the San Francisco Conference and to be one of the signatories of the Charter. By what for me is a happy turn of fate, today, 26 June, sees the fulfilment of six years of very important work for the development of the civilized world. For that reason it is a special pleasure for me to be with you today. This is, perhaps, a fitting moment for recalling an aspect of the fundamental decisions which were then adopted and which, in practice, have already produced various results—not all of them, unfortunately, in conformity with the sincere ideals of peace and human progress which inspired us in 1945.

8. It was not without serious difficulty that agreement was reached on the text of the Charter. But with perseverance and an unshaken belief that it is possible to devise solutions capable of improving the lot of mankind and international relations, the obstacles which apparently stood in the way of general agreement were gradually and patiently overcome. Everyone gave way on certain points and the final text was the outcome of mutual concessions, for we were pursuing our efforts with the conviction that we were working for all mankind.

9. Looking back, I believe that although the work is not perfect, we made no mistake regarding the general lines of the international organization.

10. The two world wars of this century caused suffering and havoc and left behind them a multiplicity of complex problems. It was essential to rule out the possibility of the outbreak of a third conflict which would entail enormous sacrifices, the loss of many millions of human lives and destruction on a scale not even imagined in the past. Accordingly it became essential to form a new international organization through which it would be possible to seek more civilized and more equitable solutions of a peaceful nature for clashes of human and national interests.

11. It is true that an earlier attempt, that of the League of Nations, had not been wholly successful; the League had not wholly fulfilled its political task. Nevertheless, international co-operation, under the rule of law and universally accepted standards, was perceived as offering the only means by which the human race could avoid self-destruction; for it is to self-destruction that we are being led by a technical progress which unfortunately has been infinitely greater, in recent centuries, than moral progress.

12. The intention was that the new organization should be concerned not only with political problems, but also with economic, social and cultural problems. Not only was it to be stipulated that nations, great and small, should be able to live in freedom, confidence and independence, but we had to begin with fundamentals: we had to proclaim the fundamental equality of all men, safeguard human freedoms and give the peoples the possibility of living in freedom from fear and despair, for in the absence of those conditions it would be impossible even to talk of a firm and lasting peace.

13. We had to find a fair balance and a method whereby each State would retain the right of self-determination, in conformity with the freely expressed will of its people and, at the same time, whereby the nations could achieve co-operation among themselves for the maintenance and development of respect for human rights and the fundamental freedoms of all.

14. Various States, as we all know, including in particular a number of American republics, would have preferred that in all United Nations bodies, including the Security Council, questions of every kind should be settled by the democratic process of the majority decision. That preference did not prevail since at that time it appeared that the only way in which the United Nations could be established was by accepting the system which was subsequently instituted by the Charter.

15. The Government of Ecuador believed them, as I believe today, that the majority of the Members of the United Nations would, in the last analysis, support whatever decisions appeared most equitable and most in conformity with the Charter—decisions calculated to preserve peace without sacrificing principles of morality and the law of nations, collective measures and action to repel or to prevent aggression and to outlaw it from the world everywhere and at all times. I believe that that, in effect, has hitherto been and will continue in the future to be the policy of the United Nations. This is logical, since it must be remembered that the vast majority of the Members of the United Nations, which are not

permanent members of the Security Council, consists of small and medium-sized countries which, as a rule, are bound to desire the maintenance of a system of peace, law and justice, which guarantees the territorial integrity and political independence of all nations. This majority also includes countries which, although large in area and capable of supporting a large population, and destined to achieve great economic and military strength, must act here in accordance with their peaceful traditions of respect for the rights of other States.

16. On the basis of these facts, it was evident, in my opinion, that the majority of the Members of the United Nations would not be inclined to support military adventures, or to use the name of the world Organization to cloak imperialist enterprises; for if they did so, they would *ipso facto* be working against their own essential and permanent interests, by creating precedents which might subsequently recoil against the freedom of their own peoples and against the integrity of their own territories.

17. The fact that many States belong to one or other group or system of regional organization, should not and could not, in any opinion, impair this conclusion, which is one of the bases of my faith in the United Nations.

18. The events of the past year and the pressure brought to bear by the democratic process, in accordance with constitutional methods, to achieve a clarification of the foreign policy of some of the countries involved, have already proved that the majority of the Members of the United Nations, in acting as it has acted in recent times, was not harbouring aggressive intentions, was not seeking conquests, was not attempting to revive an unacceptable colonialism, was not conniving at the domination of one State by another and was not attempting to deprive any people of the right to establish the government of its choice. On the contrary, I think it has been demonstrated that, in the crucial events of international life, the United Nations has sought to strengthen itself to defend peace, has sought to ensure that the peoples, by means of plebiscites or free and impartial elections, might freely express their will and decide their own future, and has embarked on the task of collective action to repel aggression, thereby creating a new landmark in the history of international relations.

19. Collective action is a safeguard for the small States. For them, regional association and regional action are necessary and desirable, for political and economic reasons of all kinds; nevertheless, it is also essential that they should be able to rely, in the last resort, on the international Organization, particularly in cases where, at the regional level, it is impossible, or there is unwillingness, to satisfy their just claims. That is why I believe that the faith of most States in the United Nations has increased with the beginning of collective action. Although it is regrettable that it has been necessary to embark upon collective action, that action, if carried out with perseverance and prudence, will strengthen the authority and effectiveness of our international Organization and convert it into an instrument for the raising and discussion not only of problems which, for one reason or another, may be of direct interest to many States or affect vast geographical areas, but also for the discussion and just settlement of lesser disputes, with less wide-spread international implications.

20. Like any new organization, the United Nations has not yet been able to achieve that degree of perfection and efficacy which we all desire; yet, happily, there is no doubting its great influence throughout the world or the fruitful work it is doing in the technical, social and cultural fields. For my part, I hope and trust that the United Nations will be able, albeit slowly and patiently, to settle the serious political problems now pending.

21. If the Organization continues to defend the right of every nation to achieve and maintain independence, if it continues steadfastly along the path of collective security, there is reason to hope that a time will come when even those political sectors which now challenge the good intentions of this international body will become convinced that the United Nations must, if necessary, also defend the integrity or independence of any Member State, whatever the economic and social organization and the political position of the State which has been attacked.

22. Among the problems which threaten peace we must include those created by the fear which States may entertain for their international security. This danger becomes much more acute if any State seeks to expand its territory, urged on by the quest for power, the desire for material expansion, or ideological fervour, when it tries to impose its political ideas, its system of government or social organization, outside its frontiers. Every nation should be free to experiment as it pleases within its borders, provided that fundamental human rights are respected; but it should also allow other countries to follow whatever way of life they prefer. In this way the nations will be able to live together in peace.

23. We must continue to hope that outstanding problems will be resolved without a fresh armed conflict. This hope derives support from the fundamental truth that the peoples do not hate one another. If the peoples could open their gates, enter freely into direct contact with each other, discuss their differences and, above all, guide the conduct of their rulers, the common desire for peace would dispel this tragic anxiety. There is no problem that cannot be solved by peaceful methods. But that involves sacrifices on either side, provided that such sacrifices are not inconsistent with the principles of morality or of the Charter.

24. As long as there are threats of aggression, the peace-loving nations cannot do otherwise than prepare themselves to defend their lives and their rights, though it is, of course, regrettable that the economic effort involved in defensive preparations is not devoted, as it might have been, to achieving a more rational and just solution to the social and economic problems which are precisely the problems which jeopardize security and peace. But the solution to these problems must be sought in a democratic setting, without the sacrifice of human rights. We who are in positions of authority realize that it is hard to preserve human rights in times of great crisis, when dangers mount and passions run high. Yet there is no greater satisfaction than to rule without resorting to oppression, violence or abuse.

25. Happily for mankind, democracy is rich in ideas and methods which enable governments to work for the good of the majority, in accordance with the will of the majority, while maintaining the greatest possible individual freedom, although democratic action has to assume the form and adopt the rhythm necessitated by the particular circumstances of each country.

26. Democracy can rectify its mistakes, and in fact subjects them to severe review through free discussion; it is full of genius and imagination, and has the gift of discovering new ways of accomplishing the progress and well-being of the people. It does not need war to continue its advancement, nor does it need states of emergency to justify its philosophy and its very existence. Absolute power, uncontrolled and in the hands of a few, may at times boast of its vast material achievements, but democracy can do better, even in that field, if, in order to satisfy the needs of the people, an increasingly rational use is made of each country's natural resources and if the economic activities of all are co-ordinated. Democracy must produce more to provide all workers with a greater measure of comfort and well-being, of human dignity and worth. With the means at its disposal, the democratic world can set itself most ambitious targets, with a view to remedying present failings and repairing present injustice.

27. Through me, Ecuador reiterates its conviction that the United Nations will continue to work perseveringly along the road to salvation indicated in the Charter. This Organization is the supreme hope for achieving co-operation among States and justice among men.

28. In the last few days, the head of the delegation of one of the permanent members of the Security Council and the Secretary-General of the United Nations have told us that conversations should be begun with a view to securing a truce and an armistice in Korea.

29. That struggle has already lasted a year and has caused great suffering to the Korean people and grave danger to the peace of the world. I myself believe that it is time to make a new and serious effort on those lines so as to create a calm atmosphere in which problems can be assessed on their merits and a final settlement can be sought.

30. To talk with your adversary and negotiate for peace is not appeasement. There is appeasement only when other peoples, law or justice are sacrificed to pacify the aggressor. A just solution cannot be appeasement.

31. God grant that you will never lose faith and that you will continue indefatigably to strive for the dominion of lasting peace.

32. The PRESIDENT: Before adjourning the meeting, I should like once again to thank President Galo Plaza for the visit that he has paid us and for the fine address which he has just delivered. I fully agree with him that a new path towards peace has just been opened. We must follow it in the hope of achieving the aim we all have in mind, which is to put an end to the war in Korea and establish a just and lasting peace in that country.

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.