

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TWELFTH SESSION

Official Records


**707th
PLENARY MEETING**

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President: Sir Leslie MUNRO (New Zealand).

Address by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

1. The PRESIDENT: It is not often given to a President to welcome here his own beloved Sovereign. I have the honour to present to the Assembly Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. I now respectfully request Her Majesty to address the twelfth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

2. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II: I thank you, Mr. President, for your words of welcome.

3. I wish first to express to you, to the Secretary-General and to the General Assembly of the United Nations my great pleasure at being here today.

4. This Assembly was born of the endeavours of countless men and women from different nations who, over the centuries, have pursued the aim of the preservation of peace between nations, equality of justice for all before the law and the right of the peoples of the world to live their lives in freedom and security.

5. The Charter of the United Nations was framed with a view to giving expression to these great purposes and so forming a fitting memorial to the men and women whose toil and sacrifices turned those ideas into articles of faith for the nations of today.

6. Time has in fact made the task of the United Nations more difficult than it seemed when the terms of the Charter were agreed at San Francisco twelve years ago. We are still far from the achievement of the ideals which I have mentioned, but we must not be discouraged. The peoples of the world expect the United Nations to persevere in its efforts.

7. Ten Commonwealth countries are represented in this Assembly, countries which form a free association of fully independent States and which have widely different histories, cultures and traditions. Common ideals and hopes, not formal bonds, unite the members of the

Commonwealth and promote that association between them which, in my belief, has contributed significantly to the cause of human freedom.

8. The countries of the Commonwealth regard their continuing association with one another and their joint service to their high ideals as still an essential contribution to world peace and justice. They add and will continue to add to the United Nations a tried element of strength and of accumulated experience.

9. The United Nations is an organization dedicated to peace, where representatives from all over the world meet to examine the problems of the time. In it men and women from all these countries—large or small, powerful or weak—can exercise an influence that might otherwise be denied to them. The United Nations also originates and inspires a wide range of social and economic activities for the benefit of the whole human race.

10. But the future of this Organization will be determined, not only by the degree to which its Members observe strictly the provisions of the Charter and co-operate in its practical activities, but also by the strength of its peoples' devotion to the pursuit of those great ideals to which I have referred.

11. When justice and respect for obligations are firmly established, the United Nations will the more confidently achieve the goal of a world at peace, law-abiding and prosperous, for which men and women have striven so long and which is the heart's desire of every nation here represented. I offer you my best wishes in your task and pray that you may be successful.

12. The PRESIDENT: I wish on behalf of the General Assembly to thank Your Majesty for the speech you have so graciously delivered. Your Majesty, as the Head of the Commonwealth, expresses the devotion of its far-flung and diverse peoples to the purposes of peace, advancement and justice. I venture to say that there is not one among us who does not rejoice in the presence here today of a queen, a wife and a mother who is a symbol in her lovely person of the noblest ideals of womanhood.

The meeting rose at 3.30 p.m.