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*Appointment of the Secretary-General of the
United Nations 951*

**President: Mr. Muhammad ZAFRULLA KHAN
(Pakistan).**

AGENDA ITEM 18

Appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations

1. The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has before it a letter dated 30 November 1962 [A/5322] from the President of the Security Council to the President of the General Assembly. It reads:

"I have the honour to inform you that the Security Council, at its 1026th meeting held in private on 30 November 1962, unanimously adopted the following resolution:

" 'The Security Council,

" 'Having considered the question of the appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in accordance with Article 97 of the Charter,

" 'Recommends to the General Assembly to appoint U Thant as Secretary-General of the United Nations for a term expiring on 3 November 1966.' "

2. In connexion with this memorandum of the Security Council, the Assembly has before it a draft resolution [A/L.406] submitted by Chile, Ghana, Ireland, Romania, the United Arab Republic and Venezuela.

3. Mr. SABRI (United Arab Republic): The General Assembly is gathered today to act on the unanimous recommendation of the Security Council [A/5322] that U Thant should be appointed as Secretary-General of the United Nations.

4. Indeed, U Thant was chosen by the Members of the United Nations when they all expressed well-earned support for him during the general debate at the opening of the seventeenth session. What we are doing now is formalizing the already-accepted fact that the General Assembly has entrusted a man who has the full confidence of all Members with the task of being at the head of one of the principal organs of the United Nations.

5. Mr. Thant's ability, wisdom, experience and moderation are only some of his varied qualities which assure us that he is capable of discharging the responsibilities of his high office with all the efficiency required. As to his impartiality and dedication to serving peace and international security, which are the main objectives of the United Nations, I cannot but remind the Members of this body of the way in

which Mr. Thant has dealt with the various issues which have confronted the United Nations during his term as Acting Secretary-General. The quiet diplomacy in which he believes, and which he used in bringing about an agreement on the West Irian problem acceptable to both parties, did not prevent him, at a time of acute international crisis, from taking the initiative in offering assistance and all the resources of his office to serve the peace and help to bring the situation in the Caribbean back to normal. His swift response to the appeal of the Members of this Organization, and his sense of duty, was demonstrated in the statement which he delivered in the Security Council and the continuous efforts he deployed in the negotiations which took place in his office to bring this unhappy situation to an honourable end.

6. We are all familiar with the varied experience of U Thant as a scholar, writer and diplomat. His long association with international problems and his belief in consultation and co-operation prove beyond any doubt the wisdom of the recommendation of the Security Council.

7. All those who know Mr. Thant are deeply impressed by his belief that the only way to solve international problems is through peaceful means. Those who listened to Mr. Thant's solemn declaration after his appointment as Acting Secretary-General will undoubtedly recall the following wise words:

"... I shall count on the support of all men and women of good will all over the world, whose overriding interest in the peace, security and progress of the world it will be my task to reflect and serve" [1046th meeting, para. 31].

Those are simple words, but they prove beyond any doubt Mr. Thant's deep conviction about the seriousness of his high office and his awareness of the responsibilities of the Secretary-General, as stipulated in the Charter of the United Nations.

8. It gives me particular satisfaction as representative of the United Arab Republic to come to this rostrum and introduce, on behalf of Chile, Ghana, Ireland, Romania, Venezuela and the United Arab Republic, the draft resolution [A/L.406] which reads as follows:

" 'The General Assembly,

" 'Acting in accordance with the recommendation of the Security Council of 30 November 1962,

" 'Appoints U Thant as Secretary-General of the United Nations for a term of office expiring on 3 November 1966."

9. I am confident that the Assembly will unanimously confirm the recommendation of the Security Council and by this unanimity will strengthen understanding and co-operation.

10. In conclusion, I would say that it will be heartening indeed to find the Assembly behind the Secretary-

General without a single dissenting vote. In our opinion, the full and unshakable support of all the Members of this Organization for Mr. Thant will no doubt bolster his position and pave the way for a forward-looking and constructive term of office.

11. On this happy occasion, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate the Government and people of Burma.

12. The PRESIDENT: I now invite the Assembly to take a decision on the draft resolution A/L.406, presented by Chile, Ghana, Ireland, Romania, the United Arab Republic and Venezuela. This draft resolution proposes the appointment of His Excellency U Thant as Secretary-General of the United Nations for a term of office expiring on 3 November 1966. In accordance with rule 142 of the rules of procedure, the vote on the draft resolution [A/L.406] will be by secret ballot.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Algard (Norway) and Mr. Mamadou Traoré (Mali) acted as tellers.

The result of the balloting was as follows:

In favour:	109
Against:	0
Abstentions:	0

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

13. The PRESIDENT: I have the honour to announce that His Excellency U Thant has been appointed unanimously Secretary-General of the United Nations by the General Assembly for a term of office expiring 3 November 1966. I request the Under-Secretary for General Assembly Affairs to escort His Excellency U Thant to his seat on the podium.

Mr. Narasimhan, Under-Secretary for General Assembly Affairs, conducted the Secretary-General to the platform.

14. The PRESIDENT: Your Excellency, I have the honour to inform you formally that the General Assembly has appointed you Secretary-General of the United Nations for a term of office expiring on 3 November 1966. Mr. Secretary-General, it is a great pleasure for me, a great joy, that I am in the position to be the first to express to you my warmest and most sincere congratulations for the renewed confidence that the General Assembly has placed in you by appointing you to the post of Secretary-General of our Organization. Having regard to the relationship that has subsisted for many years between you and me I could keep the Assembly for several minutes in expressing my great joy on this very happy occasion. However, there are many who wish to express, on behalf of themselves and their colleagues their equally great joy and satisfaction at your appointment. Therefore I shall not keep them waiting longer than a few minutes and will content myself with repeating, on this occasion, a part of what I said just over a year ago when you assumed the duties, your present duties, as Acting Secretary-General:

"We wish to give expression to our sense of great relief and satisfaction that this great Organization has once again a worthy chief at its head. This sense of relief and satisfaction is coloured with deep rejoicing that the choice has fallen on U Thant, a man so dear to our hearts

and fully deserving in every respect of our esteem and confidence.

"Asia has yielded up of its best for the service of the United Nations, but U Thant does not belong to Asia alone; he belongs to humanity. In agreeing to accept the very heavy responsibilities of this exalted office, U Thant has acted in conformity with his deep sense of duty and his high courage. We are confident that he will prove more than equal to those responsibilities. He will be true to his trust and to his oath of office.

"While felicitating U Thant on the assumption of this high office, we wish to assure him not only of our fullest co-operation, but also of our constant and sincere prayers that he may continue to be accorded the light of guidance and strength that he will need for the due discharge of the sacred trust that he has assumed.

"The Security Council and the General Assembly are to be congratulated on their unanimous choice of U Thant as chief of this great Organization." [1046th meeting, paras. 104 to 108].

15. Mr. Secretary-General, I now invite you to make a statement.

16. The SECRETARY-GENERAL: Exactly fifty-six weeks ago today I assumed what was to me an unfamiliar role, as Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations. Today the General Assembly has done me the further honour of appointing me to serve the normal term of five years as Secretary-General of the United Nations, beginning with my assumption of the office as Acting Secretary-General on 3 November 1961. I am grateful to you, Mr. President, for your very gracious words, to the President and Members of the Security Council for their unanimous recommendation, and to the General Assembly for my unanimous appointment as Secretary-General. I deeply appreciate and value this mark of your confidence in me, which I shall endeavour, to my utmost, to justify and deserve.

17. On this occasion, I would recall the words of my distinguished predecessor on his re-election to a second term. He said: "Nobody, I think, can accept the position of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, knowing what it means, except from a sense of duty." [690th meeting, para 65]. He had had over four years experience in that office when he made the statement. My experience has been shorter, but I believe that I do know what that office means, and I accept my extended mandate with humility and out of a sense of duty.

18. I also take this occasion to reaffirm my oath of office, and I solemnly swear to exercise in all loyalty, discretion and conscience the functions entrusted to me as Secretary-General of the United Nations, to discharge these functions and regulate my conduct with the interests of the United Nations only in view, and not to seek or accept instructions in regard to the performance of my duties from any Government or any other authority external to the Organization.

19. At the same time, I enter upon this fresh period of service to the international community with a due sense of responsibility. When I was questioned on this subject at a press conference on 17 September 1962, just before the present session of the General Assembly began, I stated that my decision to accept

the position of Secretary-General for a longer term would: "... be governed primarily by a few considerations, including the prospects of an early settlement of the Congo problem, the prospects of the stability of this world Organization as a potent force for peace, and the prospects of my playing a humble part in bringing about a more favourable atmosphere for the easing of tension, and, if I may say so, the prospects of my ability to bridge somewhat the gulf between the two giants".

20. If I now accept this extended term, it is because I do believe that I may be able to play a role, however humble, in the easing of tensions and in bridging the gulf between the major Powers. In this task, I shall count upon the assistance of my colleagues in the Secretariat, who have, as always, shown a truly admirable team spirit, marked by ungrudging effort, willing co-operation, unflagging devotion to duty and dedication to the high purposes of the Charter. Without their assistance I could not have achieved much during the last year, and I wish to take this opportunity to pay tribute to them. I shall call on them for advice and assistance, as I have done in the past year, individually, collectively, or otherwise, as the occasion may demand.

21. I referred a moment ago to the problem of the Congo, a problem which has been with us for over two years and to which I referred in my acceptance speech of last year [1046th meeting]. The problem remains unsolved in spite of the best efforts of all concerned. As a consequence, the financial problem of the Organization also remains unsolved. Both these problems must, however, be solved, and soon, if the usefulness of the Organization for the future is not to be seriously affected. And today I appeal anew to all Member Governments, who have come to value the usefulness of this Organization, to assist in solving these long-standing issues.

22. On the credit side, I may perhaps recall that the Organization was able to settle one source of tension in South and South East Asia, namely, the problem of West New Guinea (West Irian). The implementation of the tripartite agreement between the Governments of the Netherlands and Indonesia and the United Nations, which was approved earlier in the current session of the General Assembly, has worked smoothly, and I am sure that we will be able to carry this unique operation to a successful conclusion, with the co-operation and scrupulous observance of the terms of the agreement by the Governments concerned. Again, in the Cuban crisis which seemed so serious some five weeks ago, I believe we are now over the most dangerous phase, even though complete agreement on all outstanding aspects has not yet been registered.

23. I now look at the years ahead. I would hope that these years would be marked by an improvement in the international climate, and by better understanding of the difficult problems which the world faces today. These problems can be solved only by goodwill and mutual understanding, and by a spirit of give and take. When the future of mankind itself is at stake, no country or interest group can afford to take a rigid stand, or claim that its position is the only right one, and that others must take it or leave it. No difficult problem can be solved to the complete satisfaction of all sides. We live in an imperfect world, and have to accept imperfect solutions, which become more acceptable as we learn to live with them and as time passes by. In solving these complex

problems, I myself and the Secretariat, of which I am proud to be the Chief Administrative Officer, are at the service not only of all Member Governments but of the peoples of the United Nations.

24. Mr. VAKIL (Iran): The unanimous election of Mr. Thant by the General Assembly today is in a sense a triumph for the principle of international independence of the Secretariat of the United Nations.

25. Nowhere has our Organization made a more significant break from the practice of the League of Nations than in the authority and prerogatives it vested in the Secretary-General. Thus, the whole Chapter XV of the Charter, and in particular Articles 99 and 100, fully justify the assertion that a root concept of the United Nations is that the Secretary-General is an international statesman. The basic direction of this trend, which was established in the early years, has since continued and Mr. Thant has given further shape and substance to this concept.

26. Our appreciation of the high sense of duty, integrity, impartiality and unquestionable competence of Mr. Thant goes back to our intimate partnership with him in the African-Asian group. He always spoke words of wisdom and was a conciliatory and unifying factor among us. He then was called upon by the United Nations to employ his outstanding qualities on a world scale.

27. The first year of incumbency of our Secretary-General has been an eventful one for the whole world and for the United Nations. We watched the activities of Mr. Thant with sympathy and admiration, and we are happy to feel that our trust in him has been more than justified.

28. I thank him for what he has done so far for the cause of international peace and concord. Secure in the knowledge that he enjoys all the necessary attributes for the post and has acquired such a wealth of experience during his incumbency as Acting Secretary-General, I found it a most gratifying task to support his election for a full term.

29. I feel confident that in the years to come the contribution of Mr. Thant to the maintenance of international peace and security will meet our high expectations and the United Nations will as an instrument of peace be further enhanced and strengthened.

30. Our support of his election carries with it the pledge that we, in our way, shall do our best to facilitate the performance of his duties and to lighten the burden of his responsibilities.

31. I would like to thank the members of the Security Council, whose co-operation and whose unanimous recommendation have made it possible for this memorable occasion to come about.

32. And now to you, Mr. Secretary-General, on behalf of my Government and myself, I offer you my congratulations and wish you continuing success.

33. Sir James PLIMSOLL (Australia): I am happy, on behalf of the Governments of Australia and New Zealand, to offer our congratulations to U Thant on his election as Secretary-General of the United Nations and to assure him of the support and confidence of our Governments and our peoples. When his great predecessor died, it was fortunate for the United Nations and for the peoples of the world that

we found in his place a man of the integrity, courage, and ability of U Thant. Australia was very glad when his name came forward for appointment as Acting Secretary-General, and everything that has happened in the days since then has given us further ground for being pleased that he was available and acceptable to all of us.

34. It is a great honour for any man to be appointed Secretary-General of this Organization. It is an even greater honour for a man to be reappointed after he has served for a time. U Thant is being appointed now, not only because we believe in his potential performance in the future as Secretary-General, but because we know also his proved capacity over the past years. During that period he has had many decisions to make and many actions to take, some of them big, some of them small, some involving great Powers and some involving medium and smaller countries. Some of them have been decisions in times of great crisis for this Organization, and indeed for all humanity; others have been of a routine nature. And yet it is essential that the Secretary-General be capable of conducting the Organization as a functioning, day-to-day operation. He is the administrative head of the Organization as well as the man charged with great political responsibilities under the Charter. U Thant has done these things, and he has been able to inspire the loyalty of a group of devoted and capable men in the Secretariat.

35. I should like to say also that it gave me very great personal pleasure when, a year ago, U Thant was appointed Acting Secretary-General, and it accordingly gives me great personal pleasure now to see him appointed substantively Secretary-General. Australia, New Zealand and Burma are part of the region of South and South-East Asia and the Western Pacific, and we have therefore many contacts among our Governments and peoples. We know and understand and have sympathies with one another. And I, before U Thant became Acting Secretary-General, had many contacts with him in his capacity as Permanent Representative of Burma to the United Nations. I came to know him as a man whom we all respected, a man to whom one could talk frankly, a man to whom one could look for measured judgement and honest opinion, a man who, in the United Nations, was working as a representative to widen areas of agreement and to develop the United Nations as a constructive and positive force in the world, a force to which all mankind looked to save us from future destruction and to promote our common welfare.

36. These admirable qualities of the representative of Burma have been carried over into the performance of his duties as Acting Secretary-General. I know too, if I may introduce a personal note, the great burdens that fall upon U Thant as an individual by virtue of his accepting this office. It is a great strain on a man's endurance. His is cut off from some of the normal pleasures and relaxations of life. Though the Secretary-General naturally tries to delegate administration and decisions where this can be done, there is an enormous amount of work that no one can do except the man himself, as Secretary-General. Our Governments, when we bring certain problems to this Organization, expect that the Secretary-General himself, personally, will attend to them and make the decisions. Therefore, they are a burden of responsibility and of administration and decision that he cannot share.

37. I know that in accepting this office now, to our great pleasure, U Thant is placing us under an obligation, and we are grateful that he has allowed his name to come forward after such an arduous period as he has already served. I am glad that we shall no longer have to address him as Acting Secretary-General and that henceforth we shall call him formally, as we have so often done in our normal converse, Secretary-General. I assure him on behalf of the Governments and peoples of Australia and New Zealand of our continued support and full confidence.

Mr. Rifa'i (Jordan), Vice-President, took the Chair.

38. Mr. STEVENSON (United States of America): On this rostrum a little more than a year ago [1046th meeting] I said that we could rejoice that there was available for our service a diplomat of such character, such ability and experience that he could command the unanimous support and confidence of this Organization. I am happy to be able to repeat those words here again today, a year later.

39. Those of us who attended the funeral of Dag Hammarskjöld in the ancient cathedral of Uppsala will never forget him, or the dignity and the strength he gave to his office. As Sir James Plimsoll has just said, we are blessed indeed that his successor carried on this proud tradition. His Excellency U Thant has been in office now for more than a year, and we have rich evidence of the skill, the patience, the energy and the intelligence with which he has met his formidable and often trying responsibilities.

40. As an international civil servant, he has been devoted to the common good of all people. That so many nations have faith in him is testimony to his strength of mind, his clarity of purpose and, not least, his firm belief in the Charter and the independence and integrity of the office which he holds.

41. A man does not grow overnight. U Thant, as Secretary-General, reflects, I believe, the principles and the aspirations of a life's work devoted to the cause of peace and understanding among all peoples. This General Assembly, by its action now, well serves itself and the world. It demonstrates again the Assembly's determination to be a true parliament of man, faithful only to the law of the Charter and to its great goal of ridding this planet of the scourge of war. The full record of this seventeenth session of the General Assembly still remains to be written, but nothing we do in the remaining weeks will surpass in importance what we have done this minute. I say this with full awareness of the critical issues that confront us; for, by reaffirming the integrity of the office of Secretary-General, we have reaffirmed our belief in the United Nations as a vital force in the affairs of men.

42. This is not the time to talk of the issues that divided some of us in our concept of the office of Secretary-General. Rather it is the time to emphasize that this Organization must grow, that it must flourish, and that it can do so only if it retains its strength and its influence and, most of all, the confidence of the peoples and the Governments of the world. And that is why the United States has opposed any action that would have compromised the exclusively international responsibility of the Secretary-General and the Secretariat. All nations, I believe, large and small, can now take heart in the knowledge that we have a Secretary-General armed with his full powers under the Charter. These are firm foundations, and

today we have again chosen not to undermine them, but to build higher upon them, secure in the knowledge that they will hold fast.

43. My delegation is accordingly profoundly gratified at the Security Council's unanimous recommendation, at the unanimous choice of the Assembly. If, in this case, the Council has chosen to recommend the date until which the Secretary-General will serve, that, in my delegation's view, does not impair the General Assembly's prerogative to set his term of office and other terms of appointment.

44. As I contemplate the problems confronting U Thant, I wonder: if we should not congratulate rather ourselves than him. But the wisdom and the serenity that are part of the ancient heritage of his country will, I am sure, be a source of strength and of stability in meeting his heavy responsibility in the coming years.

45. One of my country's great Presidents, Abraham Lincoln, once said: "Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith let us to the end dare to do our duty as we understand it." U Thant has shown that he has that faith, and one cannot ask for more of any man. We congratulate him. We wish him well.

46. Mr. NONG KIMNY (Cambodia) (translated from French): It is with great and sincere pleasure that the Cambodian delegation welcomes the appointment of U Thant to the office of Secretary-General for the period expiring on 3 November 1966. May I offer him our warmest congratulations.

47. I am sure that I am expressing the true feelings of my Government and of all the people of Cambodia when I say that they will fully share our pleasure when the news reaches Phnom-Penh, Cambodia's choice fell on U Thant long ago, for we consider him eminently qualified to guide the future of our great Organization. In the words of His Royal Highness, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Head of the State of Cambodia:

"There can be no doubt that U Thant has given signal proof of his independence and neutrality and his qualities as a diplomat and mediator. He is also the representative of the uncommitted countries and a common friend who enjoys the trust and esteem of both the socialist world and the Western world. It would be most regrettable, in our opinion, if the United Nations failed to take advantage of this unique, indeed unhopèd-for, combination of circumstances and the splendid opportunity for reconciliation that it offers."

48. In U Thant, the world has one of the most distinguished representatives of the age-old civilization of Asia, a civilization whose wisdom, refinement and spiritual values have been an inspiration throughout history.

49. U Thant is also deeply imbued with the principles of the great religion of Buddhism, which lies at the very centre of our way of life and of thought and whose essence can be summed up in the one word "Dhamma", which is truth.

50. For a Buddhist, the purpose of life is the constant search for truth. For more than twenty-five centuries, since Buddha first left us his precious teachings, it is to that end, to that search for truth, that we Buddhists have bent our efforts and energies. What is the truth that dominates the political world of today? The answer comes without hesitation: the

desire of all countries and all the peoples of the earth for peace. To have peace and avoid war is the ardent desire of the whole world.

51. No one is better qualified than U Thant to help the world along the path of peace. Since he took up his duties exactly a year ago, our Secretary-General has given us decisive proof of his fitness for this great task. We are firmly convinced that, for the rest of his term of office, he will continue to justify the full trust we place in him and that his work for peace will fulfil all our hopes. We, for our part, give him a solemn pledge that we shall do all in our power to help him in his efforts to hasten the time when we shall know a world delivered forever from the spectre of war, a world which one day will at last be able to live in universal peace and brotherhood.

52. Mr. ZORIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (translated from Russian): Allow me, on behalf of the delegation of the Soviet Union, to congratulate Ambassador U Thant on his appointment to the high post of Secretary-General of the United Nations.

53. The unanimous election of U Thant provides ground for hoping that he will be given equally wide support in his discharge of the responsible and complex duties of chief administrative officer of the United Nations; and in his efforts to maintain world peace and security and to improve the working of the United Nations.

54. The Soviet Union's position regarding the structure of the organs of the United Nations is well known. The Soviet Government held, and still holds, that the most fruitful and correct decision, according with the vital interests of the United Nations, would be to place the direction of the United Nations Secretariat in the hands of a triumvirate consisting of representatives from each of the three existing groups of States—the socialist States, the Western Powers and their allies, and the neutralist States. The Soviet Union will strive to implement this principle in the United Nations, as answering the need to bring the structure of this Organization into line with the real situation which has developed in the world.

55. At the same time, however, the Soviet Government considered that the question of the direction of the United Nations Secretariat could be settled for the present on the basis of the actual state of affairs and in the light of the past activities and personal qualities of the person whom it was proposed to place in charge of the Secretariat. U Thant's abilities, his political experience and his devotion to the cause of maintaining peace among the nations will, we are sure, enable this distinguished Burmese statesman successfully to discharge the great responsibilities imposed on him, with due regard for the lawful interests of the three main groups of States, without whose co-operation the entire Organization's efforts to preserve and strengthen general peace and security in the world would be doomed to failure.

56. We note that U Thant, who has displayed a great sense of responsibility during the past year in his work as Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations, showed himself in a most favourable light at the time of the dangerous crisis in the Caribbean and his activities are facilitating the peaceful surmounting of this crisis.

57. The Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, Nikita Sergeevich Khrushchev, has noted U Thant's noble efforts in this direction.

58. Allow me to wish U Thant the greatest success in his responsible task of Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Soviet delegation hopes that the newly-chosen Secretary-General will endeavour to improve the working of all sections of the United Nations Secretariat, and that he will actively enlist the services of his principal advisers in solving the problems facing the Secretariat, in a spirit of co-operation and mutual understanding and in complete accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Charter.

59. Mr. Taieb SLIM (Tunisia) (translated from French): We welcomed the appointment of U Thant to the highest post in the United Nations with great pleasure and satisfaction. We should like to express our personal appreciation of the honour that has just been done to a highly esteemed member of the great family of permanent representatives who has always impressed us by his great humanity, his extreme kindness and his nobility of heart and mind. It is these qualities, coupled with a quick intelligence, great intellectual courage and long experience of international life which singled him out for the difficult task of succeeding the late Dag Hammarskjöld at a particularly dangerous juncture in the life of the Organization. Events have proved that no better choice could have been made. By his persevering, calm work, his flexible and modest approach, his basic loyalty and powers of persuasion, U Thant has not only safeguarded the prestige and influence of the United Nations but created a new style of international diplomacy.

60. We in the Afro-Asian group of countries have followed his work step by step and given it our unreserved support. In so doing we were well aware that we were particularly committed by that action and that the success of his efforts would inevitably redound, as a sign of maturity and competence, to the credit of this group of peoples and nations which has been debarred from international responsibilities for so long.

61. We think, therefore, that today we can express the whole-hearted satisfaction of our peoples at the appointment of U Thant. We regard his appointment, first and foremost, as a recognition of his great qualities as a diplomat and administrator. We also see in it a mark of confidence and an act of faith on the part of this Organization, which is asking U Thant to use his authority now that it has been confirmed and strengthened, to continue his work for the achievement of peace and co-operation in a world which is at one with itself, transcending all geographical and ideological frontiers.

62. We, the representatives of the peoples of Africa and Asia, cannot forget that we have always found U Thant at our side, a champion of the cause of freedom and a sworn enemy of colonialism and all forms of domination. He played an important role in the Committee for Algeria. He has had a hand in all action in favour of oppressed peoples. We have no doubt that he will pursue his efforts without pause until colonialism and all its effects have been finally and completely liquidated. We shall always stand shoulder to shoulder with him in that task. Whenever the call comes to defend peace, we shall be at his side. Our peoples have neither the wish nor the means to make war, that anachronistic survival of the barbaric ages.

63. In the recent crisis which almost catapulted the world into the abyss of the nuclear war, U Thant played a decisive part as the authorized spokesman of the majority of the fundamentally peace-loving peoples in the United Nations. The support he needed was spontaneously offered to him and will not be lacking in the future. This I pledge to him on behalf of the African States. On behalf of this group of States and on behalf of Tunisia, I offer him our most sincere wishes for success in his new and noble mission.

64. Mr. TREMBLAY (Canada) (translated from French): The election of U Thant to the office of Secretary-General of the United Nations gives the Canadian Government great pleasure. After the death of Dag Hammarskjöld last year, the United Nations was faced with the immediate problem of finding a successor, at a time when the number of difficult questions made it essential to have a firm hand at the helm of the Secretariat. At that time a number of rather radical proposals were made concerning the organization of the Secretary-General's office. This Gordian knot was fortunately cut by the election of U Thant to the post of Acting Secretary-General. I should like to recall that at the time the Canadian Government expressed the greatest satisfaction at the Assembly's choice.

65. U Thant has now been Acting Secretary-General for almost thirteen months. The manner in which he has performed his duties has fully justified the confidence that our Governments placed in him. His election now, even more than his election last year to the office of Acting Secretary-General, is a tribute not only to his personal qualities but to the trust he has inspired in the United Nations. Although appointed for a short period only, and in a temporary capacity, U Thant has given ample proof of his ability to give the United Nations a firm and judicious impetus. During that period he succeeded in negotiating an honourable compromise in the matter of West New Guinea and he encouraged the negotiations which notably reduced the risk of a nuclear war over Cuba. We all know how often his advice and suggestions have been instrumental in the formulation of solutions acceptable to all parties.

66. Amongst the qualities shown by U Thant, particularly notable are his integrity, humility, courage, frankness and prudence. Moreover, we need only cast our minds back to the difficult period which the United Nations went through during the sixteenth session of the General Assembly to appreciate how much we owe U Thant for the efforts he made to give the Organization its sense of purpose and responsibility once again. His success in reconciling the various trends which are inevitable in an organization like ours has revealed his remarkable personality and enabled us to appreciate at its true worth his election to the office of Secretary-General.

67. We are very glad that U Thant should be the first representative of a non-European country to assume this high office. This innovation is proof that the United Nations is gradually becoming an international organization which is mindful of the interests of all peoples and all geographic areas. We are convinced that, during his term of office and under his guidance, the United Nations will become an essential instrument for the maintenance of peaceful relations between States.

68. Mr. ZEA (Colombia) (translated from Spanish): It is my honour and great privilege to represent at this rostrum both the delegations of the Latin American countries, and the distinguished representatives of our new sister countries of the western hemisphere, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, in presenting our warmest and most heartfelt congratulations to U Thant and to this Assembly on his election as Secretary-General of the United Nations.

69. This is one of the happiest occasions in the life of our Organization. Last year, at the time of the tragic death of Mr. Hammarskjöld, the United Nations was undergoing one of the most serious crises in its whole history, its very existence being in danger.

70. The desire of some Member States to make fundamental changes in the structure of the Secretariat delayed the satisfactory solution of this problem for a time. In the end a solution was found, however, and a truly happy solution, through the election of U Thant as Acting Secretary-General. New hope was then felt for the durability of the United Nations. These hopes have now been confirmed by his election as permanent Secretary-General, for in carrying out his difficult tasks U Thant has demonstrated outstanding qualities of intelligence, shrewd understanding of international affairs, wisdom, eloquence and diplomatic skill.

71. A short time ago the world was startled by a new serious international crisis and thought itself to be on the very brink of nuclear war. The United Nations then demonstrated how effective it could be in its fundamental task of preserving peace and did so with determination. U Thant played a decisive part in this admirable United Nations action.

72. The United Nations has indeed been fortunate in its choice of Secretaries-General. This office is one of the most difficult which a man can hold in our day and age. Any flaw, the slightest lack of impartiality, the smallest error, can imperil the peace of the world and the very existence of the Organization. Acts of omission can have the same effect, for the Secretary-General must play an active part, conscious at every moment of his responsibilities, so that he is not taken unawares by difficult and well-nigh irreparable situations.

73. The United Nations has, however, been lucky in finding outstanding men who have placed themselves above the momentary passions of Governments and peoples; we have found another such man in U Thant, whom we have now elected Secretary-General of the United Nations.

74. For the moment, a favourable breeze seems to be blowing round mankind and on behalf of the delegations which I represent I should like to express my heartfelt wish that this favourable breeze may bring the agreements we must have if we are to ward off the danger of war and safeguard the peace and tranquillity of all the peoples of the globe.

75. Mr. MALALASEKERA (Ceylon): It was my great honour and privilege last year [1046th meeting] to come to this rostrum and place before the General Assembly the nomination of His Excellency U Thant for the post of Acting Secretary-General. At that time I mentioned some of the outstanding qualities which he possessed and which most eminently fitted him for that exalted office.

76. In the course of the brief interval between the two Assembly sessions, U Thant has risen with

towering stature to the challenges which confronted him on the sudden and ominous death of his predecessor. How he faced these challenges is now one of the most shining pages in the history of this world Organization. U Thant's record of achievement is written partly in his several bold and courageous speeches, made here and abroad, in defence of the role of small nations and of the United Nations itself, when both became the target of a misguided campaign of insidious criticism. It is also recorded in his courageous blows at injustice in the field of disarmament and colonialism. That these blows were directed mostly at the big Powers, the very Powers whose support he needed for the extension of his term, adds one more chapter to the fascinating chapters in the history of men who attained success without compromise of principle or conviction. And always U Thant made his criticisms only because they were called for in his responsibilities to the Charter.

77. Because U Thant comes from a country which made common cause with the newly-risen continents and new-born nations, he launched with genuine feeling and vision the United Nations Development Decade and gave it a powerful thrust which now makes it one of the most promising orbits in the growth of the world economy.

78. Presiding over an organization when it has been in a state of involved transition, U Thant has already won confidence as a superb administrator. This alone would have justified his re-election. But to this he has added the dimension of a peace maker. In breaking the deadlock on outer space; in untying the Gordian knot in West Irian; in his Congo diplomacy, which combines patience with firmness; and, indeed, in his intervention at the height of the Cuban crisis, holding the world balance at the very brink of catastrophe, he has already achieved so much that he could well retire at this stage, content with his accomplishments in the annals of history, and confidently await the notice of the committee for the Nobel Peace Prize.

79. But we will not, we cannot afford to, let him rest. For we need him. And, with a full awareness of the difficulties which lie ahead, U Thant has consented to stay at his post, like the captain of a mighty ship doomed more to storms than to calm seas.

80. My delegation hopes that we the nations of the world, big and small, will not accept him as a miracle man who must resolve all our difficulties and all our contradictions. Instead, let us resolve to be his partners, for his objectives and ours are one and the same.

81. When speaking of his future, U Thant has on several occasions stated, as he did today, that he is willing to do his all if the big Powers will seek to moderate their power struggles, to devote their energies to the building of the United Nations, if they will expedite his solution of the Congo problem, if they will seek a way out of the United Nations financial problems in genuine co-operation instead of in the spirit of the cold war, if they will seek to unite the United Nations and not to make it one more battleground for power control. No big Power can control the United Nations. No one Power ever will. For there are now enough small nations to make that impossible. U Thant has done much to unite the

nations. He has won their individual and collective confidence.

82. U Thant reassumes the office of Secretary-General of the United Nations today on the basis of proven worth and demonstrated merit. This, therefore, is a day of good augury for all of us. My delegation and my Government and the people of Ceylon will deem today a day of rejoicing—and, we are sure, so will millions of people all over the world.

83. Mr. CHAKRAVARTY (India): On behalf of the delegations of Japan, the Federation of Malaya, Thailand and India, I have very great pleasure in availing myself of this opportunity to express our warmest congratulations to U Thant, who has just been unanimously elected Secretary-General, for a full term, of this, the greatest of international organizations.

84. While the election undoubtedly means a great personal triumph for U Thant and is a tribute to his country, the Organization must consider itself lucky to have a man of his qualities and varied experience as its Secretary-General.

85. We should like to congratulate the members of the Security Council for the wisdom they have shown in solving this difficult problem. It is a matter of gratification to us that the renewed confidence shown by them in U Thant is unanimously shared by the Members of the United Nations. His election to the office of Secretary-General ensures that the destiny of the United Nations will be in safe hands. We particularly welcome his election since he comes from a neighbouring country of ours, a country with which we have always had the closest ties.

86. The Secretary-General of the United Nations has to meet the challenge of divers situations in ways which, while retaining the confidence of Member States, at the same time serve the ideals and aspirations enshrined in the United Nations Charter. As we have seen, U Thant has performed this difficult and unenviable task with outstanding success during his tenure as Acting Secretary-General. He has emerged with increased stature and prestige. We have watched with admiration his painstaking efforts to achieve a solution of the West Irian problem, his crucial role in the easing of the recent crisis in the Caribbean and his continuing efforts to maintain the integrity of the Congo. His influence in the capitals of the world has grown, and he is much respected for his diplomacy and sagacity.

87. We know that he is deeply conscious of the problems which carry the seeds of future crises, particularly of the increasing gap between the levels of well-being of the developing and the developed nations. U Thant's background of association with the educational problems of a less-developed economy has endowed him with a penetrating insight into the basic problems that beset the majority of the population of this world of ours. His close knowledge of political affairs, gained over a long period during which he acted as adviser to U Nu, Prime Minister of his country, has undoubtedly proved to be a major asset to him during his stewardship of the Organization on an acting basis. The bold plan of the Development Decade, initiated during his tenure, is a tribute to his breadth of vision and to his understanding of the basic reasons that lie at the root of our major problems. In his determination that this Organization should find a

solution to these and other problems, he can count upon the support and good wishes of all our delegations.

88. Mr. AMMOUN (Lebanon) (translated from French): It is an honour for my delegation to have been asked to speak on this occasion on behalf of the Arab delegations of Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Syria. When some of these delegations, in their statements during the general debate, spoke in favour of renewing the term of office of U Thant, the Acting Secretary-General, they were convinced, as are we all, that the man who has shown such clear-sightedness, patience and undeniable success in dealing with the serious problems with which the United Nations is confronted is the one best qualified, at this critical moment in international life, to continue the mission which he has so auspiciously begun. The past is the guarantee of the future.

89. U Thant is unquestionably a distinguished statesman but, over and above that, he has shown himself to be, as it were, an eminent citizen of the world, capable of grasping the different trends of nations and their leaders and of using them to the best advantage of the international community as a whole. This ability, which characterizes the Secretary-General, implies qualities which we all gladly recognize in him, namely, a knowledge and experience of international affairs and a penetrating perception of things—which above national and regional considerations—coupled with an absolute devotion to the principles and objectives—freedom and equality for all peoples and justice and peace—of the international Organization of which he is a mainstay.

90. This spirit of universality, with which both he and the United Nations are imbued, destines him to be the link which unites and unifies the groups—his own and those of all other regions and continents—which have come into being in the United Nations, so that these groups may not be divisions but components of a whole, duly co-operating, each in its own sphere and all in one harmonious whole, in the collective work and the supreme ideal of the United Nations.

91. Accordingly the congratulations which I wish to express on behalf of the delegations I have mentioned and on behalf of the Lebanese delegation are directed both to the distinguished Secretary-General and to all the delegations present which have unanimously elected him.

92. Mr. MALITZA (Romania) (translated from French): On behalf of the delegations of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Hungarian People's Republic, the Mongolian People's Republic, the Polish People's Republic, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, which have entrusted this honourable task to me, and on behalf of my country's delegation, I wish to extend the most sincere congratulations to U Thant on his unanimous election to the office of Secretary-General of the United Nations.

93. It is our conviction that in discharging his duties, which are fraught with grave responsibilities, U Thant will not hesitate to fulfil completely, loyally and devotedly the obligations to which he referred in the statement he has just made. This conviction arises from the fact that in the period during which U Thant has discharged the office of Acting Secretary-General, he has given proof of his vast culture, eminent diplomatic abilities, competence, tact and wisdom.

All these qualities became particularly apparent during the critical times for the United Nations and even for world peace through which we have recently been passing.

94. U Thant is one of the outstanding personalities of the new countries of Asia and Africa which have made a remarkable contribution to the maintenance and strengthening of peace. In entrusting the high office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to a representative of the Afro-Asian peoples for the first time in history, the General Assembly has paid those peoples, and the Burmese people in particular, a very significant tribute.

95. The courageous and judicious actions of U Thant have reflected the noble culture and age-old wisdom of his great people. His country pursues a policy of neutrality and co-operation with all nations, a policy which is appreciated in several parts of the world. And we are the better able to appreciate that policy in that the recent visit to Burma of the Romanian governmental delegation, headed by the Chairman of the Council of State, has once again drawn attention to the necessity and possibility of broadening co-operation among all peoples.

96. All this strengthens our conviction that the Secretary-General is sincerely concerned with the maintenance of international peace and security and is deeply attached and devoted to the United Nations and its fundamental principles. This is why we think that the valuable experience and personal qualities of this great statesman and diplomat, who is appreciated also for his unfailing modesty, will continue to be placed at the service of the United Nations and of peace and co-operation among States.

97. At the same time, we express the hope that the election of U Thant to the office of Secretary-General of the United Nations will enable the conditions which have recently arisen to be improved so as to ensure the normal functioning of the United Nations and its various organs taking into account in equal measure the interests of all groups of States in the international arena.

98. In voting in favour of the appointment of U Thant to the office of Secretary-General, we wish to reaffirm our conviction that the activities of the United Nations will not be completely normalized on a solid and healthy basis until the entire structure of the Organization faithfully reflects the major transformations which have occurred in the world during the seventeen years of the United Nations' existence, and until that structure is based upon the principle of equal representation of the three groups of States in the organs of the United Nations. It is becoming increasingly evident that the realities of contemporary international life require such a reorganization and will sooner or later make it imperative. The direct and immediate result of such a measure would be to bring about a radical improvement in the activities of the United Nations as a whole, a considerable enhancement of the prestige of this international forum and an intensification of co-operation among States. The United Nations would thus be stronger and better able to perform its principal task, the defence of international peace and security. In order to increase its strength and its influence, however, the United Nations must become a truly universal organization to which all States may belong without any discrimination.

99. I should like to express our satisfaction at the unanimous adoption of draft resolution A/L.406, of

which Romania is a sponsor, appointing U Thant Secretary-General of the United Nations for a term of office expiring on 3 November 1966. We like to think that the consensus of opinion in the General Assembly means that the Secretary-General will undertake his lofty task in accordance with the provisions of the Charter and with a view to the full application of its principles, in favourable circumstances.

100. Mr. PAZHWAQ (Afghanistan): The President of the General Assembly has already given expression to the esteem and the confidence which all of us, as Members of the United Nations, have for and in U Thant. Other speakers also have paid tribute to him and have congratulated him on his appointment to the high office of Secretary-General of the United Nations. I merely wish to associate my Government, my delegation and myself most sincerely with these expressions of congratulation and most warmly with the tributes that have been paid to him.

101. The highest tribute, however, remains the one expressed in one word which we were entitled as Members of the United Nations to use, and which we know was "yes" by all, in the voting for the resolution recommending the appointment of U Thant as Secretary-General of the United Nations.

102. This occasion will live in the history of the United Nations as an occasion of great understanding between its Members and, in the mind of U Thant, in the name of a great responsibility toward this Organization, and, consequently, in our hearts as an occasion full of confidence, esteem and happiness. We, on our own part, are fully aware of our own responsibility in putting this heavy burden on the shoulders of the Secretary-General, and that is why we find it necessary to pledge ourselves to the co-operation that he might expect from us in the fulfillment of his task.

103. This occasion particularly marks two great achievements, tribute for both of which goes to the Secretary-General. First, he proved himself capable of being worthy and acceptable for appointment as the greatest servant of the peoples of the United Nations at a time when such a servant was needed very badly and in circumstances in which it was not easy to find one. Secondly, he proved his capability and his courage to accept a great responsibility with a great deal of sacrifice. For both achievements, we congratulate him most heartily and wish him success, because we consider his success to be the success of the United Nations.

104. Mr. SCHURMANN (Netherlands): All of us who have taken part in the proceedings of the United Nations for a number of years know that there are sometimes occasions on which the congratulations on certain appointments have a purely formal character. It is, therefore, refreshing, satisfying and most welcome to be able to say on the occasion of an election words which come straight from the heart.

105. We—and when I say "we" I mean the delegations of Belgium, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Turkey and the United Kingdom, who have honoured me with the mandate to speak on their behalf—have known U Thant for quite a number of years. We knew him first as a colleague in whom we have learned to appreciate the wisdom, the equilibrium, the balance, the sanity and the moderation he showed in either defending or attacking the various causes that came in for con-

trovery, and I should like to add that we admired those qualities in him, whether he was on our side, which was perhaps not too often, or on the side of our opponents.

106. As Acting Secretary-General, a task he assumed in the most arduous and most demanding circumstances he has shown to an even greater extent those same virtues of impartiality, of wide knowledge and understanding and of imperturbability. In our opinion, he has truly served and gloriously justified his period of stewardship in the great office to which he has now been finally and fully selected, an office which it would be no exaggeration to call one of the most difficult and responsible in the world. What we expect from the Secretary-General of the United Nations is, above all, that he should show himself to be a man we can count on to uphold not only in words but in deeds, the Charter of the United Nations and the principles on which that document was built: U Thant has proved himself to be such a man.

107. Knowing our Secretary-General, I know that he does not care for extravagant praise, so I should like to end this brief intervention by saying quite simply that the delegations on behalf of which I am speaking are very happy about his election; that they wish him all the possible success in his office and that they have full and complete confidence in him. From our side we pledge that we shall do everything we can to assist him in his almost superhuman task. The rest we must leave to his karma or, as we in the West would say, to Providence.

108. Mr. PAVICEVIC (Yugoslavia) (translated from French): On behalf of the Yugoslav Government and on my own behalf, I should like to extend the most sincere congratulations to U Thant on his election to the office of Secretary-General of the United Nations.

109. The fact that he was unanimously elected has given us deep satisfaction. This unanimity is a just tribute to U Thant's personal and political qualities. By his devoted efforts in the cause of the United Nations during the past year, and particularly by his prompt and courageous action during one of the greatest crises in recent political history, he has earned the respect and gratitude of the whole world and of the United Nations in particular.

110. On this occasion, I should like to recall that, in his vigorous appeal to the Heads of State of the two great Powers and his action during the Cuban crisis, U Thant has faithfully interpreted the feelings of all mankind.

111. For all these reasons, we hail U Thant as a resolute defender of the principles of the United Nations and an indefatigable worker for the preservation of peace and the strengthening of international co-operation. We also hail him as an eminent representative of Burma, a friendly country to whose unaligned and peaceful policy this election has paid a further tribute.

112. The Government of Yugoslavia is convinced that U Thant will continue to be inspired by the interests of peace and international co-operation and the noble purposes of the United Nations Charter in the performance of his responsible task and that his future activities will do even more to strengthen the United Nations, which during the recent crisis gave proof once again of its vitality and its determination to safeguard world peace.

113. Mrs. ROSSEL (Sweden): On behalf of the delegations of Austria, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, I wish to express our great satisfaction that the Security Council, by its unanimous decision earlier today, has enabled the General Assembly to appoint our Acting Secretary-General to serve as Secretary-General of the United Nations for a term expiring on 3 November 1966.

114. We have, indeed, reason to be grateful to you, Mr. Secretary-General, for having accepted to continue to hold this important office. We realize that your experience must have made it clear to yourself, Sir, that the great responsibility and the heavy burden of work inherent in the office inevitably leads to great personal sacrifices. During the year you have served the United Nations as its chief executive officer you have devoted all your efforts to the numerous and often complicated and delicate tasks facing you. We have all followed, with admiration and respect, your work which has been marked by integrity, wisdom and efficiency. By carefully taking into account various interests and opinions, you have increased the confidence we have in your ability to contribute to solutions of international problems and disputes in accordance with the aims and principles of the United Nations Charter. You have thereby continued to consolidate the essential role of the United Nations as a vital instrument for peace and international co-operation in all fields.

115. We congratulate ourselves and the United Nations that you have now been appointed and we extend to you our warmest wishes for a successful term of office.

116. Mr. KOIRALA (Nepal): We believed, at the time of his appointment as Acting Secretary-General to fill the vacancy caused by the tragic death of Dag Hammarskjöld last year, that His Excellency U Thant of Burma would perform the new task assigned to him with dignity, efficiency and impartiality. Now that we have seen him function in that capacity for over a year, we are glad to note that our confidence has been more than justified. Not only has he proved himself a highly capable administrator, but he has also won the hearts of all who came in contact with him by his quiet demeanour and his charming manner. He has gained the confidence of the world community by his devotion to duty and his dedication to the cause of world peace and security, his unflinching loyalty to the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and his general conduct, befitting the highest international public servant. We commend him for the work he has done in the easing of tensions and the preservation of international peace, especially for the role he has so nobly played in the solution of the West Irian problem, the steps he has taken, or intends to take, towards the solution of the Congo problem and his part in the negotiations in the Cuban problem.

117. I therefore feel it a proud privilege to convey to him the felicitations and congratulations of my Sovereign, my people and my Government, on his appointment as the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the term expiring on 3 November 1966.

118. As a representative of one of the non-aligned Asian States, my delegation naturally takes pride in the unanimous appointment of His Excellency U Thant, a fellow Asian from a non-aligned sister State, as the Chief Administrative Officer of this Organization. His unanimous appointment, we feel, does as much honour to U Thant and his great country as to all the African-Asian nations and indeed, as the President so correctly observed from the Chair, to the noble

aspirations of the whole world, to which U Thant gave such sincere expression in his own statement.

119. The delegation of Nepal is confident that his continuation as the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the next four years will bring greater dignity and honour, not only to his own high office, but to this Organization as a whole, an Organization to which small non-military nations, like my own, look with aspiration as the greatest hope of mankind. U Thant has set for himself a number of noble tasks. Our best hopes and wishes are with him.

120. The delegation of Nepal, as always, pledges its whole-hearted support to U Thant in the tasks that he has set for himself in the cause of international peace and security.

121. Mr. COMAY (Israel): A year ago my delegation warmly welcomed the appointment of U Thant as Acting Secretary-General, and we did so for many reasons. We shared the general relief that he had stepped into the breach at a moment of confusion and gloom in the history of our Organization, following on Mr. Hammarskjöld's tragic and untimely death.

122. As a small country in Western Asia near its junction with Africa and Europe, we were happy that a son of Asia had been chosen, representing the moral wisdom and lofty ethical principles given to the world by the ancient cultures of that continent.

123. On a more practical level, the United Nations and its Secretary-General have certain direct responsibilities in our sensitive area, and it is important for us that a man of complete integrity, courage, sound judgement and calm demeanour like our present Secretary-General should be at the helm on the thirty-eighth floor.

124. The experience of the last year, with its grave crises, have abundantly justified our trust in his capacity and character. I would like to express to him the great pleasure with which my Government and countrymen will receive his extended appointment, and our desire to extend to him our co-operation and support in the trials that may lie ahead of us.

125. Mr. PALAR (Indonesia): It is a proud moment for Burma, its Government and its people, to see one of its illustrious sons appointed by the General Assembly to the highest office in international service. We in Indonesia, a country that is one of the closest to Burma, are equally proud of this honour and great confidence bestowed on our friend from Burma. We see it as a recognition not only of his great abilities as a diplomat, of which he has given ample proof during his term as Acting Secretary-General, but also and foremost as a recognition of his wisdom, courage and other high qualities of his character.

126. We realize that it is not easy to be the successor of a great man like Dag Hammarskjöld. We remember the feelings of concern about whether we would be able to appoint a man who had the confidence of the great Powers and the abilities to do the job. We know now that these misgivings were unjustified. We know also that while we have lost a Secretary-General like Dag Hammarskjöld, we have now appointed an equally excellent Secretary-General.

127. It is, therefore, a great honour and pleasure—and I am very happy that I have been given the opportunity to speak for my Government and people—to extend our warmest congratulations to U Thant, to his country, to his Government and to his people.

128. Mr. BUDO (Albania) (translated from French): I should like to express the sincere satisfaction of the delegation of the People's Republic of Albania at the unanimous appointment by the General Assembly of H. E. U Thant to the high office of Secretary-General of the United Nations for a term expiring on 3 November 1966.

129. We are acquainted with the great ability, competence, wisdom and devotion to the cause of peace of U Thant, an outstanding personality from the peaceful country of Burma. We are convinced that U Thant will be equal to the important tasks and delicate responsibilities which fall to him, by virtue of the very principles of the Charter, in the present international situation.

130. On behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of Albania, I should like to extend to U Thant our sincerest congratulations and our best wishes for success in the performance of his exalted duties, in conformity with the interests of strengthening peace and international co-operation.

131. Mr. BORJA (Philippines): On behalf of my Government and the Philippine delegation, I wish to add my warm congratulations to those already voiced by other delegations to the distinguished and serene diplomat who has just been elected Secretary-General of the United Nations. Permit me also to congratulate the Security Council and this Assembly for appointing him Secretary-General.

132. In his brief career as Acting Secretary-General, His Excellency U Thant has more than amply demonstrated great skill, serene courage, vision—the very qualities, in short, necessary for guiding a troubled and difficult world. My delegation fully shares the confidence which so many have already expressed in the wide capacity and proved fidelity to duty that U Thant has so markedly demonstrated in situations of extreme seriousness, situations which posed a threat not only to peace but to man's very survival. In fact, in his short incumbency he seems to have confirmed the wisdom of the axiom that one should not make enemies in places where one cannot make friends—a principle which is so vital to the life of this world Organization.

133. Perhaps no one is more aware of the critical world problems that face him as he begins his term of office than U Thant himself. To him my delegation pledges its whole-hearted co-operation, aware that if we and the United Nations solve these problems with honour and to the satisfaction of most, it will be largely due to the perception, sagacity, moderation and wisdom of U Thant. It gives me and my delegation great pleasure to wish him all success in his great task and to ask for him the rich blessings of Providence.

134. Mr. ROSSIDES (Cyprus): My delegation and my country, having deeply at heart the interests of the United Nations as the embodiment of the aspirations of mankind, experiences today a profound joy at the election of U Thant as Secretary-General. His election constitutes evidence, and strong evidence, of the soundness of judgement of the General Assembly and of the unanimity of its high purpose, and it augurs particularly well for the future of the United Nations. May I express to U Thant my heart-felt congratulations at this mark of recognition and appreciation of his rare qualities of ability, tact, moral courage and calm determination, which so eminently qualify him for the high responsibilities and the important duties of the office of Secretary-General.

135. It is significant that this recognition and this appointment come after a period of, as it were, testing U Thant in the office of Secretary-General. Such a test was not necessary as far as we were concerned because we were sure, from our own personal association with him on various occasions, that he was a man exceptionally fitted for the post. But let us see what has been the effect of the presence of U Thant as Acting Secretary-General.

136. At the time of his assumption of office there was a grave crisis in the world and in the United Nations itself. The office of the Secretary-General, in its character as an international office, was under the threat of being destroyed and of being converted into a political instrument—an office, it is true, under the influence of three sections of the world, but no longer an international or supra-national office in the sense of the Charter. But then, by the temporary election of U Thant as Acting Secretary-General, that crisis was dissipated, and all agreed on the continuation of the office of the Secretary-General as it was, in the form intended by the Charter. So that crisis was overcome by his presence in office.

137. Then there was the crisis in the Congo, which was at its worst point at the time of his appointment but which has since significantly moved towards a peaceful solution. We hope that it will continue to move in that direction, towards its final settlement.

138. There was the question of West Irian, a matter which was the subject of repeated and animated debates here and which was becoming increasingly critical. It was discussed here, but nothing resulted from these discussions. But immediately afterwards, through the mediation of U Thant, there was a happy solution, a solution satisfactory to all concerned.

139. Then Cuba—that was really the greatest crisis for U Thant. Never before since World War II had so dangerous and so threatening a crisis appeared. Everything seemed very dark and for the moment there was no hope for a way out of the crisis. But at the darkest moment, the mediation of U Thant brought sunshine where there had been clouds before, and final agreement resulted. I had the honour and the privilege of following closely and admiring the constructive part played by U Thant in this crisis.

140. The appointment of U Thant to the office of Secretary-General not only ensures the international character and the integrity of that office, but guarantees to it the virtues of his personality—the objectivity and impartiality and independence of judgement, which will never give rise even to a suspicion that there has been anything which was not exactly as it should be so far as the United Nations is concerned.

141. I believe that it is not merely the worldly qualities of U Thant that make for his success; it is not only the qualities that have been praised here by all—his human qualities. It is something more than that. It is his moral character, his spirit, his mind, so full of the saintly power that is needed in times of crisis in the world. That is why we believe the election of Secretary-General U Thant is destined to prove a great help to humanity as a whole.

142. I say this not because of the test, and here I should like to refer to what I said when U Thant was elected Acting Secretary-General on 3 November 1961:

"In these times of grave crisis in the history of humanity, when the United Nations has a heavy

responsibility to lead mankind through the dangers that surround it, to peace and progress, it is an act of Providence that U Thant has been chosen Secretary-General." [1046th meeting, para. 176.]

I think that these words have been proved true and apply today.

143. Mr. IDZUMBUIR (Congo, Leopoldville) (translated from French): The United Nations now has a Secretary-General and we have all, by our sustained applause, given full and fitting expression of our pleasure. My Government and people share fully in this pleasure, but the applause would be tainted with hypocrisy if it failed to lead to the achievement of the objective of the United Nations, namely peace.

144. The Secretary-General has alluded to the problem of the Congo, which, he says, remains unsolved. It is serious; the memory of U Thant's predecessor is there to remind us of that. My people and their Government will always remember him. The relief which all peoples felt at the election of U Thant should not allow us to forget that these same people attach enormous importance to the success of the United Nations, particularly with regard to the problem of the Congo. May those who hypocritically applaud here while they themselves are the principal obstacles in the way of the solution of that problem, for which U Thant's predecessor sacrificed himself body and soul—may they, I say, realize that they bear a grave responsibility in the eyes of the world and may today's events lead them to revise their position.

145. Just as the General Assembly supported U Thant for election, so does it disapprove of those who, under the cloak of quibbles whose sophistry and bad faith deceive no one, seek only to safeguard their own material interests. We have but one hope: that they will examine their conscience so that the United Nations may have the benefit of their support and co-operation in solving the problem of the Congo and of decolonization in general, as the Charter asks of them, and that they will extend this support to U Thant in the accomplishment of the task which he has courageously undertaken.

146. It is our most ardent wish that, following the Cuban problem, the problem of the Congo may be solved rapidly through the understanding and support of all those who aspire to universal peace, and it is our firm conviction that the Secretary-General's appeal will be heeded by all Member States.

147. Mr. CHAMPASSAK (Laos) (translated from French): Mr. President, I should like to address a few words to H. E. U Thant directly.

148. My Secretary-General, to the warm words of praise and congratulation which you have received from every side, I should like to add the modest but sincere words of my country, the Kingdom of Laos, a neighbour of Burma. Having had the honour of knowing and appreciating you for years, I am glad and proud to tell you of the immense satisfaction which we feel today on the occasion of your election to the most responsible office in the United Nations.

149. In a world divided and often torn by dangerous convulsions, in which unanimity is a very rare phenomenon, your unanimous election by the Assembly constitutes an unprecedented triumph for you and your country. Henceforth you have to your credit a vast reserve of confidence and the esteem of us all.

Your election is a triumph for the virtues of moderation, tolerance and political wisdom which you have exhibited throughout your career. It is also a tribute to your personal qualities, your courage, skill, conscientiousness and devotion in the discharge of your duties during the past year. Now that you have been entrusted with the duties of Secretary-General until November 1966, the clouds which have been hanging over the United Nations will gradually lift and under your eminent leadership the Organization will complete its work of peace and justice in accordance with the ideals of the Charter. That is the hope of mankind, that is the desire of our generation.

150. In expressing sincere wishes for your success in the accomplishment of your distinguished task, may I be allowed, Sir, to wish you good luck.

151. Mr. BOTHA (South Africa): On behalf of my delegation I should like to offer to U Thant our sincere congratulations on his unanimous election as Secretary-General of this Organization.

152. His great personal qualities are well known to us and we feel sure that these will enable him to continue to fill this high post with distinction. Together with the other delegations who have spoken this afternoon, we wish him a constructive and successful term of office.

153. Mr. BARRINGTON (Burma): Mr. President, I am grateful to you for giving me the floor to express the profound gratification of my delegation on the

great honour which the Security Council and the General Assembly have today bestowed on my country by electing one of its sons as the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

154. As a fellow countryman and colleague of U Thant, I do not feel it would be either proper or necessary for me, from this rostrum, to say more than to express the great pride and appreciation of the people and Government of the Union of Burma on this unanimous expression of renewed confidence by the United Nations in one of our most distinguished citizens. However, I do not think I run any risk of being misunderstood when I say how very grateful we are to the delegations of Chile, Ghana, Ireland, Romania, the United Arab Republic and Venezuela for their friendly initiative in proposing the appointment of U Thant as Secretary-General.

155. Speaking as the representative of one of the one hundred and ten delegations which make up this Assembly, I join in extending to U Thant our very best wishes for his continued success in what has come to be so aptly described as the most impossible task in the world, and the pledge of our continuing whole-hearted support in the discharge of his unending tasks.

156. The PRESIDENT: Let me remind the Assembly that the list of speakers on the item entitled "The situation in Angola" will be closed at 6 p. m. today.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.