

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

TWENTY-FIRST SESSION

Official Records



**1455th
PLENARY MEETING**

Tuesday, 1 November 1966,
at 3 p.m.

NEW YORK

CONTENTS

	Page
<i>Agenda item 18:</i>	
<i>Appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations</i>	<i>1</i>

*President: Mr. Abdul Rahman PAZHWAK
(Afghanistan).*

AGENDA ITEM 18

Appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations

1. The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has before it a letter dated 28 October 1966 from the President of the Security Council to the President of the General Assembly. It reads:

"I have the honour to request you to transmit to the General Assembly the following resolution adopted by the Security Council [227 (1966)] at its 1311th meeting held in private on 28 October 1966:

"The Security Council,

"Confirming the consensus adopted at its 1301st meeting on 29 September 1966,

"Recalling that, as a part of that consensus, its members welcomed the statement of the Secretary-General on 19 September 1966 that he is ready to consider serving until the end of the present twenty-first session of the General Assembly,

"Recommends to the General Assembly, pending further consideration by the Security Council of the question of the appointment of the Secretary-General, that it extend the appointment of U Thant as Secretary-General of the United Nations until the end of the twenty-first regular session of the General Assembly." [A/6490.]

2. In connexion with this recommendation of the Security Council, the Assembly has before it a draft resolution submitted by Argentina, Bulgaria, Japan, Jordan, Mali, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Uganda and Uruguay [A/L.491].

3. I give the floor to the representative of Nigeria who will present this draft to the Assembly.

4. Mr. ADEBO (Nigeria): Nothing could afford me greater pleasure than the honour and the privilege of presenting this draft resolution to the Assembly. This is a draft resolution that has been unanimously recommended by the Security Council of the United Nations, and it is co-sponsored by all the non-permanent members of that organ, which were elected by the

General Assembly itself. There is very little really that needs to be said in commendation of this draft resolution. The feelings of the general membership of the United Nations are well known regarding who would be the best successor to U Thant as Secretary-General of the United Nations. Those views are well known to members of the Security Council and are shared by them. Those views are well known to members of the general public everywhere.

5. In putting forward this draft resolution for your approval today, I wish to draw your attention to the fact that this is without prejudice to the further steps which the Security Council has to take, some time in the course of this session, and without prejudice to what we still hope will be the realization of the hopes of the general membership that the successor to U Thant shall be U Thant.

6. With those few remarks, it is with great pleasure that I recommend for unanimous adoption this draft resolution [A/L.491].

7. Mr. BERRO (Uruguay) (translated from Spanish): Owing to unforeseen circumstances I was unable to be here a few minutes ago to carry out the task I had been honoured to accept of introducing the draft resolution just submitted by the distinguished representative of Nigeria. I must therefore fulfil that responsibility by fully supporting the statements which the co-sponsor of this draft resolution, a distinguished non-permanent member of the Security Council, has just made. I thus have the honour to join him in introducing draft resolution A/L.491 on behalf of Argentina, Bulgaria, Japan, Jordan, Mali, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Uganda and Uruguay, the non-permanent members of the Security Council, and to ask you to approve it. The text reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Acting in accordance with the recommendation contained in Security Council resolution 227 (1966) of 28 October 1966, and pending further consideration of the present item,

"Extends the appointment of U Thant as Secretary-General of the United Nations until the end of the twenty-first regular session of the General Assembly".

8. The text I have just read is based on Security Council resolution 227 (1966) approved on 28 October 1966, which the President has just read out.

9. This draft resolution is important not only because it extends Secretary-General U Thant's term of office until the end of the twenty-first session of the General Assembly. We realize that the Members of the General

Assembly expect much more. What is important is the further consideration of the present item which the Security Council proposes to undertake. U Thant's presence during the re-examination of this question will no longer depend on the Council but on U Thant himself, should he decide to make himself available. He would thus be fulfilling the General Assembly's fervent wish for his re-election. In any event, it is a great honour for me to introduce this draft resolution, which expresses much less than you are all expecting. However, the Security Council has acted within the bounds the Secretary-General has set in extending his term for only a few months.

10. In conclusion, two more words, one of gratitude and the other of hope. First, we wish to thank U Thant, our esteemed Secretary-General—an able and most talented man, of keen vision, deep experience and unshakable impartiality—for agreeing to continue in office during the twenty-first General Assembly session. Second, we wish to express our hope and our confidence in the spirit of abnegation, the conscience of duty and the feeling of human solidarity which give U Thant universal authority and prestige, thus enabling him to decide to remain in his post where the world wishes and needs him to be. And I should personally like to add that I cannot imagine that Chair without U Thant in it.

11. The PRESIDENT: I now invite the Assembly to take a decision on the draft resolution [A/L.491], which proposes to extend the appointment of U Thant as Secretary-General of the United Nations until the end of the twenty-first regular session of the General Assembly.

12. In accordance with rule 142 of the rules of procedure, the vote on the draft resolution will be by secret ballot. I should like to suggest that the Assembly proceed to the vote by secret ballot in public, rather than in private, meeting. I take it that that is the desire of the Assembly.

It was so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Riha (Czechoslovakia) and Mr. Hasle (Denmark) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The result of the balloting was as follows:

<i>In favour:</i>	113
<i>Against:</i>	0
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	1

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

13. The PRESIDENT: As the draft resolution has been unanimously adopted, His Excellency U Thant will remain in office until the end of the twenty-first regular session of the General Assembly. 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 extended your appointment as Secre-

tary-General of the United Nations until the end of the twenty-first regular session of the General Assembly. Speaking personally, it is a great pleasure for me that I can count on your continued support in discharging my own responsibilities as the President of the twenty-first session of the General Assembly. Your Excellency, on 30 November 1962 I said the following:

"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 fulfilment of his task.

"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." [1182nd meeting, paras. 10-103.]

15. I hope that the Members of the General Assembly will agree with me that every word of this statement made by me in 1962 applies to this occasion. The sentiments of the entire membership in this session have already been made known to you in the speeches in the general debate. There is an obvious determination on the part of the entire membership that the Secretary-General of the United Nations must be enabled to function in his high office in the most effective manner possible.

16. I hope, Your Excellency, that before the twenty-first session ends you will have reached a decision which the entire Organization will be able to welcome.

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

18. The SECRETARY-GENERAL: First of all, I thank you, Mr. President, for your very gracious words about me.

19. Mr. President, I am grateful to the Security Council for recommending to the General Assembly, pending further consideration of the question, the extension of my appointment as Secretary-General of the United Nations until the end of the twenty-first session of the General Assembly. I am equally grateful to the General Assembly for the unanimous and heartwarming manner in which it has agreed to the extension of my appointment as proposed by the Security Council.

20. It gives me particular pleasure to accept this extension because, as I have explained before, I do

not believe that it is advisable, under normal circumstances, to change the Secretary-General while the General Assembly is in session. It is a matter of personal satisfaction to me in this case because it assures me of the possibility, pending further consideration of the question, of working closely with you, Mr. President, and indeed the entire membership, during the course of the twenty-first session of the General Assembly in co-operative and constructive efforts designed to strengthen the Organization's effectiveness and capacity to serve the cause of world peace and human betterment.

21. I quite realize that many of my friends and colleagues would wish that this question should be settled finally well before the end of the twenty-first session of the General Assembly. This is a view which I share. At the same time, it will no doubt be appreciated that my final decision will have to take into account a variety of considerations, to which I have referred previously, including of course the long-term interests of the Organization and the outlook for peace in Asia and elsewhere in the world.

22. I take this opportunity to place on record once again my gratitude to all of you for your sustained co-operation and goodwill, and to my friends and colleagues in the Secretariat for their unfailing loyalty and support. I also take advantage of 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.

23. Mr. President, once again I thank you and, through you, the entire membership for all the goodwill, patience and understanding extended to me.

24. The PRESIDENT: I thank the Secretary-General for the statement which he has made.

The meeting rose at 4.5 p.m.