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President: Mr. Corneliu MANESCU (Romania).

AGENDA ITEM 94

The situation in the Middle East (concluded)<sup>1/</sup>

1. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): As you know, this plenary meeting of the General Assembly has been called for the purpose of closing the twenty-second regular session.
2. I gathered, as a result of consultations which took place with a number of delegations, that the general feeling was that the remaining item on our agenda, namely, the situation in the Middle East, should be referred to the next regular session, with the priority that was given to it at the twenty-second session.
3. If there are no objections, may I take it that the General Assembly decides to place this item on the draft agenda for the twenty-third regular session?

*It was so decided.*

AGENDA ITEM 3

- Credentials of representatives to the twenty-second session of the General Assembly (concluded)  
(b) Third report of the Credentials Committee
4. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I should now like to draw the attention of members of the As-

sembly to the third report of the Credentials Committee (A/6990/Add.2). The report deals with changes in the credentials of representatives since the adoption of resolutions 2322 (XXII) of 16 December 1967 and 2374 (XXII) of 12 June 1968, in which the General Assembly approved the first (A/6990) and second (A/6990/Add.1) reports of the Credentials Committee.

5. Are there delegations which wish to speak on this item?

6. Since no one wishes to speak, I shall take it that the Assembly adopts the draft resolution which the Credentials Committee recommends to the General Assembly in its report [A/6990/Add.2, para. 4].

*The draft resolution was adopted unanimously [resolution 2375 (XXII)].*

AGENDA ITEM 68

Question of the consolidation and integration of the special educational and training programmes for South West Africa, the special training programme for Territories under Portuguese administration and the educational and training programme for South Africans: report of the Secretary-General (concluded)<sup>2/</sup>

7. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): Before concluding our work, I should like to refer to General Assembly resolution 2349 (XXII) which was adopted at the 1641st plenary meeting on 19 December 1967 in connexion with agenda item 68.

8. In paragraph 6 of that resolution, the General Assembly requested the President of the General Assembly to nominate seven Member States, each of which should appoint a representative to serve on a committee which would advise the Secretary-General on the granting of subventions to educational and training institutions in Africa.

9. I had hoped to be able to announce the membership of the Committee before the closing of the session. However, since this has not been possible despite my continual consultations with delegations, and in view of the fact that the Secretary-General's report on the United Nations Training and Educational Programme appears in the draft agenda for the twenty-third session, perhaps the General Assembly will be able to re-examine the matter when it considers that agenda item.

10. If there are no objections, I shall take it that the Assembly agrees to that suggestion.

*It was so decided.*

<sup>1/</sup> Resumption of the debate at the 1642nd meeting.

<sup>2/</sup> Resumption of the debate at the 1641st meeting.

Completion of the work of the twenty-second session

11. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I shall now give the floor to those representatives who have expressed the wish to make a statement to the Assembly.

12. Mr. ASTRÖM (Sweden): As the twenty-second session of the General Assembly draws to a close, it is fitting and proper that a tribute should be paid to our outgoing President from all quarters of the membership. Mr. President, on behalf of the group of Western European and other States I have the privilege of expressing our gratitude for the way you have conducted the activities of the General Assembly during this session. We have admired your calmness and wisdom as well as your kindness and courtesy. None of us has been insensitive, I am sure, to your personal charm, a quality which is an imponderable but certainly a valuable asset in our work.

13. The General Assembly's decision to elect, for the first time, a President from the part of the world from which you come, Mr. President, was already a significant sign that the need for détente as a long-term necessity in our era was strongly felt by all States, great and small. Your contribution has confirmed the wisdom of that decision. It is too early to evaluate in a more definite and complete manner the importance of your work. But I wish to point to two aspects that seem to us of particular importance.

14. You have always stressed what unites us in the General Assembly and tried to find and to widen areas of agreement in spite of difficulties. Also, you have repeatedly stressed the importance of strict adherence to Charter principles. The General Assembly can be said to be, in a special sense, the repository of certain of these principles, amongst them the independence and the sovereign equality of all States. It is therefore important that these principles be constantly brought to our attention by the President of the General Assembly.

15. Again I wish to thank you, Mr. President, for the way you have handled the business of this world Assembly during the past year.

16. Mr. ČERNÍK (Czechoslovakia): Mr. President, permit me to thank you on behalf of the delegations of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Hungarian People's Republic, the Mongolian People's Republic, the Polish People's Republic, the Socialist Republic of Romania, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, as well as on behalf of my delegation, that of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, for the outstanding work which you have done as the President of the twenty-second session of the United Nations General Assembly in complicated conditions and situations. You were able to master your difficult task thanks to your all-around talents as well as to the statesman-like wisdom and patience with which you have performed your duties.

17. At the same time, I should like to express my appreciation of the fact that, for the first time in the history of our Organization, this highly honourable and at the same time highly responsible office has at

least been held by a representative of the socialist countries.

18. The manner in which you, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Romania, have performed your duties in the past year has been noteworthy not only for your statesman-like, diplomatic and personal qualities, but also for the principles constituting a part of the foreign policy of the socialist State of which you have been a dignified representative.

19. It has been the wish of all of us that, under your guidance, the General Assembly attain a certain progress in the strengthening of the peace and security of nations, as well as an all-around development of international co-operation.

20. It is an honour for me to thank you for having entirely and impartially concentrated your efforts and exceptional talents precisely in that direction.

21. Mr. TOMEH (Syria): Mr. President, on behalf of the Asian group it is indeed an honour and a privilege to address to you the deep appreciation and great admiration of the members of the Asian group for the manner in which you have conducted the difficult work of the twenty-second session of the General Assembly.

22. The many thorny and difficult problems with which the Assembly has been faced have, under your wise and tactful guidance, found adequate and proper solutions. Your wisdom and patience in the discharge of your great responsibilities will be remembered by all of us.

23. If I may be permitted to add a personal note, I cannot but remember as a Chairman of the Fourth Committee our very close collaboration and the close way in which I was privileged to work with you. I have admired your skill, courtesy and statesmanship in steering the work of the General Assembly.

24. In the continuing task of building year after year the edifice of international relations by affirming the principles of the Charter and the unity of mankind, your contributions will have their place in the history of the United Nations.

25. Mr. AZZOUT (Algeria) (translated from French): Mr. President, on behalf of the African group I should like to thank you most warmly for the untiring assistance you have constantly given us in our efforts to bring about a more just society, based on the harmonious development of our economies and on the strengthening of the concept of freedom to which the people of our continent remain so firmly attached. On this day when we are about to end our work, we wish to assure you that your name will henceforth be associated with the most undisputed successes of this twenty-second session of the United Nations General Assembly, over which you presided with such talent and such great skill. In this tribute we also include the entire Romanian people.

26. Mr. ALARCON DE QUESADA (Cuba) (translated from Spanish): Mr. President, my delegation could not fail to associate itself in all sincerity with the tribute which other delegations are paying you for the work you have accomplished during the twenty-second regular session of the Assembly, among other reasons, because it was not possible for us to be present at the time you were elected to so high an

office, as we have already had occasion to state with regret, from this tribune.

27. We believe that you have conducted our work with intelligence, skill and fairness. We also believe that as Chancellor of the Socialist Republic of Romania you have honoured the Organization with your presence and your long experience as a diplomat and statesman.

28. On behalf of my delegation and my country, which maintains with yours cordial and fraternal relations based on identical ideals and close co-operation, I should like to tell you that the honour which the Romanian delegation and people received and which was justly rewarded by your work in this Assembly, we regard, with all modesty, as an honour also for Cuba.

29. Mr. BENITES (Ecuador) (translated from Spanish): Mr. President, when you concluded the first part of your excellent work, it was both an honour and a pleasure for me as the present Chairman of the Latin American group to express to you from this tribune the cordial friendship which all the Latin peoples of America, this new continent, feel towards a man of Latin stock from the old continent.

30. The accomplishment of that task gave me profound satisfaction. Today, by coincidence, I have the honour, as Vice-President and, consequently, as the present Chairman of the Latin American group, to express to you again those strong and deep feelings of friendship and admiration. We saw in you a level-headed man, serenely objective, with clear insight into problems and with equally serene ability to steer our difficult debates.

31. On behalf of the Latin American countries, on behalf of the group which I am honoured to represent for a time this afternoon, I should like to ask you, Mr. President, to accept our admiration and our deep affection.

32. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): Gentlemen, your kind words of farewell are an eloquent indication that the twenty-second session of the General Assembly is drawing to an end. I was very much moved by the sentiments you expressed and I assure you that during our work together bonds of solidarity and friendship were forged which have had a definite influence on the results of our common endeavours.

33. The words you have addressed to me are also directed to the policies of my Government and the ideas it upholds at the international level and within this Organization. I thank you, and at the same time assure you of my attachment to the cause whose scope and dimensions have been defined in the Charter.

34. I should like once again to convey to all delegations, as well as to the heads of the regional groups, my deep gratitude for the spirit of co-operation and understanding which they have shown. I should also like to thank all those who have assisted me in carrying out my task.

## AGENDA ITEM 2

### Minute of silent prayer or meditation

35. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I invite representatives to stand and observe a minute of silent prayer or meditation.

*The representatives, standing, observed a minute's silence.*

### Closing of the session

36. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I declare closed the twenty-second session of the General Assembly.

*The meeting rose at 4.30 p.m.*