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President: Mr. Edvard HAMBRO (Norway).

*Tribute to the memory of Inche Yusof bin Ishak,
President of the Republic of Singapore*

1. The PRESIDENT: Fellow representatives, we have learned with sorrow of the death of the President of the Republic of Singapore, Inche Yusof bin Ishak.

2. On behalf of the General Assembly I request the representative of Singapore to convey our condolences to his Government and to the bereaved family. After a distinguished career in journalism, President Inche Yusof devoted himself to government service and was President of the Republic from August 1965 until his death. His career, which was devoted to promoting co-operation and friendship between peoples of different cultural backgrounds, was in the spirit of the principles of the United Nations.

On the proposal of the President, the members of the General Assembly observed a minute of silence.

3. Mr. CHAO (Singapore): The delegation of Singapore merely wishes to say that it deeply appreciates the kind words and sentiments expressed by you, Mr. President, on the occasion of the death of President Yusof of Singapore. We in Singapore especially mourn the loss of a beloved President who had been with us since we acquired our independence in 1965.

4. Let me assure you, Mr. President, that your kind words of sympathy and condolence will be conveyed to the people and the Government of Singapore and to the family of the deceased President.

AGENDA ITEM 87

Report of the Special Committee on the Question of Defining Aggression

REPORT OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE (A/8171)

AGENDA ITEM 99

Aerial hijacking or interference with civil air travel

REPORT OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE (A/8176)

5. The PRESIDENT: I request the Rapporteur of the Sixth Committee, Mr. Owada of Japan, to present in one intervention the two reports on the items before the Assembly.

6. Mr. OWADA (Japan), Rapporteur of the Sixth Committee: I have the honour, on behalf of the Sixth Committee, to report to the General Assembly on the work of the Sixth Committee relating to agenda items 87 and 99.

7. The first item before the Assembly this morning is the report of the Sixth Committee on agenda item 87 [A/8171].

8. It may be recalled that pursuant to General Assembly resolution 2549 (XXIV) of 12 December 1969, the Special Committee on the Question of Defining Aggression reconvened at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 13 July to 14 August 1970, in order to resume its work in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2330 (XXII) of 18 December 1967, and prepared a report covering the work of its 1970 session [A/8019]. The report of the Special Committee, which contained draft proposals and the draft resolution before the Special Committee, gave a detailed analysis of the views expressed in the Special Committee both on general aspects of the question of defining aggression and on various aspects of the content of the definition as reflected in the draft proposals.

9. The agenda item was considered by the Sixth Committee on the basis of that report at its 1202nd to 1209th and 1211th to 1214th meetings, held between 16 October and 3 November 1970. At the 1202nd meeting, on 16 October 1970, the Rapporteur of the Special Committee introduced the Special Committee's report. The Sixth Committee held highly useful and illuminating discussions both on general aspects of the question and on specific aspects of the contents of the definition. The main trends of these discussions in the Sixth Committee are summarized in chapter III of the present report.

10. As a result of the consideration of the report of the Special Committee, the Sixth Committee now recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution contained in paragraph 39 of the present report. It might be added that the draft resolution was adopted by the Sixth Committee without

any dissenting vote. In thus recommending the draft resolution for adoption by the General Assembly, the Sixth Committee would have the Assembly decide, *inter alia*, that the Special Committee on the Question of Defining Aggression should resume its work as early as possible in 1971.

11. Since the draft resolution contained in the present report was adopted without objection, I trust that it will meet with the same degree of general acceptance in this Assembly.

12. The next item on which I have the honour to present a report to the Assembly concerns the work of the Sixth Committee on item 99 [A/8176].

13. By a letter dated 28 September 1970 [A/8091], Belgium, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Luxembourg, Nepal, the Netherlands, Panama, Peru, the Philippines and Thailand requested the inclusion of this item in the agenda of the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly. At its 1860th plenary meeting, on 6 October 1970, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to place the item on the agenda of the twenty-fifth session and allocated it to the Sixth Committee.

14. The Sixth Committee considered the item at its 1198th, 1219th to 1223rd, 1225th, 1226th, 1228th, 1230th and 1231st meetings, held between 13 October and 19 November. At the 1219th meeting, on 6 November, a representative of the International Civil Aviation Organization was present in the Sixth Committee.

15. It may be pertinent to recall in this connexion that at its twenty-fourth session, last year, the General Assembly considered an item which was not very dissimilar from the present one, namely, an item entitled "Forcible diversion of civil aircraft in flight". The Assembly at that session, after having the item examined and discussed by the Sixth Committee, adopted resolution 2551 (XXIV). By that resolution the General Assembly, *inter alia*, called upon States "to take every appropriate measure to ensure that their respective national legislations provide an adequate framework for effective legal measures against all kinds of acts of unlawful interference with, seizure of, or other wrongful exercise of control by force or threat thereof over, civil aircraft in flight", and urged States "in particular to ensure that persons on board who perpetrate such acts are prosecuted".

16. In spite of those efforts on the part of the General Assembly, incidents involving aerial hijacking or interference with civil air travel have regrettably not ceased to take place in various parts of the world. In the debate on this item in the Sixth Committee at this session a grave and mounting concern over this recent increase in acts of unlawful interference with civil air travel was evident. There was a clear general recognition that international civil aviation can function properly only in conditions guaranteeing the safety of its operations and the due exercise of the freedom of air travel. It was emphasized in particular that such acts of unlaw-

ful interference jeopardize the lives and safety of the passengers and crew and constitute a violation of their human rights.

17. The discussion on the present item in the Sixth Committee, which was both intensive and extensive, revealed the existence of overwhelming support for the view that all acts of aerial hijacking or other interference with civil air travel are to be condemned. Out of a long series of exchanges of views and negotiations carried out by delegations, both within and outside the Sixth Committee, a draft resolution did finally emerge as representing the general trends in the Sixth Committee on this problem. Thus the draft resolution, which is contained in paragraph 16 of the present report, condemns, without any exception whatsoever, all acts of aerial hijacking or other interference with civil air travel, whether originally national or international, through the threat or use of force, and all acts of violence which may be directed against passengers, crew and aircraft engaged in, and air navigation facilities and aeronautical communications used by, civil air transport. It further declares that the exploitation of unlawful seizure of aircraft to take hostages is to be condemned and that the unlawful detention of passengers and crew in transit or otherwise engaged in civil air travel is also to be condemned as another form of wrongful interference with free and uninterrupted air travel.

18. The draft resolution goes on to mention such diverse possibilities as the following:

(a) Taking all appropriate measures to deter, prevent or suppress such acts and providing for the prosecution and punishment of persons who perpetrate such acts, or for the extradition of such persons;

(b) Providing for the care and safety of passengers and crew and enabling them to continue their journey as soon as practicable and returning the aircraft and its cargo to the persons lawfully entitled to possession;

(c) Ratifying or acceding to the Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft, signed in Tokyo on 14 September 1963;

(d) Taking concerted action towards suppressing all acts which jeopardize the safe and orderly development of international civil air transport;

(e) Taking joint and separate action to ensure that passengers, crew and aircraft engaged in civil aviation are not used as a means of extorting advantages of any kind;

(f) Supporting fully the current efforts of the International Civil Aviation Organization towards the development and co-ordination of effective measures with respect to interference with civil air travel;

(g) Making every possible effort to achieve a successful result at the diplomatic conference which will be convened at The Hague in December 1970 for the purpose of the adoption of a convention on the unlawful seizure of aircraft.

19. The draft resolution which incorporates all those points in a more specific manner was adopted as a whole in the Sixth Committee by 99 votes to none, with 10 abstentions.

20. In this connexion I should like to invite the attention of the Assembly to a decision taken by the Sixth Committee at the time of the adoption of the draft resolution, a decision which is referred to in paragraph 19 of the present report:

“It was agreed in the Committee that the adoption of the draft resolution cannot prejudice any international legal rights or duties of States under instruments relating to the status of refugees and stateless persons.”

21. In adopting the draft resolution now recommended by the Sixth Committee the General Assembly will be giving a clear expression to the conviction shared by the international community that international civil aviation is a vital link in the promotion and preservation of friendly relations among States and that its safe and orderly functioning is in the interest of all peoples, which should be jealously safeguarded through effective measures undertaken by the international community. On behalf of the Sixth Committee, I wish to submit this recommendation of the Sixth Committee for the consideration of the General Assembly.

Pursuant to rule 68 of the rules of procedure, it was decided not to discuss the reports of the Sixth Committee.

22. The PRESIDENT: I invite members to turn their attention first to the draft resolution recommended by the Sixth Committee in paragraph 39 of its report on agenda item 87 [A/8171].

23. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the General Assembly adopts the draft resolution.

The draft resolution was adopted [resolution 2644 (XXV)].

24. We shall now turn to the report of the Sixth Committee on agenda item 99 [A/8176].

25. I shall now call on those representatives who wish to explain their votes before the voting.

26. Mr. ALARCÓN (Cuba) (*interpretation from Spanish*): On other occasions my delegation has stated that it shares the concern of world public opinion about the proliferation of criminal acts that obstruct international travel. We have also said that the problem can be solved only when it is tackled in the proper context and when solutions are sought on the basis of the strict implementation of the rules of international law.

27. The subject that is now before the General Assembly has had a fundamental failing ever since it was first raised for our consideration: the one-sided treatment of only one of its aspects under the auspices of well-financed propaganda designed to conceal the

origin, scope and true nature of the problems confronting civil air travel today.

28. According to the North American monopolist Press what it has chosen to call “air piracy” is a recent phenomenon, which emerged when its effects began to harm some large United States commercial enterprises. Cuba has pointed out on repeated occasions how, when and where the problem arose. Cuba was the first victim of this type of crime and it is the country that has suffered the most from it. In recent years, dozens of Cuban aircraft and hundreds of Cuban ships have been seized and taken by force to the territory of the United States. On several occasions crews and passengers lost their lives as a result of such criminal acts. Many of the seized Cuban craft have never been returned to my country. The authors of those criminal acts were never prosecuted. Quite the contrary in the United States, they have always been protected and encouraged for carrying out such slippery acts. No one has appropriated so many aircraft and ships by piracy as has the United States. No other country has given such open, irresponsible and criminal protection to these criminals as has the United States.

29. For years my country denounced these crimes perpetrated against our people, but in international bodies we found only complicity with the criminals or deaf ears to our claim?

30. Piracy in its modern form was invented, organized and directed by the imperialist Government of the United States as part of its aggressive policy against the Cuban revolution. It is, therefore, the Government of the United States alone that is responsible for the emergence and the proliferation of this crime. Cuba has repeatedly denounced it in this and other international forums, and, in that connexion it has presented irrefutable evidence that the representatives of the Government in Washington has never been and will never be able to deny.

31. For that reason my delegation cannot accept the draft resolution recommended by the Sixth Committee [A/8176, para.20] because it insists in giving a unilateral and truncated version of the problem. In abstaining from the vote on this draft resolution, we must reaffirm our position in regard to the solution of this problem. It is contained in Act 1226 promulgated by my Government on 16 September 1969, the first law enacted by any government to deal coherently with this situation. We reiterate that we are ready to discuss bilateral agreements for the solution of this problem with those countries which undertake to apply exactly the same measures in regard to the seizure of aircraft and ships and other violations of the rules and norms which govern international traffic, on the basis of strict reciprocity.

32. On the other hand, we shall reject any international agreement unless it specifically includes all the other forms of piracy and violations, without any exception.

33. From the propaganda trumpeted by the imperialist Press in regard to this draft resolution, it might be inferred that those countries which do not abide by its terms would suffer some kind of international boycott or pressure.

34. We wish to record our repudiation of any attempt to use resolutions of this kind as a means of international blackmail. Such threats, moreover, do not impress us since Cuba for eleven years has been the victim of the blockade, aggression and piracy organized by United States imperialism against it.

35. Mr. BOULBINA (Algeria) (*interpretation from French*): The Algerian delegation wishes to speak briefly on item 99, which is before the General Assembly today. We merely wish to recall that we abstained during the vote in the Sixth Committee on the draft resolution on aerial hijacking or interference with civil air travel. At the appropriate time my delegation explained clearly and calmly the reasons for its attitude and its refusal to support a draft resolution which, in the view of the Algerian delegation, contains the seeds for a tendentious exploitation of the text which would not meet the needs of either justice or equity.

36. For these reasons which are set forth in the summary 1228th record of the meeting of the Sixth Committee, the Algerian delegation will abstain from the vote on the draft resolution in question [A/8176, para.20] in the General Assembly.

37. The PRESIDENT: No other delegation has expressed a desire to explain its vote before the vote. I therefore invite the Assembly to turn its attention to paragraph 19 of document A/8176, containing a decision of the Sixth Committee. May I take it that the General Assembly takes note of that decision?

It was so decided.

38. The Assembly will now vote on the draft resolution recommended by the Sixth Committee in paragraph 20 of its report [A/8176].

The draft resolution was adopted by 105 votes to none, with 8 abstentions [resolution 2645 (XXV)].

39. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): I call on the representative of Mali to speak on a point of order.

40. Mr. MAIGA (Mali) (*interpretation from French*): I apologise, Mr. President, but I had just arrived when you put the draft resolution to the vote and I did not know which draft resolution was involved. If it was the draft resolution on aerial hijacking, I would recall that my delegation has always abstained, for the same reasons as those just given by the representative of Algeria. I shall therefore not repeat them.

41. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): That statement will appear in the record.

[The President continued in English.]

42. I shall now call on those representatives who have asked to be allowed to explain their votes after the voting.

43. Mr. ROMULO (Philippines): I should like first to take this opportunity to extend to the delegation of Singapore the deepest sympathy of the Philippine delegation on the passing of His Excellency the President of Singapore, Yusof bin Ishak.

44. Speaking for the Philippines in the general debate this year [1855th meeting], I referred to the rising level of violence and lawlessness in the world, of which the hijacking of civilian aircraft engaged in peaceful international travel was an unfortunate and regrettable manifestation. I announced then that the Philippines was taking the initiative concerning the inclusion in the agenda of this session of the General Assembly of an item on hijacking. It was that initiative, taken in collaboration with thirteen other delegations, that gave birth to the draft resolution we have just adopted. The draft resolution itself was introduced in the Sixth Committee under the sponsorship of thirty-four Member States.

45. At the twenty-fourth session the General Assembly had taken up a similar item—originally entitled “Piracy in the air” and subsequently retitled “Forcible diversion of civil aircraft in flight”—from the consideration of which in the Sixth Committee there emerged resolution 2551 (XXIV) approved by the General Assembly on 12 December 1969. That resolution expressed deep concern over acts of unlawful interference with international civil aviation and urged States: first, to ensure that their national legislations provided an adequate framework for effective legal measures against unlawful seizure of aircraft in flight; secondly, to initiate legal proceedings against suspected offenders; thirdly, to support International Civil Aviation Organization efforts aimed at a convention, *inter alia*, with respect to making the unlawful seizure of civil aircraft a punishable offence as such; and fourthly, to invite States to adhere to the Tokyo Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft.

46. For its part, the Security Council on 9 September 1970 adopted a consensus resolution [286 (1970)] which expressed grave concern “at the threat to innocent civilian lives from the hijacking of aircraft and any other interference in international travel,” and called on States “to take all possible legal steps to prevent further hijackings or any other interference with international civil air travel”.

47. Somehow those resolutions have had but limited effect. After the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2551 (XXIV), eleven more States ratified or acceded to the Tokyo Convention and national legislation has been enacted in some countries to make unlawful seizure of aircraft a punishable offence. As for the Security Council resolution, it had no immediate impact even on the particular incidents that brought about its urgent adoption.

48. Other multinational action on the matter consists of the Tokyo Convention of 14 September 1963 and the draft convention prepared by the Legal Committee of the International Civil Aviation Organization, to be submitted to the forthcoming conference to be convened in The Hague in December 1970, that is, next month. The Tokyo Convention binds only its parties which, as of this date, constitute less than one third of the Members of the United Nations. As for the draft convention, we do not know what agreement will eventually emerge from the conference to be held in The Hague, and even then there will be a time lapse before such an agreement can take full effect.

49. It is therefore of great significance that now the General Assembly has taken definite action on hijacking. By the resolution which we have just adopted the General Assembly serves notice that the international community not only does not condone but expressly condemns, without any exception whatever, all acts of aerial hijacking or other forms of interference with civil air travel and declares that related acts of taking hostages and the detention of passengers and crew in transit are equally to be condemned. This is the judgement of the international community, represented in the General Assembly, expressed in language that could not be any more explicit or forthright.

50. By thus declaring itself on this matter of world-wide concern, the General Assembly has focused attention on the moral duty we all share—the duty of States to deter and suppress acts of hijacking, to provide for the care and safety of the victims and to punish the perpetrators or extradite them for punishment. Thus the plenipotentiaries meeting in The Hague later this year will have this frame of reference for their labours, and this set of guidelines on which the world community has reached agreement for which they should be able to find the proper formulation of legal and practical measures to deal effectively with the problem of hijacking.

51. After the sharp acrimony of the debates on the situation in the Middle East and on Chinese representation in the United Nations, it is refreshing to have been able to deal calmly and dispassionately with an item no less important and to achieve near-unanimous agreement. This item could readily have lent itself to exploitation for political propaganda and effect as it has elements that could have easily provoked bitter recrimination and debate. The Sixth Committee, true to its tradition, studiously avoided those possible distractions and its members applied themselves to the issue before them, to the core of the problem, which was to deal effectively with hijacking and other forms of interference with civil air travel. And it is a tribute to their high sense of purpose and responsibility that they reached agreement on a strong, forthright resolution that fulfils this objective.

52. Last year's resolution 2551 (XXIV), admittedly weaker and less explicit than the resolution that we have just adopted, was adopted by a vote of 77 to 1, with 18 abstentions. I consider it most significant that this year's resolution commanded a much greater

majority; there were fewer abstentions, and not one Member voted against it. Thus it may be said that the General Assembly has acted positively to deal with this modern form of piracy. And I should like to think that, with this resolution and with this condemnation of all acts of hijacking without any exception whatever, we have once and for all deglamourized the hijacker and exposed him for what he is—an offender, liable for appropriate punishment.

53. Mr. AL-ATRACHE (Syria) (*interpretation from French*): My delegation wishes, first of all, to avail itself of this opportunity to express its sincerest condolences to the delegation of Singapore on the untimely death of the President of that country Yusof bin Ishak, and to request the delegation of Singapore to be good enough to convey to the people and the Government of Singapore and to the bereaved family of the late President this Expression of Sympathy in the name of the Government and the people of my country which sincerely share their national mourning.

54. In explaining its abstention in the vote on the draft resolution the General Assembly has just adopted, my delegation wishes very briefly to reiterate its conclusions of a year ago when we voted on the draft which became General Assembly resolution 2551 (XXIV) and also those it put forward on 10 November last in the Sixth Committee [*1221st meeting*]. My delegation wishes to state, first, that its abstention must in no way be construed as a negative position on our part towards the efforts deployed by States and international organizations to deter all forms of forcible diversion of civil aircraft in flight or to prosecute the criminals and inflict on them appropriate punishment for such acts in accordance with the national legislation in force.

55. We wish to state also that we fully agree with the vital role played by international civil aviation in the maintenance and the strengthening of friendly relations among States and in regard to the need of ensuring and guaranteeing the safety of its operations and the legitimate exercise of the freedom of air transport.

56. My delegation, like all those which have voted in favour of the resolution, realizes full well how grave are the dangers to which the life and safety of passengers and crew are subjected by such reprehensible acts.

57. With respect to our abstention in the voting, I must say that it was dictated by considerations which my delegation wishes to summarize briefly as follows.

58. First of all, acts of forcible diversion of civil aircraft in flight for the most part are prompted by political motives. Suffice it to recall in this connexion the conclusions presented by the famous international institution *INTERPOL* to the International Civil Aviation Organization in February 1970 as set forth in working draft 744 2 (9) of the Legal Committee of the International Civil Aviation Organization. In that document *INTERPOL* certifies that as a result of studies and research carried out by its experts it was able to determine the following facts: 64.4 per cent of the cases

of hijacking of civil aircraft in flight are committed for political reasons; 35.6 per cent of the remaining cases are perpetrated either by mentally deranged persons or, very rarely, by ordinary criminals. That being the situation, the Sixth Committee, the legal and judicial body of the United Nations, is, in my delegation's view, incompetent to deal with a subject that is purely political in character.

59. Secondly, the question of the forcible diversion of civil aircraft in flight is by right in the domain of international bodies whose competence in this field is undeniable, namely, the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Air Transport Association. The work of those two bodies and, particularly, the two draft international conventions prepared by them, will be considered at The Hague Conference to be held in the first half of December next—in other words, very shortly—a conference to which all States Members of the United Nations, and even some non-Member States, have been invited. It befits the General Assembly therefore to leave it to that international Conference and to the competent international bodies to adopt the necessary and useful measures and recommendations in this matter.

60. Thirdly, concerning the draft resolution as it has just been adopted by the Assembly, my delegation was unable to agree with several points in its operative part which was drafted in terms which are in complete contradiction with the laws and rules in force in my country. That is the case with the concept of extradition contained in operative paragraph 2, the concept of hostages mentioned in paragraph 3, the expression "joint and separate" in paragraph 8, and the legal concept of political asylum, which my delegation would have wished to see included in the text of the resolution itself and not in a separate document [*see A/8176, para.19*].

61. For all the reasons that I have just given and for the reasons stated on other occasions, my delegation abstained in the vote which has just been taken. Our abstention, I repeat, will not in any way prevent Syria from co-operating in so far as possible in the efforts of international organizations of which it is a member and participating actively in international conferences, in order to guard against this evil which constitutes an imminent danger for our international community.

62. Mr. KOLESNIK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (*translated from Russian*): May I first of all offer my condolences to the delegation of Singapore on the death of President Yusof bin Ishak and request it to convey them to the Government and people of Singapore?

63. Both in the Sixth Committee and a moment ago in the General Assembly, the Soviet delegation voted for the draft resolution prepared by the Sixth Committee on the question of aerial hijacking or interference with civil air travel.

64. The Soviet delegation regards this as an urgent and important question affecting the interests of all

countries. Aircraft hijackings are a threat to the normal operation of civil aviation and cause tension in relations between States. Inhuman acts of aerial banditry endanger the lives and safety of passengers and crews and have already led to tragic consequences, to the death of innocent people.

65. The Soviet Union, as a State having a widely developed network of air communications both internally and with other States, has a vital interest in the safety of these communications and considers that given concerted efforts on the part of all States effective measures could be devised to combat piracy in the air. The resolution just adopted to this effect is a step forward in comparison with what has so far been done to put an end to this new form of international crime. It condemns "acts of aerial hijacking" without exception whatsoever. That means that these acts must in all cases be regarded as serious criminal offences. The resolution calls upon States to take all appropriate measures to prevent or suppress such acts, and to provide for the prosecution and punishment or extradition of persons who perpetrate acts of hijacking. Thus the resolution makes aerial hijacking an international crime, subject to extradition. Of course, the reference in the resolution to punishment or extradition cannot be used for hostile political purposes directed against another State.

66. The Soviet delegation hopes that the forthcoming Hague Conference will consider, in particular, the question of the extradition of criminals of this kind to the country of registration of the aircraft.

67. As I have already said, the resolution just adopted condemns, without exception whatsoever, any interference with civil air travel and any acts of violence against civil aviation. It calls upon States to take all appropriate measures to deter such acts and to suppress them within the limits of their jurisdiction.

68. In this connexion I cannot refrain from drawing the attention of the General Assembly to the attack on the Aeroflot office in New York which occurred on the night of 24 to 25 November. Ruffians belonging to Zionist circles hostile to the Soviet Union—the fact that the act was committed by Zionists was reported by an anonymous person over the telephone—left a bomb in the entrance to the office. The explosion caused considerable material damage; by a fortunate coincidence there were no lives lost, but it might have been otherwise. We count on the United States Government, which voted for the resolution containing the above-mentioned provisions, to take appropriate measures to prevent any further acts against Aeroflot offices in United States territory. We also request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to call on the United States authorities to take the appropriate measures.

69. The resolution just adopted—by 99 votes in the Sixth Committee and by 105 votes in the General Assembly—is in the Soviet delegation's view an important United Nations contribution to combating piracy in the air. The suppression of aerial hijacking is a matter

for all peoples. The truth of that is confirmed by the discussion of the question which took place in the Sixth Committee and by the vote which has just taken place in the General Assembly.

70. Mr. LAYAS (Libya): My country attaches great importance to the question before us and is particularly concerned with the increasing number of cases of interference with civil air travel. My Government is well aware of the dangerous consequences of such acts for the lives and safety of thousands of people. We support the efforts being made by the international organization to put an end to such acts of air piracy so as to ensure the safety of international civil aviation.

71. However, my delegation could not support the resolution which has just been adopted because the text is unsatisfactory and any resolution on such an important question should be based on humanitarian considerations and an objective legal approach. This resolution seemed to be based more on a political consideration. Furthermore, ICAO and the International Air Transport Association are at present considering the question and a conference is to be held at The Hague for the purpose of adopting a new convention on this matter. Therefore my delegation abstained in the vote.

72. Mr. QUINTEROS (Chile) (*interpretation from Spanish*): The delegation of Chile wishes, on behalf of its Government, to express sincere condolences on the occasion of the untimely death of the President of the Republic of Singapore, Yusof bin Ishak. We would be grateful to the delegation of Singapore if it would convey our feelings of sympathy to its Government and to the President's family.

73. The Chilean delegation wishes to explain its affirmative vote on the resolution we have just adopted on aerial hijacking or interference with civil air travel. In so doing we wish to say that, in addition to our affirmative vote, we also support what was stated here by the delegation of Cuba in regard to the need for the United Nations to devise a penalty for all acts without exception which violate national sovereignty and the norms of international coexistence which cover navigation in all its forms.

74. At the same time, the Chilean delegation wishes expressly to record its understanding that the text of operative paragraph 2 of the resolution that has been

adopted includes respect for the right of asylum, which for Chile represents not only an intangible rule of law but also a traditional, firm and consistent element of state policy.

75. Mr. GIMER (United States of America): At the outset I should like to join with others who have expressed their condolences to the people of the Republic of Singapore at the death of their President.

76. My delegation regrets that one delegation in a statement before the vote on this important item felt obliged to waste our time with a series of irrelevant comments. Nothing can detract from the importance of the Assembly's act in adopting this resolution without a single negative vote. We all owe a debt of gratitude to the Foreign Minister of the Philippines, His Excellency Carlos P. Romulo, for this achievement. If I do not refer to other delegations without whose efforts we would not have this resolution, that is not because we are unaware or unappreciative of those efforts.

77. Finally, with regard to the unfortunate events referred to by the representative of the Soviet Union, my delegation concurs in the view that such lawless acts are to be condemned. We take this occasion to express our regrets to the Soviet Union that such an illegal assault on the Aeroflot premises occurred.

78. Mr. YASSEEN (Iraq) (*interpretation from French*): First I should like to unite my voice with the voices of those who have expressed to the delegation of Singapore their most sincere condolences upon the occasion of the death of its President.

79. The problem of the hijacking of aircraft gives rise to complex issues which can be examined only by taking into consideration all the elements including the underlying factors. As we see it, the General Assembly could not embark upon this course to carry out this in-depth study. It would have been better for the Assembly to entrust this task to highly specialized institutions. For that reason my delegation abstained in the vote, and I should like to emphasize here that this attitude should in no way be considered as a negative attitude toward the condemnation of acts of aerial piracy. My delegation would be the very last to fail to associate itself with measures which could be undertaken against acts of aerial piracy in all its forms and aspects. For that reason my delegation abstained.

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.