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# SECURITY COUNCIL OFFICIAL RECORDS

TWENTY-FIFTH YEAR

**1554**<sup>th</sup> MEETING: 10 OCTOBER 1970

NEW YORK

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## NOTE

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The resolutions of the Security Council, numbered in accordance with a system adopted in 1964, are published in yearly volumes of *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council*. The new system, which has been applied retroactively to resolutions adopted before 1 January 1965, became fully operative on that date.

## FIFTEEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FOURTH MEETING

Held in New York on Saturday, 10 October 1970, at 11.15 a.m.

*President:* Mr. Jaime DE PINIES (Spain).

*Present:* The representatives of the following States: Burundi, China, Colombia, Finland, France, Nepal, Nicaragua, Poland, Sierra Leone, Spain, Syria, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Zambia.

### Provisional agenda (S/Agenda/1554)

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Admission of new Members:  
Letter dated 10 October 1970 from the Prime Minister of Fiji addressed to the Secretary-General (S/9957).

### Tribute to the memory of Mr. Gamal Abdel Nasser, President of the United Arab Republic

1. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): Since the last time we met in this Chamber the world has suffered an irreparable loss by the death of President Nasser, a great statesman who earned the love of his people and the respect of all. I am sure that I speak for all the members of the Council in expressing sincere condolences and proposing that a telegram be sent expressing to the Government of the United Arab Republic the Council's deep sorrow at this great loss.

### Tribute to the memory of Mr. Radhakrishna Ramani of Malaysia

2. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I should like on behalf of the Security Council to express our feelings of sorrow at the death of Ambassador Ramani, a man who was beloved by all in the United Nations. He represented his country in the Security Council, and presided over twenty-five of its meetings in the month of May 1965 with the wisdom and tact for which he was well known.

### Expression of thanks to the retiring President

3. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I should like to pay a sincere tribute of admiration to the President of the Security Council for the month of September, the Ambassador of Sierra Leone.

4. The Ambassador of Sierra Leone, whom we all know and admire, was President of the Security Council during one of the most difficult months in the history of the United Nations. It is true that few of the meetings

during that month were public, but we had very many private meetings. It gives me special satisfaction to pay a tribute to the Ambassador of Sierra Leone, who worked quietly and discharged his duties as President of the Council during a time and in circumstances that were particularly difficult for mankind.

### Adoption of the agenda

*The agenda was adopted.*

### Admission of new Members

#### Letter dated 10 October 1970 from the Prime Minister of Fiji addressed to the Secretary-General (A/9957)

5. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda, relating to Fiji's request to be admitted to membership of the United Nations [S/9957].

6. Mr. YOST (United States of America): Mr. President, may I first congratulate you most warmly on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council. Having in mind your long experience here, your wisdom and skill, I cannot imagine more distinguished leadership than that which we can look forward to this month, and I am sure that the Council will enjoy one of its most constructive and productive periods.

7. May I also join you in a tribute to last month's President, the Ambassador of Sierra Leone, whose skill and dedication enabled him to deal so successfully with the difficult problems which we confronted during that month. I should like to express our warm appreciation to him.

8. Let me say first of all how happy I am to participate in this meeting of the Security Council, which will, I am sure, recommend the admission of Fiji as the one hundred and twenty-seventh Member of the United Nations. There is no doubt, in the view of my Government, that Fiji is, in the words of Article 4 of the Charter, "able and willing to carry out" the obligations contained in the Charter.

9. That nation, which gains its independence today, has a population of more than 500,000 and a total land area of more than 7,000 square miles. Like its sister former British colonies, it has been well prepared to assume a seat in this Organization. It has had a large measure of internal self-government in recent years and in the process has developed a responsible group of leaders. The Prime Minister, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, the former Chief Minister, is known to many representatives here from his visits to the United

Nations and his testimony before the Committee of Twenty-Four.<sup>1</sup> I understand that he will be here next week to take part in the United Nations twenty-fifth anniversary celebrations and we look forward to seeing him. Let me repeat: it gives the United States Government, and me personally, very great pleasure to welcome into the United Nations Fiji—a nation that in our view is entirely willing and able to fulfil the obligations of membership under the Charter.

10. Before we proceed further, however, I should like to recall to the Council the provisions of rule 59 of our provisional rules of procedure. That rule provides, *inter alia*, that:

“Unless the Security Council decides otherwise, the application shall be referred by the President to a committee of the Security Council upon which each member of the Security Council shall be represented.”

11. That rule was not adopted by our predecessors frivolously or without good reason. It was, and is, in strict accordance with the intent of the Charter and was designed to enable the Council itself to carry out in a conscientious manner its responsibilities under Article 4 of the Charter, that is, to assure itself that the applicant is a peace-loving State which accepts the obligations contained in the Charter and is able and willing to carry them out. Unfortunately, this rule—like some of the other principles and procedures wisely prescribed by our founding fathers—has fallen into abeyance and in recent years has not been applied as it should have been. The United States believes that this is a mistake. We believe that the time has come, now that the United Nations has one hundred and twenty-six Members and will, in a few days, have one hundred and twenty-seven, for the Council once again to pay strict attention to its responsibility laid down in the Charter in this regard: that is, to examine with care in each case whether the applicant is not only willing but able to bear the considerable burdens and obligations of membership. Certainly, if the Council and the Assembly were so to deviate from the Charter as to admit in the future considerable numbers of States not able to carry the obligations of membership, not only would this amount in fact to a revision of the Charter, but it would seriously weaken our Organization. It would reduce its prestige, effectiveness and credibility just at the time when, as we have all been saying during this session of the Assembly, it most needs strengthening and the widest possible public support.

12. As members of the Council know, in the Security Council Committee of Experts<sup>2</sup> the United States joined in proposals made by a number of its members for the reactivation of the procedures laid down in rule 59. There was widespread endorsement of the

proposal by both permanent and non-permanent members. If no formal report to that effect has yet been submitted to the Council, it is because of an understanding that the Committee of Experts would act by consensus only. The United States therefore considers it appropriate to raise the subject in connexion with the first application for membership submitted since the establishment of the Committee of Experts by the Security Council in August 1969. Had there been any doubt about the suitability for membership of Fiji, to reactivate the procedure at this moment might have seemed invidious. However, since there is no doubt in our mind—nor, I believe, in anyone else's—that Fiji should be admitted, this seems a particularly appropriate moment to re-establish the Charter procedure. We can do so on this occasion with the clear understanding that we are casting no doubt whatsoever on the fitness of the applicant and that our sole object is to correct for the future our own failure over a number of years to be faithful to the intent of the Charter and to the letter of our own rules of procedure.

13. I believe, therefore, that in accordance with rule 59 the President should refer this application to a committee of the Council on which each member is represented. In order to expedite action on the application of Fiji, I should think that we might immediately meet as a committee of the whole, that we might very speedily adopt a report to the Council—which I am sure would be a favourable one—and that the Council might then immediately take action to recommend Fiji for membership.

14. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I thank the representative of the United States for his kind remarks about me.

15. I call upon the representative of the Soviet Union on a point of order.

16. Mr. MALIK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (*translated from Russian*): I should like to ascertain from the United States representative what formal proposal he is introducing for consideration by the Security Council. We have listened carefully to his comments and reasoning; but what is he actually proposing? I should like this to be clarified.

17. Mr. YOST (United States of America): It is very simple. I was merely inviting the attention of the Council to its rule 59 and to the fact that, as that is worded, unless the Council decides otherwise applications for membership should be referred by the President to a committee of the Security Council. Therefore, I was assuming that the rule would be followed, unless the Council should decide otherwise.

18. Mr. MALIK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (*translated from Russian*): I understand the proposal of the United States representative to be that the application should be referred to a committee.

19. Mr. YOST (United States of America): No, I do not think any proposal is necessary. This is provided for in our rules of procedure. If someone wishes to

<sup>1</sup> Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

<sup>2</sup> Committee of Experts established by the Security Council at its 1506th meeting.

propose that the Council should decide otherwise obviously he is at liberty to do so. But members do not need to make proposals that we carry out our rules of procedure. That goes without saying.

20. Mr. MALIK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (*translated from Russian*): Now I understand the proposal of the United States delegation to be that we must transmit Fiji's application for membership in the United Nations to a committee and that the committee must report its conclusions thereon to the Council not less than thirty-five days in advance of a regular session of the General Assembly. If the rule is strictly followed, thirty-five days are required. This means that we cannot consider this application at this session. Is this what the United States representative has in mind? That is the rule.

21. Mr. YOST (United States of America): I do not see it that way. I have always assumed that the last sentence of that rule referred to applications submitted in intervals when the Assembly was not in session. Common sense, it seems to me, would lead us to the conclusion that it does not apply when the General Assembly is already in session. There certainly could have been no intent on the part of the authors of the rules of procedure to provide that an applicant for membership during a session of the General Assembly would have to wait a full year. I think we could apply the rule of reason to this interpretation. Certainly we would have no intention of suggesting any delay in action on Fiji's application.

22. As I made very clear in my presentation, we would hope that the committee might be called immediately into session, take immediate action and report to the Council, and that the Council might then—today, right away—recommend to the General Assembly the admission of Fiji to membership. I think that is entirely consistent with what is the obvious intent of the authors of this rule of procedure.

23. Mr. MWAANGA (Zambia): Mr. President, I shall have another opportunity to pay you a well-deserved tribute and to do so also to your distinguished predecessor.

24. I take the floor now formally to propose that we suspend rule 59 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council.

25. It is obvious that all of us are agreed on the need to accelerate action on Fiji's application. And since it is Fiji's desire to be admitted to membership of the United Nations before the commencement of the commemorative session of the General Assembly I am sure that the members will agree to a suspension of this rule, which would have the effect of enabling us to recommend to the General Assembly immediately Fiji's admission to the United Nations.

26. Rule 59 empowers the Security Council to suspend it and I am therefore not setting a precedent by asking for this suspension. The Security Council has

suspended this rule on a number of occasions and I am sure there would be no difficulty in doing so today.

27. This proposal is meant primarily to accelerate action on Fiji's application for membership. I should like it to be recorded that the request for suspension of rule 59 applies to this particular application.

28. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): The Security Council has heard the proposal just made by the representative of Zambia to the effect that the application of rule 59 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council be suspended on this occasion when the Council is discussing the item on its agenda relating to the admission of Fiji to membership of the United Nations.

29. I have a number of speakers on my list, and after we have heard them I shall put to the vote the proposal of the representative of Zambia. If there is no objection, however, I shall first call on the representative of Finland.

30. Mr. PASTINEN (Finland): Mr. President, I shall have another opportunity to express to you the congratulations of my delegation.

31. Rule 59 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council stipulates that unless the Security Council decides otherwise, an application for membership shall be referred by the President to a committee on admissions. As we know, this rule has not been applied during the last twenty-one years and one can therefore say that a different practice has emerged in the Council in dealing with applications for membership. It seems to my delegation, however, that the practice thus established has not and cannot have superseded the procedure provided for in rule 59. It would seem reasonable to conclude, therefore, that in previous cases the Security Council has waived the application of rule 59, either by an explicit expression of will in accepting without objection a Presidential proposal to this effect or, in cases where such a proposal was not made by the President, implicitly by the fact that no member of the Council has raised the point.

32. It is the view of the Finnish delegation, however, that as soon as the point of the application of rule 59 is raised, as it has now been raised by the representative of the United States, the rule should apply unless there is a decision to the contrary.

33. My delegation for one sees merit in beginning now and in continuing henceforth to apply the normal procedure provided for in rule 59. Our reasons for this are twofold; first, we see a return to the application of this rule as a step in the organic evolution of the procedures and working methods of the Security Council, in which my delegation has been particularly interested; secondly, this reflects the attitude of my delegation to the problem of micro-States, which we have had occasion to explain earlier in the Council and in the Committee on micro-States.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> *Idem*.

34. Without repeating the arguments which we have adduced on those occasions I should simply like to say that my delegation still considers valid the arguments and recommendations on the question of micro-States advanced by the Secretary-General in the introduction to his annual report in 1967<sup>4</sup> and that we continue to support his views on this matter.

35. Finally, I should like to emphasize that the views I have just expressed are of a general nature. They have nothing to do with the present application for membership by Fiji, which, in the view of my delegation, fulfils the requirements for membership laid down in Article 4 of the Charter and whose application my delegation will therefore be happy to support. It is precisely because the application of Fiji is beyond doubt that this seems to be a good moment to return to the original procedures laid down in rule 59.

36. It is the expectation of my delegation that the consideration of the application of Fiji by a committee on admissions and by the Security Council can be concluded with all necessary speed. Accordingly, we hope that the Security Council, after the matter has been considered by a committee on admissions, will be able to agree, if possible today, on a recommendation to the General Assembly to admit Fiji to the United Nations.

37. Mr. JOUEJATI (Syria): My delegation will have the opportunity on another occasion to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your assumption to the Presidency.

38. For the time being I shall speak on procedure. The statement of the representative of the United States and the motion presented by the representative of Zambia have made unnecessary any statement by me. As a matter of fact, both interventions stressed the desirability of immediately admitting Fiji to membership of the United Nations.

39. To apply rule 59 in this context would be very cumbersome. Delay would result. Indeed the rule contains provisions which we cannot apply. We cannot wait thirty-five days. That would be contrary to the Security Council's desire to accelerate action on this application.

40. The Council has the right, as is stipulated in rule 59, to suspend that rule in cases such as the one we are facing today. Therefore, the motion of the representative of Zambia is very pertinent. It flows from rule 59 itself. I think that it is obvious from the three statements we have already heard that the Council is bent on accelerating action on this application. Hence, in my humble opinion, the motion by Zambia does not even need to be put to the vote because there should be no objection to it.

41. Mr. KOSCIUSKO-MORIZET (France) (*interpretation from French*): Mr. President, procedure

<sup>4</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-second Session, Supplement No. 1A*, paras. 161 to 166.

always has priority over congratulations. I shall therefore stick to procedure.

42. The French delegation supports the proposal for the Zambian delegation for two reasons: firstly, because we believe, like everyone else here, that we should not delay the admission of Fiji to the great family of the United Nations; and secondly, because rule 59 stipulates "unless the Security Council decides otherwise" and therefore provision is made for the Council to waive the application of rule 59.

43. But to say that in exceptional cases the Council may waive the application of that rule means that in general—and this is our view—the rule should be applied. Therefore, it is evident that it is because we are dealing with an exceptional case that we waive the application of rule 59, but that in general, and particularly henceforth, the rule will be applied because—and in this we entirely agree with the delegation of the United States—it is important to strengthen the Charter, it is important to strengthen its procedures and it is important to make full use of all the possibilities which its provisions afford us.

44. That is why we support the proposal of the Zambian delegation.

45. Sir Colin CROWE (United Kingdom): Mr. President, I shall have another opportunity to express my congratulations to you.

46. The proposal made by the representative of Zambia that the Security Council should decide not to refer this application to a committee but to deal with it directly is in accordance with the provisions of rule 59, which expressly allows for exceptions to be made to what the rule prescribes as the normal course.

47. My delegation would prefer that we should agree unanimously not to make such an exception in this case because it believes that there would be value in returning to the general practice of referring applications for membership of the United Nations to a committee on admissions even if in cases such as the present one this further study was of a purely formal nature. As the representative of the United States has observed, the case of Fiji is in some ways an appropriate one to reactivate this machinery. Fiji is so evidently qualified to be a Member of the United Nations that no one could suppose that to follow what our provisional rules of procedure prescribe as the normal course would be to cast any reflection upon that country.

48. However, it is, in our view, of overriding importance that the application of Fiji should not be held up by a procedural disagreement between us—which, I regret to say, has been the implication of some of the things that have been said.

49. My delegation will therefore vote in favour of the proposal that we should in this case decide, as rule 59 expressly allows, not to follow the course of reference to a committee. In so doing we give notice

that in other circumstances we may not take the same view.

50. Mr. MALIK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (*translated from Russian*): Mr. President, since the speakers here have started their statements in various ways, some congratulating you and some not congratulating you, I prefer briefly to congratulate you on your assumption of the high office of President of the Security Council and to express satisfaction at the active work of your predecessors. I wish you success in your important post and hope that during your term of office there will be no events requiring the Security Council to meet at irregular hours.

51. With regard to the question under consideration, in the course of preliminary consultations with you the Soviet delegation already expressed its view on the advisability of considering the question of the admission of Fiji to membership in the United Nations directly at a meeting of the Security Council, without referring it to a committee on the admission of new Members. We should now like to confirm this view, which is based on the practice followed for many years in the Security Council. In fact, for more than ten years—fourteen years according to some estimates and more than twenty according to others—the Security Council has not resorted to this complicated procedure described in rule 59 of the provisional rules of procedure. There has been no practical need to do so. On the other hand, I believe this is the first time that we have heard a statement from the United States delegation to the effect that we must observe the rules and, consequently, the Charter. We welcome this approach to the matter. We must strictly observe both the rules of procedure and the Charter of the United Nations. I therefore think that in the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations we shall revitalize the Charter and revive another body which has not been active for twenty-five years—the Military Staff Committee—for the direction of peace-keeping operations. When I speak of reactivating the rules and the Charter, I mean reactivating them to the fullest extent. In this case, since there is no objection on the part of the United States to the admission of Fiji to the United Nations, nor on the part of any of the fifteen members of the Security Council, and since the committee would have the same membership as the Security Council, there is no practical need whatever for this.

52. On the other hand, if the United States representative insists on the application of rule 59, I cannot agree with his interpretation of that rule. He is trying to do two things: on the one hand, to refer the question to a committee on admissions and, on the other hand, to solve the question in five minutes. That is a new proposal designed to change the rule.

53. The first part of rule 59 provides for the referral of the question of admitting a new Member to a committee; the second part provides that the committee shall examine the application referred to it not less than thirty-five days in advance of a regular session of the General Assembly or, if a special session of the General Assembly is called, not less than fourteen days in

advance of such session. Exceptions concerning cases where a session is in progress, which would simply be dealt with at the time, are not mentioned. Therefore if we keep strictly to the rule—both the first and second parts—we shall be obliged to postpone consideration of the question of Fiji's admission for thirty-five days. This would be unprecedented, particularly at an anniversary session and also in view of the fact that on 14 October we shall begin the commemorative part of the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly. Under the circumstances, the Soviet delegation sees no practical need to resort to this complicated procedure.

54. It is difficult for us to judge the motives guiding the United States delegation but in this case we repeat, as we have said many times, that there is no need to have recourse to the application of this rule, because this may delay the consideration of the question of Fiji's admission to the United Nations.

55. The United States delegation may say that there is a rule of reason. But the rule of reason is the fact that for fourteen years the Security Council has not made use of the services of a committee. It is a stronger rule of reason, confirmed by many years' experience. And in this case it is stronger than the rule of reason whereby rule 59 is broken up and one part is accepted, while the other is rejected.

56. Under the circumstances, the Soviet delegation supports the proposal of the Zambian delegation that rule 59 should not be followed in the case of the admission of Fiji to membership of the United Nations and that we should follow the long-established practice of the Security Council and immediately consider the question here and decide whether or not to admit Fiji.

57. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I wish to thank the representative of the Soviet Union for the kind words he addressed to me at beginning of his statement.

58. Mr. YOST (United States): I do not want to prolong this procedural debate. I shall just say a few words.

59. We have explained, and I think others have joined in explaining why there would now be decided advantages in returning, despite its long disuse, to rule 59 and applying it in future. We have had a lengthy and difficult consultation and debate this morning. I should hate to see this sort of thing happen every time we have an application for membership. I would much prefer to see us seize this opportunity without debate and, in a case where there is no argument about the qualifications of the applicant, re-establish the rule and get it settled once and for all and not have it come up again.

60. Now, as to the point just raised again by Mr. Malik—the thirty-five days—I think we must assume that the authors of our rules of procedure were sensible, reasonable people and that they could hardly have intended that when the General Assembly was in session it would be impossible to have any State admitted

for another whole year. There would be no reason for such a rule and I do not think they ever had that in mind.

61. The last sentence of rule 59 obviously refers to periods when the Assembly is not in session and says that in those cases a membership committee shall report its conclusions not less than thirty-five days in advance of a regular session. That is the only reasonable interpretation of that rule, so I do not think we need fear that an action on our part to refer the matter to a membership committee, as I have proposed, and take immediate action in that committee and in the Council would in any way infringe the intent of the last part of rule 59.

62. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I shall now proceed to put to the vote the proposal of the representative of Zambia that on this occasion rule 59 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council be suspended.

*A vote was taken by show of hands.*

*In favour:* Burundi, France, Nepal, Poland, Sierra Leone, Spain, Syria, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Zambia.

*Against:* United States of America.

*Abstaining:* China, Colombia, Finland, Nicaragua.

*The proposal was adopted by 10 votes to one, with 4 abstentions.*

63. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I should like, in my capacity as representative of SPAIN, to explain my vote. My delegation decided to vote in favour of the suspension of rule 59 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council precisely because, as we understand it, since it has been included in the provisional rules of procedure it must apply, except in those cases in which the Council decides to suspend it. The practice over the past twenty-one years has been not to apply this rule. On some occasions decisions to that effect were taken; on others none were taken. My delegation believes that it is desirable to adopt a decision in the Council for suspension when, as in the present case, circumstances so demand.

64. Speaking in my capacity as PRESIDENT, we shall now proceed to consider Fiji's application for admission.

65. Sir Colin CROWE (United Kingdom): It gives me very great pleasure to have the opportunity today to recommend to the Council the application of Fiji for membership of the United Nations. A draft resolution in the name of all three Commonwealth members of the Security Council—Sierra Leone, Zambia and the United Kingdom—is now being circulated [S/9959].

66. Fiji is a country of great beauty, with its rain forests, gnarled mountains, fields of sugar cane, coral reefs, blue lagoons and oceanic sunsets. It is a comparatively small country, though with its 7,000 square miles and half a million people it is of course a good deal larger than the three other countries of the Pacific—Western Samoa, Nauru and Tonga—which during the past decade have achieved independence and assumed full responsibility for the conduct of their own affairs. Moreover, Fiji is larger, both in area and in population, than a number of countries that are already participating as Member States of our Organization.

67. In the latter part of the twentieth century Fiji is an important centre for communications and has rightly been described as the crossroads of the Pacific. But for countless centuries the people of Fiji, in spite of their long voyages through the vast ocean in their great canoes, were little known, save to the people of the adjacent islands. Living as they did far from the trans-Pacific sailing routes pioneered in the age of the European explorers by your countrymen, Mr. President, the Fijian people passed through the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries with little contact with the world outside their own islands.

68. The history of the United Kingdom's relationship with Fiji is a singular one. On this day exactly ninety-six years ago, by Act of Cession, Fiji voluntarily placed itself under the protection of the British Crown. The first offer of cession had been made sixteen years earlier, in 1858, and it is a matter of historical record that throughout those sixteen years the United Kingdom had been reluctant to assume such responsibilities in a group of islands so remote from its own shores. Nevertheless, in 1874 the United Kingdom did accept the cession of the Chiefs of Fiji as a trust. It took place on equal terms, and we in the United Kingdom, no less than the people of Fiji, have always derived a particular satisfaction from the circumstances in which the fruitful association between our two countries took root.

69. The last ninety-six years have seen many changes in Fiji: the establishment of important sugar and coconut industries and the expansion of Fiji's commerce which has led to its present thriving economy; the diversification of its population; the establishment of close links with the peoples of South Asia, with New Zealand and Australia and with its more immediate Pacific island neighbours; the establishment of parliamentary institutions and the framework of its modern political and judicial systems. In the Second World War, when the Fijians found themselves unexpectedly almost in the front line, they performed prodigies of valour on behalf of the allied cause. And throughout this period the United Kingdom has been privileged and proud to work with the peoples of Fiji on a basis of partnership.

70. Until very recently the diverse backgrounds of the peoples of Fiji presented obstacles to agreement among them on a move to independence. The wisdom



and statesmanship of the leaders of Fiji, however, have now given a lead which has transcended all the earlier differences. They have shown that it is possible, by assessing what is the overriding interest for all the people of Fiji, to move to independence in a spirit of unity and harmony. I should like to take this opportunity of saying how much this agreement among the leaders and people of Fiji has earned our admiration. They have acted in a spirit which indeed conforms to the name borne by that greatest of all the oceans, the Pacific; and the sagacity shown by their leaders offers a splendid augury for their contribution in the wider field open to them as Members of this Organization.

71. Fiji is the twenty-ninth member of the Commonwealth to apply for membership of the United Nations. My delegation can take pride in the process by which, to quote a striking phrase used elsewhere earlier this week by our colleague the Ambassador of Sierra Leone, "the United Kingdom has added yet another graduate from its school of colonized Territories to its collegiate Commonwealth".<sup>5</sup>

72. Through all the changes which Fijians have experienced over the years in which they were associated with my country, many of their traditional values have remained unchanged. Blended as they are with other, newer influences, we believe this will be a source of strength for the future. We have no doubt that Fiji will be able and willing, faithfully and loyally to fulfil its obligations under the Charter. It is with sincere congratulations and the greatest good will to the Government and people of Fiji that, in this twenty-fifth anniversary year of the United Nations, I am pleased to join with my Commonwealth colleagues in recommending this application to the Security Council.

73. Mr. NICOL (Sierra Leone): Mr. President, my delegation wishes to congratulate you on your assumption of the office of President and to pay tribute to your wisdom, courtesy and skill in diplomacy. Your month of office is one of great importance, as it falls during our twenty-fifth anniversary celebrations, when Heads of State and Government will be with us. The choice of Spain in your person could not have been happier, as its legal and cultural traditions bestride old and new worlds like a colossus.

74. We wish to congratulate Fiji on its independence yesterday, when for the first time its national flag flew from the mast-head of its State House. The negotiations which have brought it to independence reflect credit on all the communities of Fiji and on the Government of the United Kingdom. We congratulate them.

75. The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, which I am privileged and proud to serve

this year as Chairman, was visited by the Prime Minister of Fiji and the Leader of the Opposition earlier this year. It was for us an important and unique occasion and we were greatly impressed. I may add that in that case the usual procedure was neatly, and unofficially, reversed, and they came as a visiting mission to the United Nations instead of our Committee's going to Fiji. Their application for membership in the United Nations, which my delegation now gladly sponsors, assures us that their findings were agreeable and acceptable to them. Today we have much pleasure in welcoming their application and warmly and unreservedly sponsoring this application, as a sister country of the Commonwealth.

76. I should like also to thank the Special Committee and its Sub-Committee on Fiji for the attention and interest they have devoted to this matter during the past two years. The Fijian peoples have had a long and proud history of civilization and self-government even before colonial times. They possess a nobility of purpose and show warm hospitality to many communities. Therefore we have every confidence that their contribution to this Organization will be an important and significant one.

77. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I thank the representative of Sierra Leone for the kind words he addressed to me.

78. Mr. MWAANGA (Zambia): Mr. President, allow me to convey to you my warm and sincere congratulations on your assumption of the high office of President of the Security Council. This is the second time you have presided over the proceedings of this Council and your presence in the Chair reconfirms my belief that you will conduct the affairs of this Council with your usual sense of fairness and impartiality.

79. I should like also to pay unstinting tribute to my brother and colleague, Mr. Nicol of Sierra Leone, for the admirable manner in which he conducted the affairs of this Council during the month of September. His immense qualities as a renowned academician, diplomatist and conciliator have greatly contributed to the success of our work.

80. I am taking the floor at this time with mixed feelings. I say so because by this debate the international community is taking note and welcoming the emergence of the island State of Fiji as an independent and sovereign State. Historically this symbolizes the further erosion and breakdown of the inhuman system of colonialism. Of particular importance is the fact that the emergence of a free Fiji today in circumstances of which we are all aware points to the fact that it is quite possible for a colonized people to achieve its freedom without violence, without bitterness, without the letting of blood and without heightening the threat to international peace and security.

81. On the other hand, as we salute with joy the emergence of a free Fiji, we are sadly and bitterly reminded of the fact that colonialism is still running rampant in other areas of the world, particularly in southern

<sup>5</sup> At the 771st meeting of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (A/AC.109/PV. 771, p. 22).

Africa. It is very ironical to note the most conspicuous fact that the colonial Power that for decades denied the people of Fiji their legitimate freedom but has now submitted to their will is the very same colonial Power that is using every conceivable excuse not to fulfil its obligations to the people and territory of Zimbabwe.

82. The free island State of Fiji is an important example of a society that has taken into its fold a people of varied extractions. Despite all the dangers and pitfalls that had been placed before it by the pernicious colonial system, the Fijian society has emerged as one and not as a society broken by colonialism or racism. The independence of Fiji comes at a very appropriate moment, because this year is the tenth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. It is a matter for deep regret to my delegation that, instead of extending a hand of complete friendship, we still have to face the sad fact that 28 million people on this planet are not yet free to determine their own destinies.

83. The difficulties of the island State of Fiji do not end with the attainment of independence and statehood. The will shown by the Fijian people in their quest for freedom will, I believe, serve as a good starting point for tackling the problems of rehabilitation, development and progress.

84. It is therefore with a deep sense of personal satisfaction that I express the heartfelt congratulations of the Republic of Zambia to the people, Government and leaders of Fiji as they rejoice in the fruitful and happy culmination of their efforts. We are certain they will move from strength to strength and play their rightful role in the affairs of the international community. We look forward to enjoying a warm, productive, fruitful and rewarding relationship with the independent people of the ever beautiful island of Fiji. It is for these reasons that my delegation has joined the delegations of the Commonwealth countries of Sierra Leone and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in sponsoring Fiji's application for membership in the United Nations.

85. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I thank the representative of Zambia for the kind words he addressed to me.

86. Mr. KOSCIUSKO-MORIZET (France) (*interpretation from French*): Mr. President, since we have now dealt with the procedural point and have reverted to substance I should like to associate myself with the compliments which have been paid to Ambassador Nicol for the wisdom, tact and great dignity with which he conducted the proceedings of the Council in September.

87. As to you, Mr. President, we have known you for a long time and we are fully aware of your great talents. We are sure that you will conduct our proceedings with your usual efficiency, authority and mastery.

88. It has happened too often that the Security Council has been called into session at unusual hours to

hold urgent debates on threats to international peace and security. Today, it is the fact that the world is round—and one of the consequences of that fact, which is not provided for in the rules of procedure; namely, the world's division into time zones—which brings us together outside normal working hours. That is something which we agreed to with pleasure since it has fallen to our lot to celebrate a happy event, the accession of a new country to independence.

89. If we have grounds to take pleasure in the increase in the number of States Members of the Organization, and the further step taken in this way towards the universality of the Organization, my delegation finds particular reason for pleasure in the admission of Fiji to the United Nations: this is a former Non-Self-Governing Territory which, by peaceful means, has achieved full sovereignty. This is thus the continuation of the happy process of decolonization which was embarked upon a very long time ago but which has been considerably accelerated in recent years.

90. In setting 10 October as the date for the final transfer of governmental powers, the representatives of the former administrative Power and of the new State have implicitly offered us food for thought on the human, economic and political evolution which has been taking place over a period of exactly ninety-six years. Rarely in the space of less than a century has a combination of labour migration, natural demographic movements and the struggle against disease changed so totally the very physiognomy of an island community: relatively widely-scattered homogeneous ethnic groups have gradually been replaced by a dense and partially urbanized population which has now passed the half million mark.

91. These demographic changes, with their land-holding, economic and electoral implications, have not taken place without controversies which for some years hindered the process of the emancipation of the territory and whose echoes have reached as far as the United Nations.

92. The imagination of an administrative Power—the United Kingdom—which, in its task of decolonization has never been found wanting in the face of the most difficult constitutional pitfalls, and the realism of the political leaders who have shown themselves capable of renouncing partisan wrangles in order to hasten the access of their common motherland to independence made it possible, in the final analysis, to bring about provisional arrangements reconciling two equally legitimate claims—the desire of the indigenous peoples to preserve the personality of the land of their ancestors and the ambition of their compatriots who settled later in the archipelago to be full citizens of their young State.

93. The speed with which in recent months the latest constitutional talks came to fruition is a good augury for the success of future efforts of the Fijian leaders to find, in harmony, a final solution to this problem.

94. The United Kingdom has repeatedly demonstrated that once the links of subordination have been broken it has been outstanding in maintaining relations of friendship and co-operation with the new Commonwealth States. We would like to extend to it our warmest congratulations. Since Fiji has been welcomed with the warmest sympathy by the international community, it may be expected that its Government will enjoy all the assistance useful to it in overcoming successfully the obstacles to the gaining of access for its agricultural produce to world markets.

95. How would it be possible to contemplate anything other than a prosperous future for a country which—and I can bear personal witness to this since I have had the good fortune to visit it—conceives of tourism as an extension of its traditional hospitality? The Suva Government quite rightly counts on the attraction of its countryside in order to diversify its economy. We hope that it will continue in that policy, and that the welcome which the Fijians accord to their visitors will contribute not only to an increase of resources but to the enhancement of the whole stature of the archipelago.

96. Fiji has always been a country of dreams. We would like to recall that among the intrepid Dutch, British and American mariners who dared to cross the most dangerous reefs of an unexplored ocean, a Frenchman, Dumont d'Urville, was one of the first to introduce to the world this marvellous archipelago with nine varieties of breadfruit trees, with its year-round flora and its colourful fauna, a country of abundance, of music, art and poetry, a country whose charm and deep uniqueness will not, we hope, be changed by modern developments.

97. Within the immense expanse of the Pacific, Fiji enjoys a privilege: airline routes have made Suva a crossroads in their transoceanic network. Apart from its economic weight proper, the new Member State therefore symbolizes the whole of Oceania and strengthens in our Organization the presence of the fifth part of the world.

98. By a happy coincidence of events, our Organization is called upon on the eve of the celebration of its twenty-fifth anniversary to admit a new Member, and the last obstacles to the independence of Fiji have been removed thanks to the will for conciliation and understanding on all sides. These are encouraging signs for Fiji and indeed for the United Nations.

99. That is an extra reason to express with confidence our wishes for the prosperity of and our warm congratulations to the people and Government of Fiji.

100. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I thank the representative of France for the kind words he has addressed to me.

101. Mr. JOUEJATI (Syria): Mr. President, my delegation welcomes in your person a President of the Security Council whose tactful diplomacy and rich experience have been unceasingly devoted to the

defence of the principles of the Charter. The country you represent is great in its culture, its civilization and its legacy of goodwill and friendship, a legacy which constitutes the motive force of the activities in this world body of the Spanish delegation under your able guidance.

102. We are proud of our friendship with Spain, proud to see its devoted son, Jaime de Pinies, presiding over the discussions of this highest organ of the international organization, and proud of the role which the Spanish delegation is consistently playing in the improvement of international relations and the meetings of minds and purposes.

103. We also wish to pay a tribute to Ambassador Nicol of Sierra Leone for the manner in which he discharged the heavy duties which confronted him last month. The gravity of events then was matched by his effective quiet diplomacy. In every issue he had an extraordinary ability to see the true goals and the true interests of the international community, to prescribe the right means for safeguarding them and to bring about, accordingly, the appropriate consensus among members. To His Excellency and to his delegation go our high consideration and sincere wishes.

104. Mr. President, before coming to the substance of the question that we are discussing, my delegation wishes also to express to you our gratitude for your generous gesture in opening this meeting by expressing on behalf of the Council grief at the death of President Gamal Abdel Nasser whose loss was deeply felt by his people, by the Arab people at large, by his African and Asian brothers, and indeed by the world at large. We share likewise the grief over the death of Ambassador Ramani of Malaysia and the telegrams which you have sent are most appreciated by my delegation.

105. Amidst world events that trouble the conscience of every peace-loving and justice-loving man and community there come sometimes glimmers of light junctures rich in significance which enhance hope. They are a welcome relief. Such is the eventful and most happy access to independence of Fiji, marking another step in the eradication of foreign rule, another achievement in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) on granting independence to colonial countries and peoples, especially as we are celebrating this year the tenth anniversary of that Declaration. Above all it is a vindication of the first and foremost basic purpose of the Charter as embodied in Article 2, which puts the emphasis on the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples.

106. This event has been achieved in happy conditions of racial harmony, concordant and astute statesmanship and a perspective of great expectations for a peaceful, progressive and prosperous Fiji which Fijians so much deserve. Of course we wholeheartedly support draft resolution S/9959. Fiji will thus serve as an exemplary State where all citizens, regardless of origin, creed or colour are equal in rights and duties, where leaders of the stature and ability of Sir Kamisese Mara and Sir Mohammad Koya put the vision of a

harmonious, united, independent and solid Fiji above any minor consideration, thus ensuring the support and the love of the Fijian population and the admiration of the international community.

107. In such a healthy climate the prosperity of Fiji will be attained by the efforts of its august people to develop their rich resources and to introduce the necessary diversification for an independent and strong economy, thus fulfilling the potentialities of their land. We are certain that the Fijian people will meet these challenges and become a model State to which we can express our best wishes for consolidation and success.

108. I should not let this occasion pass without paying tribute to His Excellency U Thant for having all along pressed for the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and whose dedication to the eradication of colonialism is too well known to need mention here. Likewise I pay tribute to the Ambassador of Sierra Leone, Ambassador Nicol, and his colleagues who sponsored the draft resolution. He is Chairman of the Special Committee of Twenty-Four which today finds its work on Fiji achieved and crowned with success.

109. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I thank the representative of Syria for the kind words he has addressed to me.

110. Mr. TERENCE (Burundi) (*interpretation from French*): The Burundi delegation for many reasons wishes to congratulate the representative of Sierra Leone on the exceptional mastery and success with which he conducted secret diplomacy in the month of September, a month in which a complex and delicate situation brought the Security Council into session. We congratulate him for another reason—that as representative of an African country, indeed of Africa as a whole, he has reason for satisfaction in the accession of Fiji to national sovereignty. This event is of course important to him as chairman of the Committee of Twenty-Four—almost as important as it is to the Fijians themselves. I pay tribute to him and share the pride of all Africans in his success.

111. I wish now to address myself to you, Mr. President, in order to tell you how great is our appreciation of the frequent support you have given to Africa throughout your term in the Council. This sentiment is tinged with regret that unfortunately there is very little time left before the expiration of that term. However, you may rest assured that Africa has highly appreciated your support and the way in which you showed your independence in your judgements and decisions affecting African Governments in particular. May I say that the successors of Spain and Finland, in a few months, will be able to follow that example with a certain independence of mind and departing somewhat from a policy which might sometimes be constraining to those who belong to a certain part of the world.

112. I should like now to touch on the problem of substance, the admission of Fiji to the United Nations.

This application in the view of the Burundi delegation is of threefold significance. First, because it marks the ending of foreign domination as the result of the acquisition of national sovereignty by a new State. Secondly, because it gives the right to the Fijians to assume their international responsibilities like all other Members of the Organization. Thirdly, because the Government of the new State embraces, by virtue of its membership of the United Nations, the role of champion of peace.

113. This is an occasion of a double event of particular importance for the inhabitants of Fiji. The double event is accession to national sovereignty and admission to the concert of States making up our Organization.

114. On behalf of the Burundi Government my delegation has great pleasure in expressing warmest possible wishes to the new Member and extending enthusiastic congratulations to the Government and people of Fiji. These are very well deserved because of the efforts made by the leaders of Fiji, supported by its people, to exercise their right to self-determination and to recover the human dignity of which every country subject to a foreign Power has been deprived.

115. Membership of the United Nations entails obligations, but my Government and my delegation feel that this membership of the United Nations should also bring privileges and even preferential treatment for countries which fall into the same category as Fiji. By this I mean that some people may overlook the fact that not only should Members of the United Nations have the obligation of contributing to the United Nations—which of course they have to assume—but, in accordance with the spirit and form of the Charter, the United Nations has a special obligation towards small nations, namely, that of helping them to be economically, socially, culturally and genuinely independent.

116. I think it my duty to point out that the United Nations has this obligation in its programme and it should assume it appropriately and effectively. Furthermore, I think we should state that harmonious racial coexistence among Fiji citizens should constitute an incentive and a lesson for certain Powers which still have colonies, because, as we have stated on other occasions, racial diversity and cultural diversity should not constitute obstacles to the coexistence of races, as has just been demonstrated by the people of Fiji.

117. I revert to the idea which is so obvious to us, that, generally speaking, a country which acquires independence is by that very fact involved in co-operation with its former metropolitan country.

118. To conclude, the events which we have witnessed so enthusiastically—that is, the accession to independence of Fiji—is an example which should be followed by the Governments of Portugal and the United Kingdom. The peoples, even those who are most oppressed or who suffer most, as in the case of Rhodesia, South Africa, Namibia, and the Portuguese colonies, should not be deprived of indepen-

dence because of a certain fear that once they have acceded to independence they may take reprisals. I emphasize that the humanity and magnanimity of the African peoples will serve as a guarantee to the whites who are in Rhodesia, South Africa, Namibia and the Portuguese Territories, when those Africans are in a position to exercise their right to self-determination. Consequently, this should be an incentive to the United Kingdom and to Portugal, so that the process of decolonization and the recovery of national sovereignty will continue and be concluded for all peoples who are still under foreign colonial domination.

119. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I thank the representative of Burundi for the kind words he has addressed to me.

120. Mr. PASTINEN (Finland): I am pleased to have this opportunity to express to you, Mr. President, the congratulations of the Finnish delegation on your assumption of the Presidency of the Security Council for this important month of October.

121. I should also like to convey the expression of our gratitude and esteem to the outgoing President of the Council, Ambassador Nicol of Sierra Leone, for the services he gave to the Council during the month of September.

122. I wish to add the voice of the Finnish delegation to the voices of those who have already expressed their pleasure at the opportunity of voting in favour of the recommendation to admit Fiji to membership of the United Nations. It is gratifying to know that one of the very first acts of the Government of this newly independent State was to apply for membership of our Organization. This application, following the entry of so many new States during the last decade and a half, is yet another indication of the success of the United Nations in translating into reality the lofty aims of Chapter XI of the Charter.

123. As a member of the Special Committee of Twenty-Four, Finland was in a position to observe closely the preparations and progress of Fiji towards independence. This evolution has now come to a successful conclusion. Fiji has gained its independence and will presently take its place in the community of nations as a free and sovereign State. It is opportune indeed that on the eve of the tenth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, as well as on the eve of the twenty-fifth anniversary of this Organization, we shall be able to welcome Fiji among us. We are convinced that Fiji fulfils the requirements laid down in Article 4 of the Charter and that it will make its contribution to international co-operation and understanding.

124. While giving credit to the accomplishments of the people of Fiji and its leaders, we wish at the same time to pay a tribute to the Government of the United Kingdom for the manner in which it has discharged its responsibilities for the administration of that Territory and prepared Fiji for full independence, a process

which will now be crowned by the admission of that State to the United Nations.

125. The Finnish delegation not only wishes to acclaim today the accession of Fiji to independence and membership in the community of nations, but looks forward to co-operating with its representatives, particularly as Finland and Fiji will henceforth sit in international forums elbow-to-elbow, although geographically we are poles apart.

126. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I thank the representative of Finland for the kind words he said about me at the beginning of his statement.

127. Mr. KUŁAGA (Poland): Mr. President, the Polish delegation offers you the most sincere congratulations on your assumption of the Presidency of the Security Council at a time when the world's attention is focused on the United Nations, preparing to celebrate in a few days its twenty-fifth anniversary. As a member of the Security Council, Poland stands ready, under your proved, able and experienced guidance, to co-operate with the members of the Council in bringing about this body's contribution to the solution of the problems it faces.

128. Permit me also to express my delegation's deep appreciation of the efficient and tactful leadership provided to the Council by my colleague on my left, Ambassador Nicol of Sierra Leone, during his term as President.

129. The act of admission of a new Member State to the United Nations family—and the Council is about to perform such an act now—is certainly in the category of positive achievements of our Organization during the twenty-five years of its activities. The record of fifty-seven States welcomed to the United Nations following their liberation from colonial domination indicates the magnitude not only of the process of decolonization in the contemporary world, but also of the role that the United Nations has played in contributing to that process. That role remains, in our view, unfulfilled.

130. Each case of a colonial country, whether large or small, acceding to independence gives us reason to rejoice. We see in it the triumph of the ideals and forces of freedom and progress over those of imperialism and retrogression. The case of the accession of Fiji to independence is, therefore, well befitting in view of the imminent celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations and the tenth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

131. The road to independence for the people of Fiji has not been an easy one. Almost a century of domination afflicted the islands with multiple problems that at one time seemed to make the achievement of independence almost impossible; but the people's indelible aspirations to freedom prevailed over the many great odds. We congratulate the people of Fiji on their great accomplishment. We wish them success

in the speedy elimination of the legacy of colonial rule. We wish them success in the consolidation of their independent existence and in the all-round development of their country.

132. We should like to express the natural hope that Fiji will increase in this Organization the ranks of those who in this year of the tenth anniversary of the historic anti-colonial Declaration are determined to do away for ever with the evil of colonialism and work for the development and implementation of the United Nations aims.

133. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I am very grateful to the representative of Poland for the kind words he addressed to me at the beginning of his statement.

134. Mr. KHATRI (Nepal): Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure to extend to you the cordial congratulations of my delegation on your assumption of the office of President of the Security Council. I assure you that in the discharge of your great responsibility you will enjoy the full co-operation and loyalty of my delegation. As the Security Council meets today to consider an application for membership of the United Nations by a newly independent sovereign State, my delegation is particularly pleased to have you as our President, because the record of your country in the area of decolonization has been admirable.

135. On the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations and the tenth anniversary of the Declaration on decolonization one more nation has gained the full status of a sovereign and independent State. Fiji's accession to independence has been peaceful, without any bloodshed, and with the full co-operation and consent of the entire population. My delegation congratulates the people of Fiji on the attainment of independence by peaceful means and wishes them continued peace, harmony and progress in the years ahead.

136. In welcoming Fiji as an independent State Nepal is further delighted by the fact that it belongs to and represents the cultural heritage and genius of the Far Eastern, Asian and South Pacific regions.

137. I wish to take advantage of this opportunity to pay the tribute of my Government to the Government of the United Kingdom for having granted independence to Fiji with good grace and in good faith. My delegation hopes that the good example set by the United Kingdom will be emulated by other colonial Powers.

138. With regard to the application of Fiji for membership of the United Nations, I have the honour and the privilege to state that my Government is confident that Fiji is a peace-loving State and that it is both willing and able to carry out the obligations of membership in the United Nations. Nepal whole-heartedly supports Fiji's membership.

139. The decision of the Government of Fiji to apply for membership shows that country's determination to join in our common partnership in the interest of world peace. The admission of Fiji to the United Nations will represent a step towards international co-operation; it will signify progress towards universality of our Organization. My delegation looks forward most eagerly to working in mutual co-operation with the delegation of Fiji in the United Nations.

140. Before I conclude my statement I should like to pay the tribute of my delegation to Ambassador Davidson Nicol for the mature and wise leadership provided by him in the conduct of the affairs of the Security Council in September. It is gratifying to note that the Security Council, by its decision of 9 September [*resolution 286 (1970)*], prevailed upon the Governments and individuals concerned to display moderation and perform humanitarian acts.

141. Lastly, I wish to thank Ambassador Kulaga and Ambassador Sevilla Sacasa, our Presidents for August and July respectively.

142. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I thank the representative of Nepal for the kind words he addressed to me at the beginning of his statement.

143. Mr. LIU (China): Mr. President, first of all permit me to congratulate you heartily on your assumption of the Presidency of the Council for this historic month. It is fortunate that our deliberations will have the benefit of your acumen and experience.

144. I should also like to echo the high tributes that have been extended to the Ambassador of Sierra Leone, who guided the proceedings of the Council last month with grace and distinction.

145. The twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations coincides with the tenth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. In the midst of our celebrations it is indeed a happy event to salute the birth of another nation in the South Pacific and to welcome it as the 127th Member of the United Nations.

146. A few hours ago Fiji became fully independent. The new State has a multiracial population of more than half a million. Under the dynamic leadership of the Prime Minister, Sir Kamisese Mara, the various ethnic groups have been welded into a harmonious whole, proud of their traditions and confident of their future. We can feel assured that the people of Fiji will continue to develop their political stability and economic well-being and contribute constructively to the work of the United Nations.

147. In this connexion my delegation wishes to add a word of congratulation to the former administering Power for the role it has played in the development of free political institutions in the islands. It is with special pleasure that my delegation supports Fiji's application today, for 10 October is a historic day not



only for the Fijian people but also for us Chinese. It was on the same date that the Republic of China was born fifty-nine years ago.

148. I take this opportunity to extend our warm congratulations and best wishes to the Government and the people of Fiji.

149. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I am very grateful to the representative of China for the kind words he said about me at the beginning of his statement.

150. Mr. SEVILLA SACASA (Nicaragua) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Mr. President, first of all I extend a most cordial greeting and express my wishes to you on your assumption of the Presidency of the Security Council. We are convinced by your great talents, experience in international affairs and academic erudition that your conduct of the affairs of the Council will be crowned by success and that your Presidency will be remembered by all your colleagues for its wisdom.

151. Ambassador de Pinies knows full well that, for all the Hispanic Americans, the mention of Spain arouses deep feelings of sympathy and love and recreates in words the events of its epic and glorious past.

152. I should like also to reaffirm the gratitude of my delegation to our distinguished colleagues, Ambassador Nicol of Sierra Leone and Ambassador Kulaga of Poland, for the splendid manner in which they presided over the Council in the months of August and September last. We were not surprised at the brilliant and skilful manner in which they discharged their duties, because we are all aware of their outstanding qualities and of the international prestige they so rightly enjoy.

153. I should like to express my special thanks to my colleague Ambassador Nicol for his generous words of praise in regard to myself when I presided over the Council last July. I am greatly honoured by his words, as I am honoured by his friendship that is so dear to me. Ambassador Nicol knows of my great esteem and admiration for his great people and my appreciation of its great men.

154. On this auspicious occasion I am happy to convey my sincere greetings to the Ambassador of the Republic of China. He knows that at this time my country's flag is raised in honour of his fatherland.

155. My delegation abstained when the motion of the representative of Zambia was put to the vote merely in order to express our faithful and loyal support of the rules of procedure that govern us. We abstained with all due respect for the proposal of the representative of Zambia. We abstained although we knew full well that, from the very moment when the Fiji Islands achieved independence, from the very moment when its distinguished Government submitted its application for membership to the United Nations—with all the

rights and duties it entails—we would all desire to accept that request. We know that a most noble peace-loving people inhabits those islands, a people that is fully aware of the responsibilities implicit in membership in the United Nations.

156. On behalf of Nicaragua I should like to state that we shall enthusiastically vote in favour of the admission of Fiji as a Member of the United Nations and we most sincerely and whole-heartedly congratulate its distinguished Government. At the same time I express my sincere wishes and those of the Government and people of my country for the growing prosperity of the Fijian people.

157. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I should like most especially to thank the representative of Nicaragua for the glowing terms in which he has paid tribute to my country. He knows that his feelings are reciprocated.

158. Mr. ISSRAELYAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (*translated from Russian*): Ambassador Malik has already expressed his congratulations and feelings of esteem to you, Mr. President, and to the President of the Security Council for September, the Ambassador of Sierra Leone.

159. Permit me to associate myself with those warm congratulations and to wish you every success in your responsible and important work.

160. The Soviet delegation welcomes the arrival of Fiji in the family of independent sovereign States. Today the Security Council is considering the request of the Government of Fiji for admission to the United Nations. The road to independence was not easy for the people of Fiji and this is not the first time that this country has been discussed in the United Nations. From the documents which were submitted for the consideration of the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly and other organs of the United Nations, we all learnt of the difficult struggle of the people of Fiji for their freedom and for the right to autonomous development and independence. The proclamation of the independence of Fiji—a country which was a foreign colony for almost a century—is one of the striking illustrations of the unconquerable force of the national liberation struggle of the oppressed peoples.

161. Throughout the whole period during which the question of Fiji was being considered in various organs of the United Nations, the Soviet Union spoke out firmly and consistently in defence of the just and lawful demands of the people of Fiji for freedom and independence. It is with great satisfaction that we now welcome the birth of another independent State—Fiji—which has cast off the bonds of colonial slavery.

162. At the same time, we cannot fail to note that many peoples are still languishing under the colonial yoke. Thus at this solemn moment when we are considering the question of the admission of Fiji to the United Nations, it is quite appropriate to recall once

again that a hard struggle lies ahead for the elimination of all the remnants of colonialism.

163. In addition, we cannot fail to see that the achievement of independence by the people of Fiji is another striking example of the fact that in the modern world the last remnants of colonialism will be destroyed under the pressure of freedom-loving forces. The rotten edifice of the colonial empires is finally crumbling. From a historical point of view, the proclamation of the independence of Fiji once again proves convincingly that imperialism and colonialism are doomed and that they have not and cannot have any future. Unreservedly expressing our support for the admission of Fiji as a full State Member of the United Nations, we wish the people of Fiji success in building a new life and speedily eliminating the after-effects of colonialism. We wish the people of Fiji progress and prosperity on the path of an independent existence and successful co-operation with all the freedom-loving and progressive forces of the world in the struggle against the evil of imperialism, from which they suffered so much and so long.

164. Allow me in conclusion to read out a message of welcome from the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, Aleksei Nikolaevich Kosygin, to the Prime Minister of Fiji, Sir Kamisese Mara:

“Accept, Mr. Prime Minister, my heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of the proclamation of the independence of Fiji and my wishes for prosperity and progress for the people of your country on the path of independent development.

“The Soviet Government, unswervingly basing its policy on the principles of equality and self-determination of peoples and supporting development and co-operation among all countries, hereby declares that it recognizes Fiji as an independent and sovereign State and expresses a readiness to establish diplomatic relations with it.”

165. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I thank the representative of the Soviet Union for the kind words he addressed to me at the beginning of his statement.

166. Mr. ESPINOSA VALDERRAMA (Colombia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Sir, I should like to begin my statement by congratulating you most cordially on your assumption of the Presidency of the Security Council. My delegation is convinced that your intelligence, talents and many personal qualities will be a decisive factor in the success of our deliberations. I should also like to pay a tribute of admiration and gratitude to the Ambassador of Sierra Leone for the tasks he performed last month, a month beset by so many difficulties that he was able to overcome with intelligence and skill.

167. I should like on behalf of my country to announce that we shall vote in favour of the admission of Fiji to the United Nations. I do so with the greatest pleasure because of the very great merits of that nation that

have already been so eloquently mentioned by preceding speakers and because thus we shall have in this concert of free nations a new and most distinguished Member. With Fiji's admission we take a further step along the path conducive to the elimination of colonialism, against which my country struggles fervently and enthusiastically. Since Colombia is a member of the Council for Namibia, I believe this is a most appropriate occasion to express the wish that for that people also the time will come for freedom and independence.

168. Colombia offers friendship and solidarity to the new State of Fiji, its people and Government, and greets it as it begins its new independent, autonomous struggle for economic development and hence for the welfare of its people.

169. My abstention on the proposal of the representative of Zambia was in no way intended to delay the entry of Fiji into the United Nations—which I am sure will be agreed on unanimously—because I also know that rule 59 would not prevent the committee provided for therein from meeting immediately and submitting its conclusions straight away, on this very day. The second part of rule 59 does not provide for requests for admission during General Assembly sessions, nor does it prohibit them. Proof of this is the fact that we are at present considering a very important application. The thirty-five days the rule refers to do not represent a dilatory period but rather establish a deadline in order that notice of such decisions may be given well in advance—thirty-five days before the regular sessions of the General Assembly or fourteen days before special sessions if they are convened. I also sought to give expression to a traditional legal criterion of my country, namely the strict and full application of all legal provisions while at the same time being consistent with the new spirit prevailing in the United Nations to strengthen the Organization and restore its full prestige. I also took into account the need to remember the implicit soundness of its principles and purposes and the importance of its norms, which must be complied with so long as they are not derogated or modified.

170. Lastly, I should like to congratulate the people of Fiji and their Government and express our wishes for their prosperity on this day in which they begin their independent life and when we here in the Security Council shall be recommending Fiji's admission to the United Nations.

171. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I am especially grateful for the very kind words the representative of Colombia has addressed to me.

172. Mr. YOST (United States of America): In my opening remarks at this meeting I paid tribute to Fiji at some length and explained why we consider Fiji fully qualified to be admitted to the United Nations. I shall not repeat what I said a few minutes ago. However, since we have moved from the procedural to the substantive part of our proceedings, I should not wish that the views of the United States be absent from this part of the record. Therefore, I merely wish



to repeat our gratification that Fiji has achieved independence and has applied for admission to the United Nations, our unqualified intention to vote for its admission, and our congratulations to the Government and people of Fiji on this joyous occasion.

173. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): Speaking as representative of SPAIN, I should like to state how very gratified my Government is at the fact that the application for the admission of Fiji to membership of the United Nations has been submitted and that this event has coincided with my assumption of the Chair at a time when we are commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations and the tenth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

174. My Government is convinced that Fiji is a peace-loving country and that it is highly qualified for membership in the United Nations. We shall therefore be happy to vote in favour of its admission.

175. At the same time, I should like to extend my congratulations to the delegation of the United Kingdom for expediting the process of decolonization of that Territory. We hope other Territories will follow the same example and that the process of decolonization will soon be completed.

176. As PRESIDENT, since there are no further names on the speakers' list, I shall now put to the vote the draft resolution co-sponsored by Sierra Leone, the United Kingdom and Zambia, contained in document S/9959.

*A vote was taken by show of hands.*

*The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.<sup>6</sup>*

177. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): In accordance with rule 60 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, I shall

request the Secretary-General to transmit to the General Assembly the text of the resolution just adopted, together with the verbatim record of this meeting. With the consent of the Council I should like on behalf of the Bureau to extend cordial greetings to the delegation of Fiji, which is among us in this Chamber, and, through it, to convey the best wishes of the Council to the people and Government of Fiji on its accession to independence and on the favourable recommendation of the Council for Fiji's admission to membership of the United Nations.

178. Before adjourning the meeting, I call on the representative of Sierra Leone, who has asked to speak.

179. Mr. NICOL (Sierra Leone): Mr. President, I should like to express my own profound gratitude and that of my delegation to you and our colleagues for the very kind words that have been expressed on the Presidency of the Council which my delegation held last month. I owe a great debt of gratitude to all members for their willing and constructive co-operation at all hours of the day and the night. It was a tremendous pleasure to work with them.

180. I was "sandwiched" between two experienced presiding officers: the representative of Poland and you, Sir, the representative of Spain; I was surrounded by you all. By the scientific processes of osmosis and diffusion it would have been difficult for me to fail completely.

181. My delegation would like to pay tribute to the Secretary-General, His Excellency U Thant, personally, for his constant willingness to advise us on procedural and political problems, and to his staff for their ready and swift efficiency.

182. Once more I thank you, Sir.

183. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I thank the representative of Sierra Leone for his congratulations.

*The meeting rose at 3.40 p.m.*

<sup>6</sup> See resolution 287 (1970).

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