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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

Documents of the Security Council (symbol S/. . .) are normally published in quarterly *Supplements* of the *Official Records of the Security Council*. The date of the document indicates the supplement in which it appears or in which information about it is given.

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.

2021ST MEETING

Held in New York on Thursday, 7 July 1977, at 3.30 p.m.

President: Mr. CHEN Chu (China).

Present: The representatives of the following States: Benin, Canada, China, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, India, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritius, Pakistan, Panama, Romania, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Venezuela.

Provisional agenda (S/Agenda/2021)

1. Adoption of the agenda

2. Admission of new Members:

Report of the Committee on the Admission of New Members concerning the application of the Republic of Djibouti for membership in the United Nations (S/12359)

The meeting was called to order at 4 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Admission of new Members:

Report of the Committee on the Admission of New Members concerning the application of the Republic of Djibouti for membership in the United Nations (S/12359)

1. The PRESIDENT (*translation from Chinese*): I have received letters dated 7 July 1977 from the representatives of Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Oman, Somalia and Yemen in which they request to be invited to participate in the discussion of the application of the Republic of Djibouti for admission to membership in the United Nations. Therefore, in accordance with the provisions of Article 31 of the Charter and rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure, as well as the usual practice of the Council, I propose to invite those representatives to participate in the discussion without the right to vote.

2. In view of the limited number of places available at the Council table, I invite those representatives to take the places reserved for them at the side of the Council chamber, on the usual understanding that they will be invited to take a place at the Council table whenever they wish to address the Council.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Badawi (Egypt), Mr. Ibrahim (Ethiopia), Mr. Admina (Gabon), Mr. Aboul-

Nasr (Oman), Mr. Mussa (Somalia) and Mr. Sallam (Yemen) took the places reserved for them at the side of the Council chamber.

3. The PRESIDENT (*translation from Chinese*): The Council will now consider the report of the Committee on the Admission of New Members concerning the application of the Republic of Djibouti for membership in the United Nations, which appears in document S/12359. Members of the Council have also received a draft resolution sponsored by all members of the Council and circulated in document S/12358.

4. Mr. HUSSON (France) (*interpretation from French*): Mr. President, may I, first of all, extend to you my heartiest congratulations on your assumption of the presidency. I should like to say how pleased the French delegation is to see the representative of a State with which my country enjoys the best of relations acting as President this month. The reputation that you have earned here assures us that our work will be conducted successfully. I should also like to congratulate Ambassador Barton on the effective, skilful and wise manner in which he discharged his exalted task during a difficult month. I ask Mr. Lapointe to convey these congratulations to Mr. Barton.

5. Finally, I should like to welcome to this hall Mr. Abdallah Mohamed Kamil, Minister of Planning and Development, who is one of the leaders of the new Republic of Djibouti and is already well known at the United Nations. I should also like to welcome Mr. Abdoulkader Waberi Askbar.

6. In introducing draft resolution S/12358, sponsored by all members of the Council, whereby the Republic of Djibouti is recommended by the Council for admission to membership in the United Nations, the French delegation is not going through a mere formality. It is not merely acting as spokesman of the Council in observing that the new State fulfils all the requirements of the Charter, is anxious to respect the commitments imposed by it and should therefore be admitted to membership in the United Nations. In warmly recommending to the Council that it should view with favour the candidacy of the Republic of Djibouti, the French delegation recalls, not without emotion, the bonds forged by time between France and the new State that has just come into existence by the Red Sea.

7. As is known, about 125 years have passed since Frenchmen came into contact, in the last century, with that part of Africa which became the French Territory of the Afars and Issas prior to acceding to independence under

the name of the Republic of Djibouti. Throughout that entire period, our two peoples have engaged in a friendly dialogue which, I am convinced, will continue in the future in the entirely new circumstances brought about by history.

8. If I have referred to that distant period of the French presence, it is, as was stated by Mr. Galley, French Minister of Co-operation, on 27 June in Djibouti,

“because those times were of primary importance in the destiny of that country, and in spite of the difficulties and problems which marked, here as elsewhere, the forward movement of men and events throughout the colonial era, it is clear that from the outset human sympathy and affection played an important role in the life we shared for more than a century”.

Need I recall that we bore arms together in two world conflicts?

9. Is that at all surprising? The new State of Djibouti is an attractive country. It is not an inhospitable land, as some would have it. It must be accepted and loved for many reasons. Courageous, and mindful of their faith and traditions, but also anxious for further development, the people living there are rightly proud of their country.

10. But I should like also to refer briefly to the institutional and political developments that led the Republic of Djibouti to independence.

11. In response to a desire expressed by the people, more than a year ago France defined the process that was to lead the French Territory of the Afars and Issas to independence. That process was scrupulously adhered to, in close agreement with the local political groups. Each time-limit was met, confirming for the inhabitants of the Territory the indispensable nature of the dynamics of unity. At the same time, France consistently stated its policy before various international bodies—which, moreover, were invited to go to Djibouti to judge on the scene the democratic nature of the process that had been set in motion—and it stated its policy also to the neighbouring countries.

12. As the members of the Council are aware, our concern was to enable the Republic of Djibouti to begin its new life in the best possible conditions. With regard to internal policy, the aim was to bring together all the political movements and to create a truly national consensus. That aim was to a very considerable extent achieved. On the diplomatic level, our desire was to contribute to the establishment of an atmosphere of peace, which would militate in favour of Djibouti and would be of advantage to all the nations of the region. I am convinced that, in that respect too, our intentions were very well understood.

13. That was no easy path, but France, in view of the result, has no regrets about having taken this calculated risk. Indeed, it was in those circumstances, which I would venture to describe as “exemplary”—the report of the mission¹ of the Organization seems to me to justify that

adjective—that, on 8 May 1977, by a very large majority and in all freedom, the people decided in favour of independence, following a referendum which took place in the presence of representatives of the Organization of African Unity, the League of Arab States and the United Nations. Taking note of the results of the referendum, the French Parliament a few weeks later endorsed the decision of the people and, on 27 June, the Republic of Djibouti acceded to full international sovereignty.

14. There is no need to stress to the international community the importance of the birth of this new State. As the representative of the French Government said at the independence ceremonies,

“Located at the crossroads of Arab and African civilizations, at the junction of Africa and Asia, at the outlets of the Red Sea and the East African highlands, Djibouti occupies a position of great economic and strategic importance. In former times it was a staging point on the road to the Far East. Today it takes a very active part in modern shipping and is an outlet for the inland countries.”

15. Thus, Djibouti is today the master of its fate. France, which endeavoured strictly to respect the will of the peoples, believes that each State has the sole ability to determine its goals, to decide the types of society appropriate to its character and to agree to the sacrifices that any kind of development presupposes. France, for its part, will continue to lend the new State all co-operation, in terms of men, capital and equipment, so long as that is desired. In his message of 26 June, the President of the French Republic forcefully made that point when he said: “France intends neither to forget nor to ignore Djibouti.”

16. We shall, in all spheres, accede to requests that are freely made, with respect for the sovereignty and independence of the new Republic. My country intends to conform strictly and faithfully to the line of conduct it has thus set for itself.

17. Finally, on behalf of France, I should like today to greet the leaders of the Republic of Djibouti, and particularly its President, Mr. Hassan Gouled. I extend to the new Republic and its people my country's warmest wishes. The Republic of Djibouti and its people may rest assured that our friendship, born of mutual esteem and knowledge, will be constant. They may also rest assured of our determination to maintain the spirit of solidarity so indispensable to our times—while respecting the sovereignty of everyone.

18. The PRESIDENT (*translation from Chinese*): I thank the representative of France for his kind words, including his remarks about the relations between France and China.

19. Mr. JAIPAL (India): I should like to extend to you, Sir, the felicitations of my delegation on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of July. We assure you of our co-operation and wish you every success in guiding the Council's deliberations. We have no doubt that your wide political and diplomatic experience will be of the greatest value to the Council and will produce fruitful results for the United Nations.

¹ United Nations Mission to Observe the Referendum and Elections in French Somaliland (Djibouti). For the text of the report, see A/32/107 and Corr.1 and Add.1.

20. I should like also to congratulate your predecessor, Ambassador Barton of Canada, on a difficult job well done last month. He had some complex problems and several awkward moments, but he was able to overcome them with patience, good humour and gentle persuasion at all hours of the day or night.
21. The delegation of India is happy to join in the Council's recommendation to the General Assembly that Djibouti, being qualified, should be admitted to the United Nations. It is a matter of great joy to welcome the liberation of a people and a country like Djibouti from colonial rule, and its entry into the United Nations as a sovereign Member State will represent not only the fulfilment of a sacred international trust but also the realization of one of the important objectives of the Charter of the United Nations.
22. The journey of Djibouti to independence has not been easy. Fortunately, the supervision exercised by the United Nations since 1960 has ensured respect for Djibouti's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. It has also ensured that the process of self-determination has been free and fair. It is noteworthy that 98.7 per cent of the people voted for independence and for no other form of termination of the colonial rule.
23. My delegation takes this opportunity to congratulate the Government of France on the objective and impartial role it played in discharging its responsibilities under the Charter as the former administering Power in Djibouti. It is in the finest tradition of France to offer to help Djibouti in the early stages of its independent existence.
24. The Prime Minister of my country has conveyed to the Government of Djibouti India's interest in establishing, and desire to establish, close and fruitful co-operation with it.
25. We wish the Government and people of Djibouti every success in consolidating and maintaining their independence, and we look forward to co-operating with them at the United Nations and outside it.
26. Ms. LOPEZ (Venezuela) (*interpretation from Spanish*): I should like to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Council. You are beginning your term of office as the Council considers a particularly important subject, the admission of a new Member to the United Nations.
27. I should like, too, to say how much we esteem Ambassador Barton of Canada for the outstanding work he did last month. Thanks to his patience and skill we were able to adopt resolutions on two delicate questions.
28. As a member, together with two other Member States—Sri Lanka and Norway—of the United Nations observer mission which witnessed the referendum in Djibouti, we were able, two months ago, personally to experience the emotional event of the referendum in Djibouti. We saw the civic spirit of a people which, facing up to the problems of nature and other difficulties, participated in a vote to show the world that they desired to become independent and freely to exercise their sovereignty.
29. This new member of the international community will become the 148th Member of our Organization. It has already said it is prepared to abide by all its obligations and, like any newly born entity, it will need protection, assistance and understanding of its brothers in the rest of the world.
30. It is the unanimous desire of the Council to submit to the General Assembly the application of Djibouti for membership. That is borne out by the draft resolution before the Council. The Assembly will certainly be in complete agreement when the matter is presented to it for consideration. That is why we wish, as of now, to bid welcome to Djibouti, a country we were fortunately honoured to see come into existence and for which we have special affection.
31. We know that the courage demonstrated by the people of Djibouti during the two electoral events we witnessed proves they will be able to move forward in the building of a prosperous country free from foreign interference. Its participation as a member of the regional organization, the stability of its relations with its brothers on the African and Asian continents and, finally, its membership in this Organization augur well for Djibouti.
32. In his letter to the Secretary-General [*see S/12357*], the President of the Republic of Djibouti, His Excellency Mr. Hassan Gouled Aptidon, stated clearly that his Government assumed its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and that it was in a position to abide by them faithfully and conscientiously. The delegation of Venezuela would add that it considers that Djibouti not only fulfils the requirements of the Charter for admission as a full member of our Organization but also, as an independent sovereign State, has the right to be represented in this universal forum.
33. For all these reasons we welcome Djibouti's application and we are one of the sponsors of the draft resolution before the Council.
34. At the same time we wish to express our pleasure at the attitude of the French Government in taking this step towards the elimination of the last vestiges of its colonial past in Africa.
35. We repeat our welcome and extend our best wishes to the people of Djibouti. It is with pleasure that we see the two representatives of Djibouti now present in the Council, the Minister of Planning and Development, Mr. Abdallah Mohamed Kamil, and Deputy Abdoukader Waberi Askbar.
36. Mr. MURRAY (United Kingdom): Mr. President, may I say how pleased we are that this meeting should be taking place under your presidency. We hope that this month may prove to be a reasonably quiet one for the Security Council, but nevertheless I can say that, should this hope be disappointed, we have full confidence that we shall be able to rely on your wisdom and skill in guiding our work. At the same time I should like to associate my delegation with the message of congratulations which you, on behalf of us all, sent to your predecessor, Ambassador Barton of Canada, for the admirable way in which he conducted the work of the Council during the difficult month of June.

37. It is always one of the more pleasant duties that fall to members of the Security Council to welcome aspiring new Members. My delegation will therefore be very pleased to vote in favour of the draft resolution the Council has before it recommending the admission of Djibouti.

38. We have followed Djibouti's progress to independence with very great interest, and note with satisfaction that this process has been accomplished in a peaceful and democratic fashion. This satisfaction was given expression in a message of congratulations which my Prime Minister sent to President Hassan Gouled on independence day.

39. I should like to pay a tribute to the statesmanship and understanding shown by the authorities of both France and Djibouti, which have made this peaceful transition possible. At the same time I should like to say how much we welcome the statements that have been made by the countries neighbouring Djibouti in support of Djibouti's sovereignty and independence. All this augurs well for the future of the new State. My Government hopes to establish close and friendly relations with the Government of Djibouti in the near future.

40. If the General Assembly agrees in due course to accept our recommendation, Djibouti will become the 148th Member of the United Nations. In this way we shall move one step further towards the goal of universality to which my Government, like other Governments represented here, attaches very great importance. We look forward to welcoming the delegation of Djibouti here as representatives of a Member State and to working closely with them in the future. In the meantime we wish the Government and people of Djibouti well in dealing with the important tasks that now face them.

41. Mr. DATCU (Romania) (*interpretation from French*): Mr. President, on behalf of the Romanian delegation I should like to extend to you our warmest congratulations on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council. It is a pleasant task for me to recall here the relations of close friendship and co-operation which so fortunately exist between our peoples, our parties and our countries. I wish you every success in your responsible office and should like to assure you of the entire co-operation of the Romanian delegation.

42. At the same time I should like to request the Canadian delegation to convey our cordial congratulations to Ambassador Barton on the extremely effective and competent way in which he presided over our work in the month of June.

43. The Security Council is at present considering the application of the Republic of Djibouti for membership in the United Nations. We fully support that request, particularly since Romania was one of the first States to recognize the new State and to welcome the proclamation of the Republic of Djibouti. In a message addressed to His Excellency Mr. Hassan Gouled Aptidon, the President of the new republic, the President of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Mr. Nicolae Ceausescu, stated:

"The accession to independence of the Republic of Djibouti, expressing as it does the desire of your people

for freedom, provides an opportunity for it to achieve its aspirations to be master of its own future and to ensure economic, social and cultural development and progress in conditions of complete sovereignty and in accordance with its national interests. This event is a reflection of the profound national and social changes that have taken place in our world as a result of the increased desire of peoples to live freely and independently and to promote new relations among States based on equality and on respect for independence and national sovereignty, in order to bring about a new international economic and political order, an order that would provide every nation with an opportunity to develop freely and in accordance with its own desires."

44. The Romanian delegation would like also to take this opportunity warmly to welcome the presence in our midst of the delegation of the Republic of Djibouti, headed by Mr. Abdallah Mohamed Kamil, Minister of Planning and Development.

45. In expressing our satisfaction at the fact that that country has acceded to independence, we should like once again to emphasize the paramount need to eliminate the aftermath of colonialism from African soil.

46. The admission to the United Nations of the Republic of Djibouti will constitute a new step towards the universality of the Organization. On this occasion we should also like to repeat our conviction that the Security Council will view favourably the request of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to occupy its legitimate place at the United Nations.

47. In conclusion, I should like to express the profound satisfaction of my delegation at the fact that the Council seems ready unanimously to recommend the admission of the Republic of Djibouti to United Nations membership. We are convinced that the Republic of Djibouti will make its contribution to the realization of the noble aims of the Organization.

48. The PRESIDENT (*translation from Chinese*): I thank the representative of Romania for his friendly sentiments. I share his gratification at the growing friendly relations existing between our two parties, countries and peoples.

49. Mr. AKHUND (Pakistan): Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure to extend to you, on behalf of the delegation of Pakistan and on my own behalf, our very warm felicitations on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for this month. We are confident that, under your experienced guidance, the Council will acquit itself well and discharge the tasks before it in a spirit of harmony and with dispatch.

50. I take this opportunity also to pay a tribute to Ambassador Barton of Canada who, during the previous month, guided our deliberations to successful conclusions with ability and patience as well as with a firm hand.

51. We are indeed glad that another African country has achieved independence. We congratulate the people of Djibouti on the successful culmination of their struggle for

freedom and pay a tribute to France, the former administering Power, for the peaceful manner in which the transfer of power has taken place. Djibouti's independence has been warmly welcomed by the Government and people of Pakistan, who share with Djibouti not only a common colonial past and affinities of culture and spirit but also hopes and aspirations for the future. On their behalf, I extend our warm and brotherly welcome to Djibouti in the comity of nations and look forward to developing ties of close co-operation and friendship in all spheres of activity between our two delegations for the mutual benefit of our countries.

52. Developing countries everywhere need peace and unity so that they may devote their human and material resources to the all important task of development and the betterment of the lives of their peoples. The Republic of Djibouti, as an independent nation has indeed a vital role to play in the region of which it is part. Because of its location and the composition of its population, it can, and we are sure that it will, serve as a bridge of friendship and co-operation between its neighbours.

53. We are also confident that, as a member of the third world, Djibouti will play a constructive and valuable role in the United Nations and will contribute significantly to the furthering of the purposes and principles of the Charter. The delegation of Pakistan deems it a privilege and an honour to support the application of the Republic of Djibouti for membership in the United Nations and we fully endorse the recommendation of the Committee on the Admission of New Members that Djibouti should be admitted to the Organization.

54. Mr. VON HASSEL (Federal Republic of Germany) (*interpretation from French*): Mr. President, first I should like to offer you my warm congratulations on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of July. Despite the geographic distance which separates our countries, there have always been close relations between the Chinese and German peoples, marked by mutual respect, particularly in the fields of science and culture. Over and above any differences in social systems, today there are excellent relations existing to our mutual advantage in both the political and economic fields between the People's Republic of China and the Federal Republic of Germany. It is my firm hope that those excellent relations between our two States will become embodied in our common endeavours here in the Security Council, and I assure of the co-operation of my delegation. At the same time, I should like to express my conviction that you will conduct our work with the greatest possible skill and competence.

55. The Council is now preparing to recommend to the General Assembly the admission of the Republic of Djibouti to the United Nations. My delegation and my country wholeheartedly associate themselves with that recommendation. Freedom and independence are rights held sacred by all peoples of the world, and the application to become a Member of the United Nations is the right of any independent State which agrees to comply with the obligations contained in the Charter. We are pleased that the Council is about to adopt unanimously the report of

the Committee on the Admission of New Members and we are very gratified that we shall see the Republic of Djibouti take its place as Member of the Organization when the General Assembly endorses—as we are sure it will—the recommendation made by the Council.

56. I should like to welcome the presence in our midst of the representatives of the Republic of Djibouti on the occasion of this decision.

57. The Federal Republic of Germany has always believed that universality is a fundamental prerequisite for the truly effective functioning of the United Nations. Hence, we are very pleased that the Organization is being given this opportunity to take a further step in that direction by welcoming a new Member State.

58. My delegation is aware of the determination with which the people of the Republic of Djibouti has pursued its goal of independence and believes that it is also fitting to take note of the spirit and the manner in which the French Government successfully discharged its obligations with regard to that Territory. The collective efforts of the people of Djibouti and of the French Government, as well as of the United Nations Mission entrusted with observing the referendum and the elections, have been crowned with success and have led to independence.

59. Djibouti has become the forty-ninth member of the Organization of African Unity. The door is now open to it to accede to the Lomé Convention. My Government looks forward to the prospect of establishing here with the representatives of Djibouti links of fruitful co-operation, and we should like also to assure the Government of Djibouti that the Federal Republic of Germany will not fail to consider all possibilities of assisting it in the economic and social fields.

60. I should like, on behalf of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, to transmit our warmest congratulations to the President of the Republic of Djibouti, Mr. Hassan Gouled, to his Government and the people of Djibouti, as well as our sincerest wishes that they should be able to discharge the crucial tasks awaiting them as they establish the new State on a sound basis of material well-being and in a life of peace and security.

61. The PRESIDENT (*translation from Chinese*): I wish to thank the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany and to tell him how happy I was to hear his reference to the relations of friendship between our two countries and peoples.

62. Mrs. HOUNGAVOU (Benin) (*interpretation from French*): Mr. President, I wish, on behalf of my delegation, to extend to you our warm and sincere congratulations on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of July. My delegation is very pleased with the excellent relation of friendship and co-operation existing between the People's Republic of Benin and your great country, China. We have no doubts about the outcome of our debate, which you will surely conduct with the diplomatic skill known to us all.

63. I should like to take this opportunity to express once more to Ambassador Barton of Canada my delegation's appreciation for the tact and spirit of compromise with which he conducted our debates last month.

64. I now wish to welcome the presence among us of Mr. Abdallah Mohamed Kamil, Minister of Planning and Development of the Republic of Djibouti, and Mr. Abdoukader Waberi Askbar.

65. The agenda for our meeting today concerns the admission of the Republic of Djibouti to membership in the United Nations. Benin welcomed with greatest pleasure the news that the fraternal State of Djibouti was acceding to national and international sovereignty on 27 June 1977, after more than a century of colonial domination and after many painful vicissitudes in its long struggle for national liberation. However, in order to be able fully to exercise that national and international sovereignty, which was so painfully won, it is necessary that the Republic of Djibouti become a member of the international community; hence, my delegation warmly supports the admission of the Republic of Djibouti to membership in the United Nations.

66. The Security Council, by unanimously recommending to the General Assembly the admission of the Republic of Djibouti to the United Nations, is taking one more step towards the objective of universality laid down in the Charter.

67. My delegation is here and now convinced that the Republic of Djibouti, by accepting the obligations of the Charter, is solemnly committing itself to assume the new responsibilities incumbent upon it internationally. My delegation is convinced that the Republic of Djibouti will surely make a contribution to the activities of the United Nations and to the maintenance of peace and security throughout the world.

68. In conclusion, I should like to address to the Government and the brother people of Djibouti best wishes for peace and prosperity from the Government and the people of the People's Republic of Benin.

69. The PRESIDENT (*translation from Chinese*): I thank the representative of Benin for her reference to the friendship between our two countries.

70. Mr. TROYANOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (*interpretation from Russian*): Mr. President, I should like first to congratulate you, the Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for July and wish you success in the discharge of your responsible tasks.

71. We should also like to express our gratitude to the representative of Canada, Ambassador Barton, on the successful manner in which he performed the functions of President of the Council during the month of June. Under his skilful guidance, the Council adopted some very important decisions. I am thinking of the decision to extend the mandate of the United Nations forces in Cyprus and also the decision regarding the complaint of Mozam-

bique, which will undoubtedly be a substantial contribution in helping to overcome and destroy the remnants of colonialism on the African continent.

72. The family of African States has been joined by one further member. The people of Djibouti has achieved independence. According to the statement of President Hassan Gouled, the new State intends to base its foreign policy on principles of neutrality and to develop friendly relations with its neighbours. Such a policy is fully in accord with the aims and principles of the United Nations.

73. On the day when the independence of Djibouti was declared, the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, sent a telegram to the President of the Republic of Djibouti which read as follows:

"On behalf of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, on behalf of the Soviet people and on my own behalf, I send you and the people of Djibouti our heartfelt congratulations on the proclamation of the independence of your country.

"In pursuing its unchanging policy of equality, friendship and peaceful co-operation with all States, and also mindful of the principles of self-determination, national freedom and independence for peoples, the Soviet Union proclaims its recognition of the Republic of Djibouti as a sovereign and independent State and its willingness and readiness to establish diplomatic relations with it.

"I congratulate you on being elected to a very responsible post in this new State and express the hope that friendly relations will develop between the Soviet Union and the Republic of Djibouti in the interests of the peoples of both countries and in the name of peace and social progress."

74. At a time when the Soviet people is preparing to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, the Soviet delegation would like to take this opportunity to declare once again the complete and total solidarity of the Soviet Union with those African peoples which are struggling to destroy the bastions of colonialism and racism. In the draft of the new Constitution of the Soviet Union, the unshakable principles of a peaceful foreign policy and of support for peoples in their struggle for national liberation and social progress have taken on the force of law. The delegation of the Soviet Union, guided by these Leninist principles, supports the application of the Republic of Djibouti to be admitted as a Member of the United Nations.

75. In the letter relating to this item which was sent to the United Nations by the President of the Republic of Djibouti [*see S/12357*], that country accepts the obligations contained in the Charter of the United Nations and has solemnly pledged to abide by them.

76. The delegation of the Soviet Union became a sponsor of the draft resolution on the admission of the Republic of Djibouti to United Nations membership in the conviction

that a positive recommendation of the Council on this matter would represent a further step towards the final and complete destruction of the colonial system, and would help to realize the principle of universality in the United Nations and promote the development of equitable relations and co-operation among all States, large and small. The Soviet delegation also wishes to note with some satisfaction that the admission of the Republic of Djibouti is a practical step towards implementing the provisions of the Franco-Soviet Declaration of 22 June 1977, which, *inter alia*, stresses that the Soviet Union and France "hope that all States will respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the new State" [see S/12362, annex I].

77. The Soviet delegation would like to take this opportunity to wish the people of the Republic of Djibouti peace and success in its national development.

78. In conclusion, the delegation of the Soviet Union also takes this opportunity to express its conviction that shortly the Security Council will be able to take a positive decision on the question of the admission to United Nations membership of one further State: the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. With the admission of that major Asian State, an important step will have been taken towards consolidating and strengthening the principle of the universality of our Organization and ensuring international peace and security.

79. Mr. AL GAYED (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya): Sir, I should like first of all to congratulate you upon your assumption of the duties of the presidency of the Security Council. We are confident that, with your accustomed wisdom and extensive experience, you will be able successfully to guide the affairs of the Council for the month of July.

80. I should also like to take this opportunity to commend your predecessor to this high post, the representative of Canada, Ambassador Barton, who presided over the Council through a number of difficult debates.

81. The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has for a long time strongly supported the struggle of the people of Djibouti to throw off the yoke of colonialism and attain independence. My delegation has consistently advocated the granting of independence and self-determination to the people of Djibouti in several regional and international forums. The attainment of independence by the Republic of Djibouti on 27 June this year was welcome news to us and marked another milestone in Africa's struggle for freedom and self-determination.

82. In this context, my delegation would like to inform the Council that Colonel Qadhafi the leader of the first September revolution, has already congratulated the Government and people of Djibouti on their attainment of independence and has wished them progress and prosperity. The two countries have already decided to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level. We look forward to co-operating with the Government and people of Djibouti with whom we share many bonds of cultural, religious and fraternal affinity, in various fields of human endeavour and for the benefit of both our peoples. My delegation, furthermore, looks forward to co-operating with

the delegation of the Republic of Djibouti here at the United Nations, as well as in other international and regional forums.

83. I should like to take this occasion to welcome on behalf of my delegation, Mr. Abdallah Mohamed Kamil, Minister of Planning and Development of the Republic of Djibouti.

84. My delegation would like to congratulate the Government and people of Djibouti on their attainment of independence and commend them on their wise decision to apply for immediate admission to membership in the United Nations. In view of the fact that His Excellency Mr. Hassan Gouled Aptidon, President of the Republic of Djibouti, has declared his Government's acceptance of its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and its solemn undertaking faithfully and conscientiously to carry them out, the application for admission to the United Nations by the Republic of Djibouti should be warmly welcomed by all Members of the Organization.

85. Finally, the delegation of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya supports the application by the Republic of Djibouti and wholeheartedly requests the Security Council to recommend that the Republic of Djibouti should be immediately admitted to membership

86. Mr. McHENRY (United States of America): Mr. President, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council and I wish you well-being during your tenure as President of the Council. I also wish to ask Mr. Lapointe to convey the thanks of the United States delegation to Ambassador Barton for the leadership he showed during his presidency of the Council last month.

87. The United States is pleased to support the application for membership in the United Nations of the Republic of Djibouti. As for so many nations before it, the road to independence and sovereignty for Djibouti has often been difficult. Djibouti has achieved its nationhood in peace and concord with the support and friendship of France and of many other countries among which we count ourselves.

88. Djibouti occupies a location that is significant for many other nations. With major port facilities situated along one of the oldest and most important trading routes in the world, Djibouti serves a vast region of the Horn of Africa. Its people are linked by religion, by culture and by language with many of the peoples of surrounding nations, both in Africa and in the Arabian Peninsula. Those ties, and the historical knowledge of the world that a trading nation like Djibouti has, lend to its emergence into an independent role in regional and world affairs an unusual meaning and promise.

89. The inhabitants of the new Republic will now guide their own destiny. We believe that a tranquil and independent Djibouti will be an asset to the international community and most especially to its immediate neighbours.

90. The United States has extended recognition to the Republic of Djibouti and raised its Consulate General to the

status of an Embassy. We support the application of the new Republic of Djibouti for membership in the United Nations with the confidence that the principles that inspired the leaders of the new State to guide their people successfully to independence will continue to guide them in our common effort to establish a world of peace, justice and prosperity.

91. Mr. LAPOINTE (Canada) (*interpretation from French*): Mr. President, first of all I should like to extend to you the warmest congratulations of the Canadian delegation on your assumption of the presidency of the Council. Ever since you were appointed to head the Chinese delegation, we have admired your talents as a diplomat and the friendly relations that you established with all your colleagues. We are convinced that, under your leadership, the Council will very ably and effectively discharge all its obligations in the month of July.

92. It is with pleasure that the Canadian delegation will support the draft resolution just introduced by the representative of France recommending to the General Assembly the admission of the Republic of Djibouti to membership in our Organization.

93. The entry of Djibouti to the United Nations will be an event of special significance. With the independence of Djibouti, colonialism, in the form that it has traditionally taken in Africa, has come to an end. The crucial role played by France in the final process of self-determination which has just taken place in Djibouti should also be recognized, just as it must be stressed that that independence has been attained thanks to the active encouragement not only of the United Nations but also of the Organization of African Unity and of the League of Arab States. It is also to be noted that those three organizations sent missions to observe the referendum and the elections of 8 May in Djibouti. As far as the report of the United Nations Mission to the General Assembly is concerned, it mentions the unmistakable determination of the people of Djibouti to accede to independence and to become a part of the international community.

94. The report very eloquently also draws our attention to the fact that the people and Government of Djibouti must now embark on a course that will require not only the exercise of all their natural talents if they wish to meet the challenge of building a lasting and viable independence, but also the firm and complete support of the international community and of the regional organizations concerned. In this context, we have great satisfaction in calling attention to the recent announcement that France and Djibouti have concluded an agreement whereby Djibouti will receive very substantial economic and technical assistance.

95. We should also like to stress the support and guarantees which the Governments of Ethiopia and of Somalia have given to Djibouti's independence. We are confident that all States Members of the Organization will encourage the people and Government of Djibouti to develop their nation in a way that will contribute to the peace, security and economic prosperity of the entire region.

96. My delegation has noted the presence in this hall of Mr. Abdallah Mohamed Kamil, Minister of Planning and

Development of Djibouti. We are very pleased that this leader of the new Republic of Djibouti has honoured us with his presence and we can assure him of Canada's warm support, both with regard to the application of his country for admission and to the actual future of this new African country.

97. In conclusion, Mr. President, I should like to extend to you and to all the members of the Council the expression of our delegation's sincerest gratitude for the very kind remarks that they have made about Ambassador Barton. I shall certainly not fail to convey their feelings to him.

98. Mr. RAMPHUL (Mauritius): Mr. President, it gives me immense pleasure to welcome your presidency of the Security Council during this month of July. I congratulate you on the assumption of your duties and am particularly happy that your first duty is to guide us towards admitting as a new Member of this Organization yet another new independent and sovereign African State, namely, the Republic of Djibouti.

99. Your great and proud country, the People's Republic of China, and my own small and modest country, Mauritius, have always enjoyed the best of friendly and cordial relations. These are now even further enhanced by economic and cultural co-operation.

100. We are aware of how much the People's Republic of China has contributed in practical ways towards the liberation of African countries from the yoke of colonialism and imperialism, as well as towards their economic development. Thus we have witnessed, *inter alia*, the miracle of the Tan-Zam Railway, which was so efficiently constructed in record time with Chinese and Africans working side by side. In my own country, we are on the eve of the construction of a second futuristic international airport, which will likely be the best airport of the region catering for the needs of at least the next century. This is made possible only by the generous economic, technological and material assistance of your Government, and we are grateful.

101. Your country was the first, chronologically speaking, officially to recognize the independence and sovereignty of my country when it became independent in 1968—even before it was recognized by the United Kingdom, the former colonial Power. Out of a population of some 900,000, some 50,000 Mauritians are of pure Chinese blood and all of them were at Plaisance Airport to salute the arrival and departure of Ambassador Huang Hua, our former colleague, now Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, when he came to Mauritius to participate in our celebration of independence in 1968.

102. So today, as the representative of Mauritius, an African and non-aligned country, I proudly salute you as President of the Security Council and as a friend of long standing. It would be superfluous for me to speak here of your personal qualities—they are well known at the United Nations and internationally. In many respects they are legendary.

103. I should like also to congratulate your predecessor, my good friend Ambassador Barton of Canada, who so

patiently and efficiently conducted the business of the Council during the busy and somewhat difficult month of June. He did so with rare talent and great wisdom.

104. I salute the presence among us of Mr. Abdallah Mohamed Kamil, Minister of Planning and Development of the Republic of Djibouti. I also welcome Mr. Abdoukader Waberi Askbar. They are both well known to us and I am particularly happy to see them in the Council chamber on such an auspicious day.

105. I shall have the opportunity of speaking in some detail, and in French, about the Republic of Djibouti when the question of its admission is taken up by the General Assembly at its forthcoming session. In the meantime, suffice it for me to say that my delegation has over the years been working constantly for the independence of Djibouti. We are naturally, therefore, very happy indeed that Djibouti is today free, independent and sovereign. We congratulate the Government and people of Djibouti, as well as the Government and people of the former colonial Power, France.

106. Mauritius has close cultural ties and trade links with Djibouti. They go back several generations. Thus, to mark these traditional and historical neighbourly bonds, which are very strong, the Prime Minister of Mauritius, The Right Honourable Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, made a special point of going to Djibouti a few days ago to participate personally in the celebration of independence.

107. Since then, the Republic of Djibouti has been admitted as a full member of the Organization of African Unity, during its recent Summit Conference at Libreville.

108. Today, it gives me great personal pleasure, on behalf of my country, a member of the Security Council, fully to support the application of the Republic of Djibouti for membership in the United Nations. We have therefore proudly co-sponsored the draft resolution introduced by the representative of France. At the United Nations, nothing pleases an African representative more than membership of the world Organization.

109. The PRESIDENT (*translation from Chinese*): I wish to thank the representative of Mauritius for his friendly sentiments and warm praise for our country, the People's Republic of China. I regard these friendly sentiments and warm praise as an encouragement and spur to us. China has done some work for Africa. But, owing to the limitation of our strength, we have not done enough. We hope that with the development of China's revolution and construction, we shall be able to make greater contributions to Africa. I believe that the friendly relations and co-operation between the great people of Mauritius and Africa and the Chinese people will continually develop and grow stronger. I wish also to thank the representative of Mauritius for his congratulations to me personally.

110. Mr. ILLUECA (Panama) (*interpretation from Spanish*): The Republic of Panama was particularly pleased to learn that the Territory of the Afars and Issas had attained independence, under the aegis of the United Nations, on 27 June 1977 and that it had proclaimed its

intention of joining the international community as a free and independent State with the name of Republic of Djibouti.

111. My country also enthusiastically welcomed the application for admission to the United Nations submitted by the Republic of Djibouti in its letter of 30 June 1977, addressed to the Secretary-General by the President of the Republic of Djibouti, His Excellency Mr. Hassan Gouled Aptidon. The delegation of Panama took an active part in the procedures related to Djibouti's application, to show that it complied with the provisions of Article 4 of the Charter, rule 134 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and rule 59 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council. Hence, my delegation has co-sponsored the draft resolution which will be adopted unanimously by the Council, whereby the Council will recommend the admission of the Republic of Djibouti as a State Member of the United Nations.

112. The admission of Djibouti to the concert of nations is not a mere formality. It is one more step in the process of decolonization on the African continent and in the entire world. It is directly linked to the application of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security.

113. The peoples of Latin America rejoice at the independence of the Republic of Djibouti and its imminent admission to the United Nations, not only because of what that represents in terms of the social, economic and cultural aspirations of the people of Djibouti, but also because it is a historic reaffirmation of the purposes and desires of the international community in respect of the termination of the other colonial situations in other parts of the world.

114. In Latin America, there is a clear view of what the process of decolonization means for the rule of peace, justice and law. When, for the first time, the Security Council met in Latin America, in the city of Panama from 15 to 21 March 1973, it was stated that

"the general feeling expressed was one of hope that we should soon see the day when colonialism was no longer an issue before the United Nations, once the principles contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) had been applied to the residual colonial situations in Latin America and elsewhere" [1704th meeting, para. 153].

115. That quotation was from the statement made by the President of the Council on 21 March 1973, in which he summed up the principal elements of the deliberations of the Council in the capital of the Isthmus, and the question of the Panama Canal was at the top of the list of matters discussed at that time. In that same statement, the President of the Council recalled that the majority of speakers had stressed that every State had an inalienable right to full jurisdiction over all its territory. Therefore, it was essential that all States should abstain from any action likely to impair the national unity and territorial integrity of any other State. In that respect, it had been pointed out that the denial to Panama of its inherent right to full sovereignty and jurisdiction over its entire territory, including the Panama Canal Zone, had been a constant source of tension and consequently a threat to peace and security in

Latin America. In order to remove that threat, it was essential that Panama's sovereignty over the Canal Zone should be fully established and that foreign military bases should be removed from the area. Almost all the speakers had held the view that Panama was undoubtedly entitled to use its primary natural resource, namely, its geographical position, to the fullest extent for the benefit of its own economic development. Besides, the situation in the Canal Zone was in complete violation of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. Some delegations, while expressing their support for the aspirations of the Panamanian people, had stated that the question was essentially a matter for negotiation between the parties principally concerned and they had expressed the hope that negotiations would be resumed and a settlement reached without foreign intervention. They had also expressed the hope that the Council's meetings in Panama would contribute to the fostering of a climate in which that process of negotiation would move forward. It had further been pointed out that any solution of the Panama Canal question must be based on respect for law and the search for justice and must take into account the basic principles enshrined in the Charter such as the principle of territorial integrity and the principle of the sovereign equality of all States. Moreover, it should safeguard the principle of the freedom of international waterways.

116. After 13 years of difficult negotiations, the Carter Administration now seems to have opened up new horizons for hope that there will be a solution of the colonial situation in the Panama Canal Zone. Statements made by President Carter at his press conference of 30 June, following a visit to Washington by the President of Venezuela, Mr. Carlos Andrés Pérez, indicate a balanced approach to the problem and the conflicts that have existed between Panama and the United States that accords with commitments solemnly entered into by both countries in the Council of the Organization of American States and in documents officially signed by the Secretary of State of the United States and the Minister for External Relations of Panama. However, the harsh lessons of history oblige us to be cautious and not to be unduly optimistic, since in this country there exist powerful circles which conspire against good relations between the United States and Latin America. For that reason we need the support of public opinion in our countries. We need the support of the countries of Latin America, the support of the countries of the third world and, finally, the support of all sectors of the international community.

117. There is no more appropriate quotation to point out the charges urgently needed to put an end to colonialism in our area than that given by Ambassador Young last Thursday in this chamber when he referred to the thinking of the late President John F. Kennedy of the United States, who had written that those who made peaceful revolution impossible made violent revolution inevitable. Ambassador Young's own thoughts are relevant when he says,

"It is clear that change is on the way and that change will be achieved. That is why it is now urgent that the United Nations, which has the responsibility and so much hope for just and peaceful change in the world, should become

more persistent in the various efforts to find peace through peace." [2019th meeting, para. 61].

118. Unquestionably, the independence of Djibouti and its admission to membership in the United Nations will contribute to the strengthening of international security, just as the elimination of residual colonial situations in Latin America and in other parts of the world will contribute to the strengthening of international security.

119. We recall that, in its resolution 31/91, the General Assembly reaffirmed the inalienable sovereign right of every State freely to determine its political, social and economic system and its relations with other States and international organizations. In this connexion, we are particularly pleased to note the pledges of respect for and co-operation with Djibouti made by delegations participating in this debate, in particular the former administering Power, France, and the neighbouring countries of Ethiopia and Somalia.

120. At this morning's meeting I referred to the great value of public information in the United Nations system and its direct relationship with the work of the Security Council. The fortunate circumstance of the Council's being about to adopt unanimously a draft resolution whereby it will recommend to the General Assembly that the Republic of Djibouti should be admitted to membership in the United Nations—undeniably—one more step towards the complete elimination of colonialism throughout the world prompts me to stress the need for information to be disseminated regarding the debate that has taken place today because of its impact on the process of decolonization.

121. It must be recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 3482 (XXX), on the dissemination of information on decolonization, reaffirmed

"the importance of effecting the widest possible dissemination of information on the evils and dangers of colonialism, on the determined efforts of the colonial peoples to achieve self-determination, freedom and independence and on the assistance being provided by the international community towards the elimination of the remaining vestiges of colonialism in all its forms".

In the same resolution the Secretary-General was requested by the Assembly

"to continue to take concrete measures through all the media at his disposal, including publications, radio and television, to give widespread and continuous publicity to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization".

122. I must conclude by congratulating the Committee on the Admission of New Members and you, Mr. President, for the work which has been done and which will culminate today in the unanimous adoption of the draft resolution recommending the admission of the Republic of Djibouti to membership in the United Nations.

123. The Government and people of Panama, like the other peoples of the third world, share the great and

justified pleasure in the achievements of the people of the Republic of Djibouti. For that reason we offer a most cordial welcome to Mr. Abdallah Mohamed Kamil, Minister of Planning and Development, just as we extend our warmest congratulations to His Excellency President Hassan Gouled Aptidon, the able leader of that new country whose people is entitled to progress and well-being.

124. The PRESIDENT (*translation from Chinese*): The next speaker is the representative of Oman. I invite him to take a place at the Council table and to make a statement.

125. Mr. ABOUL-NASR (Oman): Mr. President, before addressing myself to the subject on the agenda may I first convey to you the felicitations of my delegation on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of July. My delegation is confident that, under your experienced guidance, the Council will be able to discharge its important responsibilities.

126. I should like equally to pay a tribute to the outgoing President, Ambassador Barton of Canada, for the wisdom with which he guided the deliberations of the Council during the month of June.

127. In my capacity as Chairman of the Arab Group for the month of July, I should like to express on its behalf full support for the application of the Republic of Djibouti for admission to membership in the United Nations, which is now before the Council. We firmly believe that the newly independent sister country fulfils all conditions for membership in the United Nations as set forth in Article 4 of the Charter.

128. We were happy a moment ago to witness the introduction by the representative of France of the draft resolution sponsored by all members of the Council recommending to the General Assembly the admission of the Republic Djibouti as a New Member of the Organization.

129. On this occasion, we should like to wish its people and Government peace, prosperity and progress. We are looking forward to sincere co-operation with it, both inside and outside the Organization.

130. Djibouti's declaration of independence on 27 June brought to an end one of the problems that had attracted international concern and attention. For many years the United Nations, the League of Arab States, the Organization of African Unity and the non-aligned countries had expressed concern and made appeals for the process of independence of the people of Djibouti to be speeded up, and today I should like to express satisfaction at the fact that the last step of the evolution towards the implementation of the principle of self-determination and the attainment of independence has, as has already been said, taken place in an atmosphere of understanding which we consider to be a tribute to the wisdom and goodwill of all concerned and in particular of the people and leaders of the sister republic of Djibouti.

131. The people of Djibouti have always been linked to the Arab world by tradition, custom, culture and many

other bonds that stretch back to time immemorial. My delegation therefore considers it a great privilege and honour to have had the opportunity to speak today on behalf of the Arab Group in support of the draft resolution before the Council.

132. The PRESIDENT (*translation from Chinese*): The next speaker is the representative of Gabon, who wishes to speak on behalf of the Organization of African Unity. I invite him to take a place at the Council table and to make his statement.

133. Mr. ADMINA (Gabon) (*interpretation from French*): In the absence of my Ambassador, His Excellency Mr. Léon N'Dong, who is at present on mission, I have asked to be allowed to participate in this meeting of the Security Council in order to speak both on behalf of my delegation and on behalf of the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity, His Excellency El Hadj Omar Bongo.

134. Speaking on behalf of the delegation of Gabon and of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), I should like, Mr. President, to tell you, the representative of a friendly country, China, and at the same time a respected diplomat, how pleased we are to see you presiding over the Council during the month of July. Your experience and your integrity added to the wisdom of all the other members of the Council are guarantees that the work of this meeting will achieve its ultimate result and consequently will be a complete success. I ask you, therefore, to permit me to welcome the delegation of the Republic of Djibouti among us.

135. My delegation considers it a privilege to come here today to express support for the admission to the United Nations of the Republic of Djibouti. President El Hadj Omar Bongo ardently believes that the valiant people of Djibouti will see their triumphant independence culminate in the admission of their country to the United Nations.

136. Our fraternal support for the struggle of the Republic of Djibouti is well known and the position of OAU on the request for the admission to United Nations membership of the young Republic of Djibouti has been clearly shown by the members of OAU in the decisions taken by the Council of Ministers at the meeting of Heads of State and Government held at Libreville, Gabon, from 23 June to 5 July 1977.

137. Article 4 of the Charter of the United Nations states that membership in the United Nations is open to all peace-loving States which accept the obligations contained in the Charter and, in the judgement of the Organization, are able and willing to carry out these obligations. The Republic of Djibouti has amply demonstrated that it is capable of fulfilling the provisions of Article 4 and is anxious to do so. The recognition which has been received by the Republic of Djibouti not only in Africa and in the third world but also among the socialist and the Western countries has demonstrated eloquently that that country meets the conditions which are laid down both in law and in international usage.

138. In his request for admission [*see S/12357*], the President of the Republic of Djibouti officially stated that

the Government of the Republic of Djibouti accepted the obligations contained in the Charter of the United Nations, was able to carry out those obligations and gave its solemn undertaking faithfully and conscientiously to do so.

139. The Organization of African Unity is entirely convinced that that country has not only demonstrated its faith in the lofty principles contained in the Charter but that it has also demonstrated its determination to ensure that they are applied in all circumstances. In admitting the Republic of Djibouti, the United Nations will be admitting to its ranks a State Member which firmly supports the struggle for peace, international security, mutual understanding and friendship among peoples. I am deeply convinced that the Republic of Djibouti, like all other Members of the Organization, will make a faithful effort to help to achieve the ideals contained in the Charter.

140. Most of the countries represented here have waged a long struggle to accede to independence. We should not forget that most of our countries began their independent existence as rather fragile and weak sovereign States, but, as time passed, many of us became able to make a constructive contribution to bringing about the well-being of all peoples throughout the world. Therefore, in a spirit of co-operation and understanding, we should provide all possible assistance and friendship to the newly independent countries and warmly welcome them to our ranks.

141. On behalf of my own country, Gabon, and the Organization of African Unity, I support the request of the Republic of Djibouti and I state unreservedly that it is entitled to take its place at the United Nations as a full Member in accordance with the most noble principles of the Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

142. The PRESIDENT (*translation from Chinese*): I thank the representative of Gabon for his reference to the friendly relations between China and Gabon and for his congratulations to me personally.

143. The next speaker is the representative of Somalia, who has asked to speak in his capacity as Chairman of the African Group for the month of July. I invite him to take a place at the Council table and to make his statement.

144. Mr. MUSSA (Somalia): In the absence of the Permanent Representative of Somali Democratic Republic to the United Nations, I requested to be allowed to participate in this meeting on behalf of my country and the African Group at the United Nations.

145. I wish first of all to thank the members of the Council for having allowed my delegation to participate in this meeting, which has been convened to consider the application of the Republic of Djibouti for admission to membership in the United Nations.

146. Mr. President, we are pleased that the meeting is taking place under your presidency. The Government and the people of the Somali Democratic Republic are deeply appreciative of the positive and constructive role of your country in the organs of the United Nations and, in particular, with regard to the problems facing the countries

of the developing world. The excellent friendly relations existing between the People's Republic of China and the Somali Democratic Republic not only have their roots in history but are also based on mutual respect, co-operation and solidarity against both colonialism and the arch enemies of mankind, namely, hunger, disease and poverty.

147. The admission of the Republic of Djibouti to membership in the United Nations will mark the end of the colonial rule over that Territory which lasted almost 100 years. It will crown the efforts and sacrifices made for many years by a people seeking its rights to self-determination, freedom and independence.

148. My Government takes pride in the fact that it gave its unequivocal support to the people of the new State in its struggle for its independence. I recall with satisfaction that it was on the initiative of Somalia that that question of the independence of Djibouti, a Non-Self-Governing Territory and therefore subject to the provisions of the Charter and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), was inscribed on the agenda of the General Assembly.

149. In fact, since my country achieved independence in 1960, it has been the policy of my Government and my country to work for the independence of the Territory in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and that of the Organization of African Unity. As representatives of the Somali delegation have stated in the United Nations and at the meetings of OAU, Somalia's sole wish has been to see the people of that new State free and independent in unity under the flag of its own choice. It is a matter of great satisfaction to my country, to the African Group and, indeed, to the international community that the people of the Republic of Djibouti has been able to exercise its legitimate and inalienable right to self-determination and freedom. I am glad that the referendum and the elections of May 1977 were conducted in a fair and peaceful manner and that representatives of the United Nations, OAU and the League of Arab States were able to observe them. In this connexion, I should like to commend the Government of France for the manner in which it conducted the transfer of power and administration to the people of the Republic of Djibouti after its independence. In this context, I wish to put on record the successful contribution made by the United Nations and the regional organizations, namely, OAU and the League of Arab States, in the decolonization process of the Territory.

150. The new State of the Republic of Djibouti will have to face the challenges of establishing the social and economic infrastructure needed to provide its people with a viable economy and with those opportunities by which it can achieve a better life. Unfortunately, in the past the options for economic development have not been fully explored and the possibilities which its strategic position holds have not been exploited. It is our sincere hope that the international community will provide the Republic of Djibouti with all the co-operation and material support it requires for its development and effective participation in the work of the international community for peace and progress.

151. The independence of the people of the Republic of Djibouti comes at a time when the attention of the

international community is focused on the elimination of the last vestiges of colonial and racial domination in our time in Africa. We hope that the accession of the Republic of Djibouti to independence will serve as yet further encouragement to the liberation struggle in Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa for the complete elimination of colonialism and racial discrimination.

152. In conclusion, I should like, on behalf of the African Group and my Government, to extend to the new independent State our warmest brotherly welcome to the United Nations family. I wish to request Mr. Abdallah Mohamed Kamil and Mr. Abdoukader Waberi Askbar to convey the whole-hearted congratulations of the African Group to the President of the Republic of Djibouti, His Excellency Mr. Hassan Gouled Aptidon, and to the Government and the people of this new independent State.

153. Finally, we in the Somali Democratic Republic are confident that the future will see a continuation of the close brotherly relationship which exists between the new independent State and the Somali Democratic Republic, a relationship already made strong by historical ties and by the common social and cultural heritage of our peoples.

154. The PRESIDENT (*translation from Chinese*): I thank the representative of Somalia for his praise of the relations of friendship and co-operation between China and Somalia and for his congratulations to me personally.

155. The next speaker is the representative of the Yemen Arab Republic. I invite him to take a place at the Council table and to make his statement.

156. Mr. SALLAM (Yemen): Mr. President, allow me first of all to extend my appreciation and gratitude to you and to the Security Council members for extending to me this opportunity to participate in the debate on the item before us. It gives me great pride and pleasure to congratulate you on the assumption of the presidency of the Council for the month of July. It would be even more appropriate at this stage to say that a Council decision, under your guidance and leadership, to recommend the admission of the young Republic of Djibouti to membership in the United Nations will be a great event in itself, as well as a source of pride and honour to the friends and brothers of the new young Republic.

157. In view of the excellent relations which have existed for centuries between the Yemeni people and the people of Djibouti, the Yemen delegation welcomes whole-heartedly the independence of the new young Republic of Djibouti and its Government. At the same time, it gives me great pleasure to see that our dear neighbours and friends, after years of occupation, will very shortly be taking their place among the family of nations. I am quite certain that this new Republic, significant though small, will contribute immensely to the knowledge and experience of the international family.

158. The Yemen Arab Republic, which was one of the first countries to recognize the new Government of the sister Republic of Djibouti, expresses its profound appreciation to the French Republic for the fulfilment of its

commitments. The Government of the Yemen Arab Republic hopes that the Members of the United Nations will contribute generously to the economic prosperity and self-reliance of Djibouti, with a view to enhancing its independence and sovereignty. It is the obligation of all countries to contribute to the peaceful existence of this new and young Republic, so that it can concentrate all its efforts on the building of its economy and on the development of its own life style and experience.

159. The PRESIDENT (*translation from Chinese*): The next speaker is the representative of Ethiopia, whom I invite to take a place at the Council table and to make his statement.

160. Mr. IBRAHIM (Ethiopia): Mr. President, may I first of all express my gratitude to you and, through you, to the other members of the Council for acceding to our request to participate in the deliberations on the question on the Council's agenda. I wish also to take this opportunity to express my satisfaction at seeing you, the representative of the People's Republic of China, a country with which Ethiopia has warm and fraternal relations, presiding over these deliberations.

161. I should like also to greet Mr. Abdallah Mohamed Kamil, Minister of Planning and Development of the Republic of Djibouti, and his colleague, Mr. Abdoukader Waberi Askbar.

162. The Ethiopian delegation has asked to be allowed to participate in the Council's deliberations on the admission of the Republic of Djibouti to the United Nations in order to confirm Ethiopia's unreserved support for the application and to express its satisfaction with the draft resolution before the Council. This support is based not only on our commitment to respect the genuine independence and territorial integrity of the new State, but also on our certainty that the Republic of Djibouti fulfils the requirements of the Charter.

163. The people of Djibouti, by its exercise of the right to self-determination, has conclusively confirmed its choice of an independent and sovereign existence. Its struggle for independence and territorial integrity has not been an easy one, but from that struggle a nation that cherishes genuine independence has been born. Ethiopia, which has deep-rooted ethnic, historical, economic and cultural ties with the Republic of Djibouti, salutes all those who have struggled towards this end, and welcomes the new Republic to the community of independent nations. Ethiopia believes that Djibouti's emergence and its continued existence as a free and independent State constitutes a positive factor for the consolidation of peace and tranquillity in our region. Ethiopia, which has consistently striven for the genuine independence and territorial integrity of Djibouti, will respect this hard-won independence and hopes that others also, especially those who have been equivocal in the past, will join Ethiopia in this commitment to respect and honour the independence and territorial integrity of the new State, particularly now that the people of Djibouti has made clear, by its solemn acts of 8 May and 27 June 1977, its resolve to be free and to remain a sovereign and independent State.

164. The Republic of Djibouti has wisely joined OAU. Its membership in the United Nations will, no doubt, further consolidate this hard-won independence and contribute to the continued sovereign existence of the new State. The United Nations, OAU and the Conference of the non-aligned countries contributed immensely to the decolonization of Djibouti, and now that independence has been attained, it is the sincere hope of Ethiopia that they will not be satisfied by the mere admission of the Republic of Djibouti to their midst but will also assist the people and Government of the New Republic in their endeavours to promote their economic well-being and national identity. Ethiopia firmly believes that such United Nations assistance would be in keeping with the lofty ideals of the Charter.

165. The PRESIDENT (*translation from Chinese*): I thank the representative of Ethiopia for his complimentary remarks on the friendly relations between Ethiopia and China, as well as for his congratulations to me personally.

166. The next speaker is the representative of Egypt, whom I invite to take a place at the Council table and to make his statement.

167. Mr. BADAWI (Egypt): Sir, I should like first of all to extend to you my delegation's congratulations on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for this month and to express our happiness at seeing you presiding over the deliberations of the Council on this happy occasion. We are confident that you will ably and effectively guide the Council in whatever tasks may lie ahead.

168. I also wish to thank the members of the Council for affording me the opportunity to address the Council on this occasion. We have asked to be allowed to participate in the discussion of this important question in order to reaffirm our unreserved support for the admission of the Republic of Djibouti to membership in the United Nations. It is therefore with a deep sense of gratification that the delegation of Egypt welcomes the draft resolution submitted to the Council and sponsored by its entire membership, recommending to the General Assembly the admission of the Republic of Djibouti to membership in the Organization.

169. Egypt has followed the unrelenting struggle of the people of Djibouti for independence. Ours was one of the first countries to recognize the Republic of Djibouti immediately after its independence. Egypt was also one of the first countries to establish diplomatic relations with the newly independent sister Republic. Egypt took the initiative to sponsor Djibouti's candidature for membership in the League of Arab States and in the Organization of African Unity.

170. In this connexion, I should like to quote from a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Cairo on 27 June 1977:

"The Arab Republic of Egypt takes pride in declaring its official recognition of the sister Republic of Djibouti and the immediate exchange of diplomatic relations with it. Egypt also welcomes the new Republic into the

Afro-Arab family and into the movement of non-alignment as a magnificent embodiment of the victory of the people's will for liberation, independence and salvation.

"The glorious struggle of the people of Djibouti, in complete consciousness of the scope of their historic and cultural responsibilities at this strategic spot of the African continent, is but a record of heroism, sacrifice and victory. It is also a vivid example of the vitality of our struggling peoples and the inevitability of victory for our common march towards the attainment of freedom and the elimination of colonialism and all forms of exploitation.

"Egypt, which has always supported the struggle of the people of Djibouti towards full independence and continued progress, renews its solidarity with that people and pledges its support for all their endeavours towards economic and social development as well as for the safeguarding of their independence and territorial integrity. Egypt is confident that the independent State of Djibouti will play a constructive and positive role in the Arab, African and international arenas."

171. The Government of the Republic of Djibouti has solemnly declared its acceptance of the obligations contained in the Charter of the United Nations and affirmed its ability to carry out those obligations. It has given its solemn undertaking to carry out those obligations in good faith.

172. There is no doubt whatsoever that the people of the Republic of Djibouti, having achieved their sacred goal of liberation and national independence, enjoy the potential that will enable them to carry out the obligations placed by the Charter upon Members States.

173. We are convinced that the admission of the Republic of Djibouti to membership in the Organization will not only constitute a significant step towards the fulfilment of genuine universality of the United Nations, which is an eminently desirable objective, but will also enable the United Nations to benefit from the positive contributions of this new African State.

174. The adoption of the draft resolution now before the Council will forever mark the history of the African liberation struggle, and we earnestly hope that it will be soon followed by the adoption of other draft resolutions concerning the admission of independent Zimbabwe and Namibia to membership in the Organization.

175. While welcoming the Council's action today, we should like to address to our brothers in Djibouti our sincere congratulations, to welcome them most warmly into the fold of the Organization and to convey to them our best wishes for a new era of success, prosperity and peace. The delegation of Egypt is looking forward to working in close and brotherly co-operation with the representatives of Djibouti at the United Nations. We pledge them our continued support and co-operation in their endeavours to achieve the common goals and aspirations of the peoples of Africa and to benefit the international community.

176. Before concluding, we seize this opportunity to extend to the Government of France our appreciation for

its constructive and understanding role in the furtherance of the process of independence and to note with gratification its readiness to continue its assistance to Djibouti after independence.

177. The PRESIDENT (*translation from Chinese*): Since there are no further speakers inscribed on the list, I wish now to make a statement in my capacity as the representative of CHINA.

178. First of all, on behalf of the Chinese delegation I should like to express a warm welcome to Mr. Abdallah Mohamed Kamil, Minister of Planning and Development of the Republic of Djibouti.

179. On 27 June 1977, the Republic of Djibouti proclaimed its independence, thus becoming the forty-ninth independent African State. On 6 July, the Republic of Djibouti applied for membership in the United Nations and declared its acceptance of the obligations contained in the Charter. The Chinese delegation holds that, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Republic of Djibouti is qualified for membership in the United Nations. We fully support its application and are in favour of the Security Council's recommending to the General Assembly the admission of the Republic of Djibouti to membership in the United Nations. In view of the foregoing, the Chinese delegation has also decided to sponsor the relevant draft resolution.

180. The independence of Djibouti is a result of the protracted struggle persistently carried on by the Djibouti people with the support of the independent African States and the entire African people. It is another new victory won by the entire African people in their struggle for national liberation. The victory of the Djibouti people once again demonstrates that no force on earth can resist the historical trend whereby countries want independence, nations want liberation and the people want revolution.

181. At present, the super-Powers are stepping up their aggression and rivalry in the Red Sea area, causing turbulence and unrest in the region. In particular, the super-Power which flaunts the banner of "supporting the national liberation movement" is sowing dissension and creating disputes in this area in an attempt to control the Red Sea area so as to strengthen its position in the rivalry for hegemony over Europe and the globe. This has naturally evoked firm resistance from the countries and people there. We are pleased to note that the Government of the Republic of Djibouti has declared its readiness to pursue a

foreign policy of non-alignment and positive neutrality and has given firm support to any proposal regarding the maintenance of security in the Red Sea area. We believe that, after their accession to independence, the Djibouti people, united with the other Red Sea countries and peoples, will make positive contributions to safeguarding the security of the region. We sincerely wish the Djibouti people continued new victories in their efforts to combat imperialism, colonialism and hegemonism, to safeguard national independence and State sovereignty and to build their own country.

182. On the occasion of the proclamation of independence of the Republic of Djibouti, Hua Kua-feng, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, sent a cable to His Excellency Mr. Hassan Gouled Aptidon, President of the Republic of Djibouti, expressing the warmest congratulations to him and informing him of the Chinese Government's decision to recognize the Republic of Djibouti. Both China and Djibouti belong to the third world and the peoples of our two countries have sympathized with and supported each other in the long years of struggle. It is certain that the friendly relations and co-operation between China and Djibouti and between the two peoples forged in the common struggle against imperialism, colonialism and hegemonism will develop continually. We are convinced that upon its admission to membership in the United Nations, the Republic of Djibouti will make positive contributions to the realization of the purposes and principles of the Charter together with all the other Member States that uphold justice.

183. In my capacity as PRESIDENT, I propose to put to the vote the draft resolution contained in document S/12358, sponsored by all 15 members of the Security Council.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.²

184. The PRESIDENT (*translation from Chinese*): I shall immediately request the Secretary-General to transmit this recommendation to the General Assembly, together with the verbatim records of the Security Council meetings at which it was considered.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.

² See resolution 412 (1977).

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