

Press Section
Office of Public Information
United Nations, N.Y.

(FOR USE OF INFORMATION MEDIA -- NOT AN OFFICIAL RECORD)

Twenty-sixth General Assembly
1960th Plenary Meeting
AM SUMMARY

Press Release GA/4440
11 October 1971

LIBYA, SINGAPORE, TOGO AND BYELORUSSIA SPEAK IN CONTINUING GENERAL DEBATE

Representatives of Libya, Singapore, Togo and Byelorussia were heard by the General Assembly this morning as it continued the general debate.

So far, 96 Member States have spoken in the general debate which will be continued this afternoon with Saudi Arabia, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and Afghanistan scheduled to take the floor.

In the course of this morning's proceedings, Mahmood S. Maghribi (Libya) said support must be intensified for the liberation struggles being waged against colonialism and neo-colonialism in all its forms, and opposition to the Governments suppressing these struggles "must advance into the realm of practical and effective measures". He said the task of eliminating the consequences of the 1967 Israeli aggression against the Arab States was "inextricably bound to the task of restoring the rights of the Palestinian people".

On other matters, he said that the Government of South Africa must be expelled from all international functions and its legitimacy denied. His Government would not support any measure which would have the effect of depriving the People's Republic of China of its lawful rights in the United Nations.

S. Rajaratnam, the Foreign Minister of Singapore, said his country had always maintained the view that the seat allocated to China should properly be allocated to the People's Republic of China. Taiwan was a domestic matter to be settled "by the people of China including those of Taiwan". While he wholeheartedly agreed with the essential points of the Albanian resolution, he said it contained elaborations which were unduly harsh and unnecessary.

With the entry of the People's Republic of China into the United Nations, he foresaw an end to the bi-polar world of two super-Powers, and added that it was possible that Japan and a united Western Europe would enter the arena of great Power struggles. For small nations to survive in the multi-polar

171
(more)

world that was emerging, he said they must first concentrate on their internal development and steadfastly refuse to enter into any cold-war liaison with the major Powers.

Joachim Hunlede, Foreign Minister of Togo, said that his country favoured the representation of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations but that the Organization should be concerned with the fate of the 14 million Chinese who were already represented. He urged the United States to settle the Viet-Nam war which, he said, was responsible also for the monetary crisis because of the ruinous expenditures it involved for the United States.

Mr. Hunlede called for an end to assistance to Portugal and said that it was difficult to enter into a dialogue with South Africa as long as it treated its black population with contempt. Mr. Hunlede also spoke of the need for the rich countries to change their attitude to development assistance.

Anatoly E. Gurinovich, Foreign Minister of Byelorussia, said it was thanks to the efforts of the Soviet Union that a more positive international atmosphere had been achieved. Stating that the opening of the Assembly session had been marred by the resumption of United States bombing of North Viet-Nam, he called for the immediate and complete withdrawal of American forces from Indo-China.

On the Middle East, he said that purportedly new solutions had been offered in the Assembly but their purpose was to reward Israeli aggression with the territories acquired through aggression.

He took issue with the United States Secretary of State for referring to Byelorussia's membership in the United Nations in the context of Mr. Rogers' "groundless position of trying to keep the Chiang Kai-shekists" in the Organization. Byelorussia had earned its right to be a founder Member of the United Nations, he said.

(A MORE DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE MEETING APPEARS IN TAKES 1-15 OF THIS RELEASE)

ASSEMBLY PLENARY -- TAKE 1

The General Assembly met this morning to continue the general debate. So far, 92 Member countries have been heard in the debate. Listed to speak this morning were Libya, Singapore, Togo and Byelorussia.

The meeting was called to order by the President, ADAM MALIK (Indonesia) at 10:42. He invited the first speaker to address the Assembly.

MAHMOOD S. MAGHRIBI (Libya) said his delegation associated itself with the quest for solving the problems facing humanity, whether they be the immediate task of resolving monetary crises, or the long-term problems of disarmament, or preserving the environment and stimulating economic and social development in different parts of the world.

His delegation urged acceleration of efforts to bring to an end the colonial age, as well as to eliminate the consequences it had left in the developing regions. Support must be intensified for the liberation struggles being waged against colonialism and neo-colonialism in all its forms, and opposition to the Governments suppressing these struggles "must advance into the realm of practical and effective measures", he said.

Libya, having succeeded in eliminating the foreign military presence from its territory, was now consolidating its co-operation with all sister States seeking to advance the cause of co-operation, peace and justice, he went on. This was particularly true of the larger Arab homeland, with which Libya had many ties. He spoke of "the yearning of the Arab nation towards unity" and said that it was in that spirit that Libya had come together with Egypt and Syria to form the Federation of Arab Republics.

(END OF TAKE 1)

ASSEMBLY PLENARY -- TAKE 2

The representative of Libya then turned to the Middle East problem, "or more specifically the Zionist problem which sustains it", and said that this problem remained the single most crucial test of the ability of the international community to meet its responsibilities under the Charter.

"The task of eliminating the consequences of the 1967 Israeli aggression against the Arab States is inextricably bound to the task of restoring the rights of the Palestinian people", said Mr. MAGHRIBI.

Zionism, "an alien European colonial movement", had sought to impose its domination over Palestine and the neighbouring countries, he said. The State of Israel, since 1948, had achieved through military conquest a scheme of expansion by stages, of which the 1967 aggression was only the most recent, and there was no assurance that this was the last, said Mr. MAGHRIBI.

In spite of United Nations resolutions, Israel was persisting in its occupation of Arab lands and was enforcing, "through measures brutally disrespectful of human rights", its policy of imposing its designs for the actual annexation of the occupied territories, notably in Jerusalem.

All efforts to reach a peaceful settlement on the basis of Security Council resolution 242 (1967) had been in vain, said the representative of Libya, because United States sponsorship enabled Israel to remain arrogant. Indeed, during the years during which Israel had been in occupation of the territories of three Member nations, the United States had actually stepped up its military and financial aid to Israel. This led to the inevitable conclusion that the United States "is collaborating in the occupation and sharing the guilt of the oppression it entails", he commented.

Israel's rejection of the recent Security Council resolution on Jerusalem, and the statement made to the Assembly by Abba Eban, showed again, he said, Israel's disregard for the principle of inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by military conquest.

(END OF TAKE 2)

ASSEMBLY PLENARY -- TAKE 3

The representative of Libya went on to say that Mr. Eban had called on United Nations organs to disregard their resolutions in favour of "seeking a consensus which includes the interested parties". In effect, added Mr. MAGHRIBI, Mr. Eban had asked for a veto power for Israel, for the abandonment of all documents "not suitable for Israel's aims". It was the conditions imposed by the victor that Mr. Eban wished to see enforced, said Mr. MAGHRIBI. But fortunately, very few Member States shared Mr. Eban's concept of the role of the United Nations, he added.

The conditions imposed by Israel on the occupied territories should be apparent from the report of the Special Committee which investigated Israeli practices in those territories, he went on. Accounts of Israel's practices of imposing mass punishment, repression of civilians, torture of prisoners, deportation and expulsion of the inhabitants, destruction and demolition of homes, confiscation of property, violation of religious monuments and beliefs were too well documented to need elaboration, said the representative of Libya.

Most "atrocious and inhumane" was Israel's behaviour in the Gaza Strip, he said. A special report by Sir John Rennie, Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), had attested to the recent demolition operation which had resulted in the forcible displacement of about 15,000 Palestinian refugees. The Secretary-General had also expressed concern over the effect of this operation, which the Israeli newspaper Maariv had said was only the first phase of a larger scheme, the second phase of which aimed at the removal of 60,000 to 70,000 refugees from the Gaza Strip.

"This calculated policy of mass displacement, coupled with the practice of imposing mass terror over the inhabitants, is designed as a prelude to annexation", said Mr. MAGHRIBI.

ASSEMBLY PLENARY -- TAKE 4

In the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, continued the representative of Libya, Israel had evacuated virtually all the Arab inhabitants, replacing them with immigrant settlers "to serve Israel in its future aggressions".

Mr. MAGHRIBI said that the United Nations, in viewing the Palestinians simply as refugees, had been evading the central fact of the problem. They had become refugees by virtue of the denial of their right to self-determination.

Like the peoples of southern Africa, the Palestinians were victims of the colonial age, he said. They had been deprived of their country under British imperialism and reduced to inferior status by the racist Zionism of the State of Israel. Israeli Zionism, like South Africa's apartheid, perpetuated itself through a system of racial discrimination against the indigenous population. The "atrocities" committed by Israel bore close resemblance to the methods employed by the Nazis, he said.

There was a close link between the "racist States" of South Africa and Israel, he said. The United Nations must deal with racism "wherever it exists". The system of religio-racial intolerance imposed by Israel over the people of Palestine must be condemned as well as "the role that Israel plays in Africa, in collaboration with the South African regime and its other racist and colonialist allies".

Regarding the situation in southern Africa, Mr. MAGHRIBI said that South Africa's actions constituted a crime against humanity. The Government of South Africa must be expelled from all international functions and its legitimacy denied. Sanctions must be imposed against it, he declared.

ASSEMBLY PLENARY -- TAKE 5

The representative of Libya went on to say that his Government declared its complete support for the peoples of Angola, Mozambique and Guinea (Bissau), struggling for independence against the Portuguese colonialists. Libya also supported the people of Zimbabwe, subjected to repression by the illegal white settler minority regime of Ian Smith.

On other matters, he said his Government supported the struggle of the Vietnamese people against the United States military intervention, and demanded the immediate withdrawal of the foreign troops. The seven-point programme of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Viet-Nam offered a sound basis for peace and achieving the national aspirations of the people, he said.

Regarding the events in Pakistan, he expressed hope that the needs of the millions of refugees in India would be met and that all efforts would be made to facilitate their return to their homes.

He said his Government would not support any measure which would have the effect of depriving the People's Republic of China of its lawful rights in the United Nations.

Concluding, he said his Government condemned foreign domination, discrimination and aggression, whether practised in southern Africa, Indo-China or the Middle East. Complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied territories, return of the Palestinian people to their homeland and restoration of their right to self-determination were necessary for a just and lasting peace in the region, he said.

(END OF TAKE 5)

ASSEMBLY PLENARY -- TAKE 6

S. RAJARATNAM, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Singapore, said the speeches on the China question had over the years "acquired the irrelevant abstruseness of debates by medieval European theologians wrangling over the number of angels who could dance on the point of a needle".

Now, he said, after 21 years the "logjam" had been broken and, in his view, it would seem that if the China question could be solved then so could many other allegedly unsolvable problems which were now permanent fixtures on the agenda.

He said that after 30 years of war, involving the Japanese, the French and the United States, there was now some ground for optimism regarding the war in Viet-Nam. He said it was senseless to persist in a war where, clearly, one side could not defeat the other.

Regarding the Middle East, he said the area of agreement between the parties had now hopefully widened. He said a settlement should be reached through negotiations on the basis of the November 1967 resolution of the Security Council.

The Foreign Minister of Singapore said, regarding southern Africa, that black Africa had to first of all manifest a unity and strength sufficiently credible to compel white Africa to come to honourable terms with the coloured majority.

He said racialism was no longer a simple question of conflict between white and black but was "increasingly becoming a world-wide plague". He said that "there is also oppression of blacks by browns, of browns by blacks, of yellow by browns, of whites by whites, of browns by browns and any other chromatic combination we care to think of".

Thus, he said the "third world" could not successfully fight white racialism if it itself indulged in "this indefensible vice".

(END OF TAKE 6)

ASSEMBLY PLENARY --- TAKE 7

Mr. RAJARATNAM went on to say that Singapore had always maintained the view that the seat allocated to China should properly be occupied by the People's Republic of China. He said Taiwan was a part of China and the status of Taiwan "is a domestic matter to be settled by the people of China including those of Taiwan".

However, said the Foreign Minister of Singapore, it could not be denied that the Government that had represented China in the United Nations for the past 26 years had discharged its responsibilities constructively, responsibly and judiciously. For this reason, while he agreed with the essential points in the Albanian resolution, he regretted that that proposal contained "elaborations which are unduly harsh and unnecessary".

Mr. RAJARATNAM stated that, with the entry of China into the United Nations arena, the familiar bi-polar world of two super-Powers would come to an end; and, with it, the equilibrium of sorts that the world had established. It was also possible, he said, that two other dormant Powers, Japan and a united Western Europe, would enter the arena of great-Power struggle.

In other words, he said, in the 1970s the small nations would have to learn and survive in a multi-polar world of power politics. He did not foresee great Powers in the foreseeable future abandoning power politics, he added.

(END OF TAKE 7)

ASSEMBLY PLENARY -- TAKE 8

Mr. RAJARATNAM went on to state that "today the technique of wars with small nations as proxies has been more systematically developed". This also included, he said, promotion of wars of national liberation, support for guerilla uprisings, subversion and the engineering of coups in small countries.

The Foreign Minister of Singapore said the small nations were rent by internal dissension, civil wars, crushing economic problems and, often, inter-State conflicts. If the small nations were to avert becoming expendable pawns in the big-Power game, they must first put their own houses in order, he said.

He said the only successful revolution that the "third world" had so far waged was the anti-colonial revolution. It had been far less successful in bringing about the economic revolution so necessary to achieve strong modern States. There could be no unity, stability and modernization in the "third world", he said, unless there was an economic breakthrough.

He said the small nations should develop an obsession about economic development. "Man may not live by bread alone but without it he does not live at all."

He said that in a way the small nations could bring power politics to an end by first concentrating on internal development and steadfastly refusing to enter into any cold-war liaison with the major Powers. This, in his view, was the only practical strategy for survival for small nations in the multi-polar war that was now emerging.

ASSEMBLY PLENARY -- TAKE 9

JOACHIM HUNLEDE, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Togo, paying tribute to the Secretary-General, U Thant, expressed the wish that he might continue to hold his post because the Organization, "today, more than ever, needs his experience and his great wisdom". Mr. HUNLEDE added that he was convinced that U Thant "would not hesitate for one moment to pursue his lofty mission unless absolutely imperative reasons prevented him from so doing".

Mr. HUNLEDE went on to say that the international situation had become more hopeful with President Nixon's decision to improve relations with Peking. His country "salutes with relief" the realism of United States policy towards Peking, he stated.

The realism that had led his country to take into account the existence of 750 million people should also, he said, prompt the Organization to be concerned with the fate of 14 million others who had been represented in the United Nations.

Togo had favoured the representation of the People's Republic of China for some time and it hoped for a solution of that question "in a definitive and equitable manner" this year, he said.

The disarmament problem made Peking's participation imperative, he continued, as did the solution of the Viet-Nam conflict. Peace in Viet-Nam, he added, required agreement with North Viet-Nam and co-operation with the People's Republic of China.

Mr. HUNLEDE said that the present monetary crisis had been caused, to a great extent, by United States ruinous expenditures connected with the war in Viet-Nam which had upset the balance of payments of the United States. This was why the United States Government should find the courage to settle the war, he said.

ASSEMBLY PLENARY --- TAKE 10

Turning to the Middle East situation, the Foreign Minister of Togo went on to endorse, as a basis for settlement, the Security Council resolution 242 and the Rogers Plan, in spite of the "shortcoming" of the latter, namely, that it did not expressly tackle the Palestinian problem.

He said that the Organization of African Unity mission that would soon be visiting Israel and Egypt could serve a useful purpose and he expressed hope that the goodwill of the two parties would contribute to the success of the mission.

Mr. HUNLEDE then called for an end to the military and economic assistance given to Portugal by its friends and for an effective isolation of Portugal as long as it continued to violate the fundamental principles of the Charter.

He observed that the racist regimes in Pretoria and Salisbury continued to flaunt United Nations decisions and said that this was so because those who could do most to put United Nations resolutions into effect were those "who themselves violate these rules in spite of the high moral principles they enunciate".

Mr. HUNLEDE declared that it was difficult to see how a dialogue with South Africa could be possible as long as that Government treated its African population with total contempt. However, in this respect "no one can claim to have the monopoly of truth", he remarked, and all sincere opinions should be listened to.

Togo had a special interest in the German question in view of its historic ties with the German people, he said. It was his country's wish that the rapprochement between the Federal Republic of Germany and Eastern Europe would lead to a rapprochement between the two German States.

(END CF TAKE 10)

ASSEMBLY PLENARY -- TAKE 11

Speaking on questions of development, the Foreign Minister of Togo said that the monetary crisis had brought international trade into disarray and had reduced the chances of the developing countries to narrow the development gap. Measures like the floating of currencies and protectionism were of grave concern to these countries, he added, since they were the first victims.

This created a new, serious problem at a moment when international aid for development was decreasing, Mr. HUNLEDE stated.

He said that international monetary order must be re-established as a matter of urgency, but a solution should not be left only to the great Powers since all countries were affected by the crisis. Moreover, the rich countries must cease looking at foreign aid as something which could be terminated at their whim; it must be regarded as "an ardent obligation on all, in the name of solidarity and human dignity", declared Mr. HUNLEDE.

The augury for the nineteen-seventies was not good, he continued, and this was so in spite of the promises of the new international development strategy which he feared would remain a "dead letter" and would be no more than a declaration of intent.

The many reservations attached to last year's General Assembly resolution on the development strategy showed that the "third world" had again been "duped", Mr. HUNLEDE declared.

He said that aid to Africa had remained stagnant between 1960 and 1967 and had actually decreased since 1968; prices of primary products had gone down while prices of manufactured goods had risen. "The deterioration in the terms of trade is the biggest scandal of this century", he asserted.

Togo, however, was not discouraged in spite of all this, and continued its development efforts, Mr. HUNLEDE said. Togo had reached the "take-off stage", he said, but the "take-off" would not take place in favourable conditions due to the policies of the developed countries.

He paid tribute to the European Economic Community countries, particularly France and the Federal Republic of Germany, as well as to United Nations agencies for the aid they had rendered his country. He hoped that other countries would follow their example and help put the developing countries on the real road to development.

(END OF TAKE 11)

ASSEMBLY PLENARY -- TAKE 12

EDOUARD LONGERSTAEY (Belgium), one of the Vice-Presidents of the Assembly, who had taken over the Chair at 11:49 a.m., then called on the next speaker on the list, the Foreign Minister of Byelorussia.

ANATOLY E. GURINOVICH, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic said that through the efforts of the Soviet Union, a positive atmosphere in the international situation had been achieved. In this connexion, he referred to the agreement on Berlin.

It was difficult, he said, to over-emphasize the contributions made toward improving the international situation by Soviet leaders Brezhnev, Kosygin and Podgorny. The policy of the Soviet Union, laid down by Lenin, was one of proletarian internationalism and peaceful co-existence.

The twenty-fourth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union had emphasized the continuance of the struggle for peace by the Soviet Union, and Byelorussia fully supported that effort, he said.

He went on to say that the United States was continuing its aggression against the people of Viet-Nam, Cambodia and Laos; that Israel continued aggression against the Arab peoples, undermining a settlement of the problems of the Near East; and NATO continued to hinder the fight for liberation in Southern Africa.

Mr. GURINOVICH regretted the non-compliance by "some Member States" of the principles concerning the strengthening of international peace and security, for friendly relations among nations, and the granting of independence to colonial peoples and territories.

(END OF TAKE 12)

ASSEMBLY PLENARY -- TAKE 13

Byelorussia, continued Mr. GURINOVICH, had always subscribed to the principles of the Charter, namely, to spare future generations from the scourge of war. Consequently, it welcomed any bilateral or multilateral agreement between States that would strengthen peace.

The Foreign Minister of Byelorussia said that for over 10 years, in Viet-Nam, the United States had continued an aggressive war, killing more than one million people, injuring millions of others, destroying thousands of villages, and using deadly chemicals in the Indochinese peninsula.

Even the beginning of the present session of the Assembly had been marred by the resumption of bombing of North Viet-Nam.

Byelorussia called for the immediate and complete withdrawal of all United States forces from the area, he said.

Turning to the Middle East situation, he said everyone knew the Soviet Union and other Socialist States had condemned the aggression by Israel, and had called for a solution, based on resolution 242 of the Security Council.

Egypt, continued Mr. GURINOVICH, had replied to the Secretary-General's representative, and that country's patience and sincere desire for peace assumed the continuance of the cease-fire in the area.

Israel, however, stubbornly avoided a solution, and in this "criminal" policy, received support from the United States, he added.

From the Assembly rostrum, purportedly new solutions had been offered but, in fact, said Mr. GURINOVICH, their purpose was to reward Israeli aggression with the territories acquired through violence. The expansionist Israelis wanted to retain the Arab lands, and he regretted that some speakers in the Assembly had supported that position.

ASSEMBLY PLENARY -- TAKE 14

Referring to Europe, the Foreign Minister of Byelorussia said a lack of desire by "certain great Powers" and their supporters in NATO was preventing the easing of tension on the continent. He said if these countries had been as constructive as the Soviet Union and other socialist States, there would be an agreement, and Europe would cease to be "a focal point for world-wide conflict", and every country, large and small, stood to gain from this.

There were 98 items on the agenda of the General Assembly, he said, but the United States had blocked the addition of an item proposed by the socialist States, on Korea.

Byelorussia, said Mr. GURINOVICH, would continue to struggle for withdrawal of all forces from Korea, until the flag of the United Nations was no longer used to protect foreign forces in the country, and the Koreans were able to determine their own destiny by themselves.

He said the "mad arms race" was strengthened by the military and industrial establishments of the imperialist States.

All resolutions of the United Nations regarding granting independence to colonial peoples were actively supported by the Soviet Union and the socialist countries, he noted, but an opposite position was taken by present and former colonial Powers, he said. They supported South Africa economically, and they advocated "dialogue" with that country.

(END OF TAKE 14)

ASSEMBLY PLENARY — TAKE 15

Mr. GURINOVICH went on to demand that former colonialists and other capitalist countries should compensate the developing countries for the material losses they had suffered as a result of the exploitation of their natural resources under colonialism.

The Foreign Minister of Byelorussia went on to say that the United States Secretary of State had referred to the United Nations membership of Byelorussia, in discussing the representation of the People's Republic of China.

Byelorussia, said Mr. GURINOVICH, had earned its right to be a founder Member of the United Nations. It had contributed to the Charter, and the implementation of its principles. Byelorussia had also joined in fighting nazism and facism during World War II.

He called on Mr. Rogers not to bring Byelorussia into his "groundless position of trying to keep the Chiang Kai-shekists" in the United Nations.

EDOUARD LONGERSTAEY (Belgium), the Acting President, adjourned the meeting at 12:59 p.m., until 3:00 p.m.

(END OF TAKE 15 AND OF PRESS RELEASE GA/4440)