



*Chairman: Miss Maria GROZA (Romania).*

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

1. The CHAIRMAN said that it was with deep sorrow that she had learned of the death of the President of the United Arab Republic, Gamal Abdel Nasser. The name of President Nasser was closely linked to the struggle of the peoples for freedom and national independence and against colonialism. His great qualities as a statesman and his untiring devotion to the cause of social and economic progress in his country had earned him the esteem of the whole world. Gamal Abdel Nasser had also worked to develop co-operation among countries. He had always regarded the United Nations as a valuable instrument of international co-operation and he had offered it the increasing support of his country. On behalf of the officers of the Committee and herself, she offered sincere condolences to the delegation of the United Arab Republic and asked it to convey them to the Government of that country.

*On the proposal of the Chairman, the members of the Committee observed a minute of silence.*

2. Mr. REDDY (India) said that his delegation had felt deep emotion and sorrow at the news of the death of President Nasser, whose country had lost him at a crucial moment. The art of government as practised by that great leader of Africa and of the Arab world had transformed the living conditions of his compatriots. He had brought about the nationalization of the Suez Canal and the construction of the Aswan Dam and had initiated many other enterprises which bore witness to his genius. During his eighteen years in the presidency, the most cordial relations had been established between India and the United Arab Republic. The death of President Nasser left a void which it would be difficult to fill. His delegation wished to express its condolences to the people of the United Arab Republic and to the family of the late President.

3. Mrs. BULTRIKOVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the news of the death of that great statesman, President Nasser, had moved the whole world. He had been the recognized leader of the Arab world and an exemplary figure in the struggle for the liberation of the peoples, for it was under his leadership that Egypt had overthrown the régime of King Farouk. He had made his country a model of progressive economic and social development in the interests of all the people. He had faced very difficult situations and in dealing with those difficulties, as in the struggle which he had waged to liberate the Middle East, he had always looked upon the USSR as a helpful ally. His

qualities as a statesman and his political vision were recognized by friend and foe alike. The premature death of President Nasser was a great sorrow for all the Arab countries and for the allies of the United Arab Republic. Her delegation offered its most sincere condolences to the Government and people of the United Arab Republic.

4. Mr. LEW (China) referred to the great personal qualities of President Nasser, who had been devoted to his family and friends as well as to the cause of progress in his country. President Nasser was not only the beloved Father of modern Egypt, but was also a great leader of the Arab world. He asked the Arab representatives to accept the expressions of sympathy which he offered on behalf of his delegation and the whole Chinese people.

5. Mr. DE BARROS (Brazil) expressed to the United Arab Republic and to the Arab world the sincere condolences of all the delegations of the countries in the Latin American group. Brazil, like the other Latin American countries, did not forget that some of its nationals were of Arab origin and that, through Portugal and Spain, part of its culture had been derived from the Arab world. In such a time of trial, Latin America had a feeling of solidarity with the United Arab Republic.

6. Mr. HOVEYDA (Iran) said that, on behalf of his delegation and himself, he wished to join in the tributes paid to President Nasser by the representatives who had spoken before him. Iran had learned with great sadness of the passing of that great Arab statesman and patriot, a blow which was all the greater in that it had occurred at a critical time just when, thanks to the initiative of the United Arab Republic, some hope of peace had begun to seem justified. His own delegation offered the delegation of the United Arab Republic its sympathetic condolences and asked it to convey them to the Government of the United Arab Republic and to the family of the late President.

7. Mr. KARAMAGI (Uganda) said that not only the United Arab Republic but also the Arab world, Africa and the non-aligned countries were mourning the death of President Nasser. His supporters and his detractors were united in recognizing his great qualities as a statesman and the primary role which he had played in the modernization of Egypt, the Suez crisis and the struggle for independence of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the liberation movements throughout Africa. Thus he had given proof not only of his devotion to the struggle against colonialism but also of his sense of justice and he had shown what political conviction and tenacity could achieve.

8. Mrs. HADIZA (Niger), speaking on behalf of the countries in the African Group, expressed the profound sorrow felt by them at the news of the death of an eminent

son of Africa. She offered her condolences to the delegation of the United Arab Republic and asked that they should be conveyed to the Government of the United Arab Republic and to the family of President Nasser. She also proposed that the Chairman should send a telegram of condolences on behalf of the Committee to the Government of the United Arab Republic.

9. Miss NYAGETERA (United Republic of Tanzania) said that her country had been deeply grieved to learn of the news of the passing of President Nasser, a great man and a great friend of the United Republic of Tanzania, which had occurred at a particularly inopportune moment. He offered the most sincere condolences of his delegation to the delegation of the United Arab Republic.

10. Mrs. LESOLLE (Botswana) said that the sudden death of President Nasser had aroused keen emotion in Botswana and she asked the delegation of the United Arab Republic to convey her condolences to the Government and people of that country and to the family of the late President.

11. Mr. NAMUTABO (Zambia) said that he wished to inform the people of the United Arab Republic of the deep sorrow with which Zambia had learned of the death of President Nasser, which had occurred at a particularly difficult time. Zambia would never forget the assistance which it had received from Cairo in its struggle for independence and it valued very highly the cordial relations which had been established between Zambia and the United Arab Republic.

12. Begum HAMIDULLAH (Pakistan) said that her country had experienced deep sorrow at the news of the death of the President of the United Arab Republic. The personality of President Nasser had reached beyond the frontiers of his own to the entire Moslem world. Moslem youth, in particular, had regarded him as a model on account of his integrity, the importance he had attached to his role in the family, and his qualities as a Moslem and as a human being. Her delegation, in offering its condolences to the delegation of the United Arab Republic, wished to say that in every home in Pakistan the death of President Nasser was felt as a personal loss.

13. Mr. de Gaiffier D'HESTROY (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the group of Western European and other States, expressed the profound emotion felt at the news of the death of Gamal Abdel Nasser, President of the United Arab Republic. That great man had occupied a special place in the minds and hearts of his fellow citizens, and the countries of Western Europe shared their grief and their mourning. President Nasser had transformed Egypt into a strong modern State. He had been an undisputed leader, a great patriot and statesman, and he had instilled in the Arab countries a feeling of solidarity and unity. His death left a critical void in that region at the very moment when his presence was more essential than ever to the restoration of peace. It was to be hoped that his last wishes—his firm desire to avoid any further bloodshed and to settle the problem of the Middle East by peaceful means—would be respected. He asked the delegation of the United Arab Republic to convey to its Government and to the Egyptian people the condolences of the Western countries.

14. Mr. EL-FATTAL (Syria) said that it was his sad duty to express on behalf of the group of Asian countries, which had specifically asked him to do so, and of the Arab delegations, the grief of the peoples of that part of the world. President Nasser had been not only a leader of the Arab world but also a symbol of its solidarity with Asia and Africa. He had been the indefatigable champion of justice and freedom and had become the architect of peace and of the improvement of the lot of the masses. Syria deeply deplored his death, but it was convinced that the Egyptian people would bear that severe trial courageously. He expressed to the delegation of the United Arab Republic, and through it to the Government and people of that brother country as well as to the family of the late President, his most sincere condolences.

15. Miss SOLESBY (United Kingdom) offered her most sincere condolences to the delegation and the people of the United Arab Republic for the cruel loss they had sustained. The whole world was mourning President Nasser, a remarkable statesman whose death was a serious blow to the cause of international peace.

16. Mrs. DINÇMEN (Turkey) said that it was with deep emotion that the Turkish people had learned of the death of one of the most eminent personalities of the present era. President Nasser, whose accession to power had marked a turning-point in the history of Egypt, had consolidated his position by his exceptional qualities and by the breadth of his political views. His death was a great loss for the people of the United Arab Republic, and at their time of tribulation she wished to convey to them the deepest sympathy of the Turkish people.

17. Mr. PAPADENAS (Cyprus) said that the prestige of President Nasser, the true founder of modern Egypt, had extended far beyond the frontiers of his country and that he had been a symbol in the disturbed conditions of the present-day world. The Cypriot people, who were united to the Egyptian people by age-old links of friendship, were in mourning for that great statesman, whose memory would live in the hearts and minds of all.

18. Mr. PAVLÍČEK (Czechoslovakia) joined in the expressions of sympathy offered on the occasion of the death of that great friend of the Czechoslovak people, President Gamal Abdel Nasser, whose death was an irreparable loss for the Arab world and for all mankind.

19. Mr. PENTCHEV (Bulgaria) said that the entire world felt deep emotion on learning of the premature death of President Gamal Abdel Nasser, an outstanding statesman and great patriot. The Bulgarian people had the greatest admiration and the highest esteem for that champion of freedom and shared the deep grief of the people of the United Arab Republic and of all the friendly peoples of the Arab countries.

20. Mr. STILLMAN (United States of America) paid a tribute to the memory of President Gamal Abdel Nasser, whose eminent qualities had earned him the deep respect and affection not only of his fellow citizens but of millions of people in the Arab world. He had been entirely devoted to his people, whose lot and whose living conditions he had helped to improve. The United States delegation expressed

its deep sympathy with the people of the United Arab Republic in their grief at his passing.

21. Mr. PARDOS (Spain) said that the death of the President of the United Arab Republic had occurred precisely at a time when the world had great need of him. Spain, which had deep-rooted historical ties to the Arab world, felt deeply the loss of that exalted figure, an exceptional personality of remarkable intelligence and loftiness of views.

22. Mr. OSHODI (Nigeria) paid a tribute to the President of the United Arab Republic as an honest, realistic, sincere and courageous statesman. The whole African continent was in mourning and the Nigerian people shared the grief of the deceased's family and of the fraternal people of the United Arab Republic.

23. Mr. WYZNER (Poland) said that the Polish people had learned with deep emotion of the premature death of the great Arab leader, whom they had greatly admired and whose name was associated with the struggle of the peoples for social progress. That great statesman had combined a remarkable breadth of views with the most admirable human qualities, and he had become the architect of friendship and co-operation between the Polish and Egyptian peoples. The tragedy which had befallen Egypt had occasioned deep grief in Poland.

24. Mr. CSATORDAY (Hungary) observed that, thanks to the President of the United Arab Republic, a personality of historic dimensions, that country had made considerable progress and the world had gone forward in the struggle against imperialism and for the elimination of colonialism. Egypt had served as an example to all the Arab countries upon their accession to independence. President Nasser had laboured to give effect to the purposes of the United Nations Charter and to promote respect for human rights and social progress. His death was a cruel loss for the Arab world and for the whole of mankind. In the memory of the Hungarian people he would remain the symbol of the warm friendship which united them to the people of Egypt.

25. Mr. SEKYIAMAHA (Ghana) said that he had been deeply grieved by the announcement of the death of President Nasser and wished to express his keenest sympathy with the delegation, the Government and the people of the United Arab Republic.

26. Mr. ALVAREZ TABIO (Cuba) said that it was with profound grief that he had heard of the death of the President of the United Arab Republic, defender of the freedom of peoples, and he wished to associate himself with the messages of sympathy which had been addressed to the delegation and people of the United Arab Republic.

27. Mr. SHAFIE (Malaysia) said that his whole country was in mourning for President Nasser and he asked the people of the United Arab Republic to accept the expression of his deep sympathy.

28. Mrs. STEVENSON (Liberia) said that the death of President Nasser, one of the greatest figures of the present era, was an irreparable loss for the people of the United Arab Republic, whose grief she shared, for the African continent and for the entire world.

29. Mr. PAOLINI (France) wished to express to the Government and people of the United Arab Republic his deep sympathy on the occasion of the tragic event which had plunged the whole of the Arab world into mourning.

30. Mr. KRAVETS (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the socialist countries had experienced deep emotion on learning of the death of the great leader of the Arab world, who had made himself the champion of the liberation of the peoples and had devoted all his energy and his very existence to improving the lot of his people.

31. Miss MUTER (Indonesia) said that the countries of the Afro-Asian Group and the non-aligned countries had been deeply grieved at the death of that remarkable statesman, President Nasser. She asked the delegation of the United Arab Republic to convey to the family of the deceased and to the Egyptian people as a whole the expression of her deep sympathy.

32. Mr. MILUTINOVIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that his country had been deeply moved by the sudden death of a man who had been a great champion of peace and freedom. President Nasser had devoted his life to the emancipation and progress of his country and it could be said that the modern history of the United Arab Republic was indissolubly linked with his name. That great Head of State had understood the needs of the contemporary world, and the policies of the non-aligned countries owed much to him. The Yugoslav people had held President Nasser in very high esteem. He therefore wished, on behalf of his country, to offer his most sincere and heartfelt condolences to the delegation, the Government and the people of the United Arab Republic.

33. Mr. NASSER-ZIAYEE (Afghanistan) expressed the profound grief of the Afghan delegation and people who, together with the Egyptian people, were mourning a great statesman.

34. Mr. KHOSBAYAR (Mongolia) expressed his delegation's sympathy on the occasion of the death of the President of the United Arab Republic. That death was a tragic loss not only for the Egyptian people and the Arab world, but also for all the enemies of imperialism and colonialism and for all those who were defending peace and freedom. There could be no doubt that the Egyptian people would continue to devote themselves to the cause for which President Nasser had given his life, thereby creating a lasting monument to his memory.

35. Mrs. OULD DADDAH (Mauritania) said that all Mauritania deeply mourned the passing of President Nasser—a great statesman and a tireless champion of freedom and justice. The compassion and nobility of that son of the fertile land of Egypt had gained the respect of the whole world. Nasser had tried to restore greatness and dignity to his country and to the Arab world; he had not always been understood or supported, but he had left a deep and indelible mark. Africa would not forget his generosity nor his principles, which would continue to be an inspiration to the world.

36. Mr. TOKO-MANGAN (Cameroon) associated himself with the tribute paid to the memory of President Nasser

who had been not only the leading figure of the Arab world but one of the most respected Heads of State on the international scene. That eminent son of Africa had been the embodiment of the struggle against under-development, and his devotion to the cause of social progress was engraved in the memory of the young people of Africa and of the third world.

37. Mr. KATAKURA (Japan) said that his delegation shared the deep sorrow of the Egyptian people at the passing of a man who had devoted his whole life to the cause of Arab unity and the progress of the developing countries.

38. Mr. HAILE SELASSIE (Ethiopia) said that the death of the President of the United Arab Republic was a great loss to Africa as a whole, and requested the delegation of the United Arab Republic to convey his delegation's heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and to the people and Government of the United Arab Republic.

39. Mr. GOUAMBA (People's Republic of the Congo) said that, although the delegation of the Niger had already expressed the condolences of the African Group, he wished to convey his sympathy on behalf of his delegation and of his country, because of the special ties which existed between the People's Republic of the Congo and the United Arab Republic. The tragic loss had shocked not only the United Arab Republic and the Arab countries, but the whole world and the third world in particular.

40. Mr. KANIARU (Kenya) said that his delegation mourned an eminent son of Africa and associated himself with the expressions of sympathy voiced by other delegations.

41. Mrs. KEITA (Mali) said that the untimely death of heroic President Nasser was a tragic loss to the Arab world and to mankind as a whole. She expressed her heartfelt condolences to the delegation and people of the United Arab Republic.

42. Mr. DIAZ (Colombia) expressed the sympathy of the Government and people of Colombia to the delegation of the United Arab Republic and requested that those condolences be conveyed to the people and Government of the United Arab Republic.

43. Mrs. RANA (Nepal) expressed her deep sympathy with the delegation of the United Arab Republic on the death of Mr. Gamal Abdel Nasser, one of the great Heads of State of the times, and asked that the condolences of the people of Nepal be conveyed to the people and Government of the United Arab Republic.

44. Mr. MBENGUE (Senegal) said that blind destiny had just struck down a great statesman, respected the world over for his great qualities of heart and mind. President Nasser had been a personal friend of the President of Senegal, and there were close ties between the two countries. Throughout his life President Nasser had championed the ideals of peace, justice and equality and his name would go down in the history of his native land, Africa, which he had loved so dearly. Africa's heart was wounded; it was in mourning for its son and would remain so for a long time to come.

45. Mrs. DE BROMLEY (Honduras) said that, although the representative of Brazil had already spoken on behalf of the Latin American countries, she wished to convey personally to the delegation of the United Arab Republic her sympathy and the sympathy of her Government.

46. Mr. COVACI (Romania) said that the Egyptian people had suffered a great loss in the death of President Nasser, an ardent patriot and an eminent statesman. His name was associated with the development of his country, with economic and social progress and with the struggle against colonialism and imperialism. Romania and Egypt maintained mutually beneficial friendly relations, and he wished to convey the heartfelt condolences of the Romanian people to the delegation of the United Arab Republic.

47. Mr. NDURURUTSE (Burundi) said he was deeply shocked by the sudden death of a hero of the twentieth century who had died leaving his mission for peace uncompleted. In spite of everything, President Nasser's work had already transcended the frontiers of his country and he was known the world over as a man who had delivered his country from feudalism and under-development and had worked for the unity of the Arab world and of Africa.

48. Mr. MOUSSA (United Arab Republic) warmly thanked all those delegations which had expressed their sympathy to his delegation. He would transmit their condolences to the people and Government of the United Arab Republic and to President Nasser's family. Gamal Abdel Nasser would live for ever in the hearts of the Arab people, who would remember him as a tireless defender of honour, justice and peace, of human dignity and human rights and fundamental freedoms. His death was a loss not only to the United Arab Republic and the Arab world but also to Africa, the Afro-Asian Group, the non-aligned countries and all those who were working for peace and progress. The United Arab Republic would continue to struggle for the complete liberation of its sacred land and for the establishment of a world of peace, equality and justice.

49. The CHAIRMAN said that, in accordance with the request of the representative of the Niger, she proposed to send a telegram of condolences to the Government of the United Arab Republic on behalf of the Third Committee.

## AGENDA ITEM 55

Youth, its education in the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, its problems and needs, and its participation in national development: report of the Secretary-General (*continued*) (A/7921, A/8003, chap. IX, sect. K; A/C.3/L.1764, A/C.3/L.1766)

### GENERAL DEBATE (*continued*)

50. Mr. NAMUTABO (Zambia) paid a warm tribute to the representative of Saudi Arabia for his valuable contribution to the item under discussion. He reserved the right to comment later on the draft resolution submitted by the Saudi Arabian delegation (A/C.3/L.1766).

51. The item under consideration had been seriously considered for the first time in 1965, when the General Assembly had stated in its resolution 2037 (XX) that the energies of the young should be devoted to the material and spiritual advancement of all peoples. In 1968, the Economic and Social Council had adopted resolutions dealing with the need to educate youth in the respect for human rights. Since then, the United Nations concern about the question of youth had been constantly increasing, culminating in the seminar held at Belgrade in June 1970 and the World Youth Assembly held in New York in July 1970.

52. There were three aspects of the question: first, the education of youth in the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; second, the problems and needs of youth; and third, the need for and the degree of the participation of youth in national development. With regard to the first point, the representative of Greece had very wisely suggested that consideration should be given to what could be achieved at the national level on the one hand and the international level on the other. Obviously, any international action must be supported by governmental measures at the national level. It could not be over-emphasized that the rebellious attitude of young people in many parts of the world was a reaction against the insincerity of the adult world. The education which young people were now given helped them to see the world more clearly than young people had done in the past. Adults tended to use the pretext that they had experience of life to keep young people from participating in the conduct of affairs, but that experience, which was, after all, merely a catalogue of past events, was useless unless it enabled those who had it to move with the times.

53. Young people were bound to react violently to the inhuman and racist acts of their elders who, while preaching the principles and ideals set forth in constitutions, were continually violating them. Adults spoke to the young of peace and international understanding, and then sent them to die in wars of aggression. The present younger generation was likely to create a better world in so far as the observance of human rights was concerned. They were growing up in a world where slavery had disappeared and imperialist ideas were losing ground.

54. Among the needs and problems of youth, the problem of unemployment and underemployment was certainly the most serious. It was particularly acute in developing countries where, owing to high population growth, it was likely to reach disastrous proportions unless it was arrested first at the national level and also at the international level. Another problem was the lack of educational facilities. In many developing countries, not all children were able to receive even a full primary education. That did not mean that those countries were doing nothing to improve the situation, but the task was urgent, while the human and economic resources were limited. The developed countries could play an extremely important role in diverting the enormous resources presently used for armaments and for space exploration to the education of youth in the developing countries. Other problems were crime and obscene literature in large cities, which set a bad example for young people.

55. With regard to the question of youth's participation in national development, each country should find its own

solution. He approved the conclusions of the Belgrade seminar, according to which established youth organizations were the best way to bring about the participation of youth in the life of their country.

56. The Zambian Government, for its part, was endeavouring to prepare its youth adequately for life. Virtually all Zambian children from urban communities received a full primary education, without discrimination of any kind. In rural areas, because of limited facilities, only 80 per cent of the children completed their primary education. The remaining children were required to complete at least a four-year primary course. In secondary education, the number of schools was twenty-five times greater than it had been when Zambia had attained its independence. There were now also many university graduates.

57. For young persons who did not enter secondary school, the Government had established youth centres, where young people were taught vocational, handicraft and other skills.

58. Humanism was taught at all educational institutions, and an effort was made to instil into young people a keen awareness of their obligation to society, in addition to theoretical and practical knowledge. The basic emphasis was thus on promoting human rights. Every year, on 10 August, Zambia celebrated a "Youth Day", an international day for the recognition of the importance of the role of youth in both national and international affairs.

59. The possibility might be considered of creating a post of United Nations high commissioner for youth and also of establishing a department of youth in the Secretariat, to co-ordinate the activities of youth and to promote their participation in international affairs. He joined with the Moroccan representative in supporting a request made at the World Youth Assembly that the youth of the entire world should be given the opportunity of meeting every two years at the international level.

60. Mr. KANIARU (Kenya) said he was gratified that the Committee had decided to begin its work by considering an item relating to youth, thus acknowledging the important role that young people would play in the world of the future. The United Nations had done important codification work in the field of human rights; in addition to the United Nations Charter, it had drafted a number of instruments in that field. However, as the International Conference on Human Rights, held at Teheran in 1968, had recognized, it was imperative to implant in the consciousness of youth ideals of human dignity. To that end, all States, UNESCO and other organizations must do everything in their power to instil in the young a respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. In order to give a solid base to United Nations efforts to ensure peace, security and co-operation among States, as well as respect for human rights, today's youth, who were the leaders of tomorrow, had to be educated in respect for human dignity and equal rights for all men without discrimination. It was as part of that effort that the Secretary-General had convened the World Youth Assembly, held in New York in July 1970, and seminars on human rights had been organized in various regions of the world. The Government of Kenya had lost no opportunity to acquaint its youth

with the ideas that emanated from such efforts, and intended to continue participating actively in them. When Kenya had become independent in 1963, there had been numerous discriminatory practices based on race in many aspects of that country's life. His Government, determined to end such practices which were contrary to the principles of the United Nations, had enacted legislation aimed at ensuring respect for human rights. Thus, its Constitution prohibited all discrimination based on race, tribe, place of origin or residence, political opinion, colour or religion. Before independence, children had been assigned to schools on the basis of racial criteria. Now, however, the schools accepted children from all racial groups thus enabling them to know one another better and to work together. The purpose of that reform was to provide equal opportunities for all. Civics, including the principles which emanated from the activities of the United Nations, was taught in Kenyan schools and colleges as a main subject. Stress was laid on respect for individual rights and freedoms, since the Government's aim was to create a multiracial society. With the assistance of UNESCO, the Government disseminated literature on human rights, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to secondary schools and colleges. At the university level, human rights questions were given particular emphasis in courses on international law, international relations and political science. His delegation felt that UNESCO should make available to secondary schools, colleges and Ministries of Education experts on human rights who could be employed as advisers or lecturers.

61. Turning to the other aspect of the question, he noted that the needs and problems of youth in Kenya reflected those of the country as a whole, since young people numbered half of the total population. Moreover, the needs and problems of youth were closely related to the previous generation's concern to groom the leaders of tomorrow. The Government considered that young people should be involved in national problems and take part in the work of development, whether in agriculture, education, health, security or public affairs. The youth of Kenya were interested in international problems, but, unlike their contemporaries in other countries, they could express their views in legal ways and did not have to resort to violence. The Government placed high hopes in the youth of the country and expected that youth's involvement in national development would bring about a better life for all the people of Kenya.

62. In the field of education, the objective pursued by the Government was to provide a type of education that would enable every citizen to realize his aspirations to the fullest while at the same time playing a part in national development. There had been a steady increase in the number of pupils, schools and teachers in primary education: over 70 per cent of all school-age children were now in school. At the secondary level, a host of government-aided and other schools and a growing number of technical schools were increasingly meeting the country's education needs. Lastly, the Government looked to the universities to provide experts in the fields of research, science and technology.

63. Employment of youth was a question of vital importance in Kenya as a means of forestalling the dissatisfaction which had led to violence and crime in other societies. Thus the Government was encouraging technical education and

particularly training in agriculture, a matter of vital importance to the programme of rural development to which his country had given priority in its 1970-1974 economic development plan. Since Kenya's resources were predominantly agricultural, the drift to urban areas had to be arrested. Young people were therefore being prepared for rural life in the schools and in teacher-training colleges. A Faculty of Agriculture had been established at the new University of Nairobi. Technical education was being constantly developed, as was shown by the number of pupils enrolled in the various courses offered, including hotel training. Lastly, special schools were helping the blind and the mentally retarded to make a meaningful contribution to the development of the country. Professional and technical skills were emphasized even at the university level so that the nation would have available to it technical staff at the highest level.

64. For young people who had been unable to complete the normal course of study, many rural youth centres, under the supervision of the Ministry of Co-operatives and Social Services, had been set up by the Government to teach various manual trades. The Ministry of Economic Planning and Development was studying the possibility of promoting village polytechnics.

65. The Government was also concerned about involving young people in the national development effort by giving them all possible encouragement to talk about their difficulties, make their recommendations and offer solutions. The President of Kenya had instituted an annual youth festival day. Another vital instrument of national development was the National Youth Service, which had been created for the purpose of encouraging young people to volunteer for two years to work for the economic, political and social advancement of Kenya. That organization offered educational programmes and practical courses. In the organization, the leaders of the future learned to live together as a disciplined force and to love the land, the mainstay of the country's economic life. They were engaged in major projects of infrastructural development—such as the building of a highway linking Kenya with Ethiopia—and were managing several agricultural firms. Several thousand persons were participating in the programme. Another voluntary organization, the 4-K Clubs, which operated under the guidance of the Ministry of Agriculture, taught rural boys and girls better farm and home practices in order to improve nutrition and health and thus raise standards of living. It also taught its members, who now numbered 26,000, civic, moral and social values. It was therefore clear that the Government was concerned that youth should be usefully employed not only in agriculture but also in the private sector, which was largely commercial. Under a recent tripartite agreement, the Government was to employ 10 per cent more young people in 1970.

66. Since independence, the schools were again emphasizing the national culture, although features of other cultures were also taught. Contacts should be encouraged between the youth of the developing and the developed countries in such apolitical fields as science and technology. Young people should also study in common specific international problems, such as human rights, *apartheid*, disarmament, etc., as well as what the United Nations was doing to solve them.

67. Manifestly, in the developed countries, where youth felt alienated from the system to which they belonged and rebelled against it or sought to escape from it, the problems of youth differed from those of youth in the developing countries, where primary concern was with the participation of youth in national development. Nevertheless, the nature of those problems was definitely tending to change and that was why young people in the developing countries had to learn to avoid the pitfalls of dissatisfaction into which their contemporaries in the developed countries had fallen.

68. His delegation supported the conclusions set forth in the report<sup>1</sup> on the World Youth Assembly, held in New

York in July 1970, and the conclusions of the Belgrade seminar (see A/C.3/L.1764), which were in line with his Government's policies and aspirations. It attached importance to any action by the United Nations, through its specialized agencies like UNESCO or through the Economic and Social Council, to keep in touch with young people and to report to the Committee. The United Nations should encourage youth meetings and seminars in all parts of the world, emphasizing not declarations and resolutions, however well-intentioned, but action, including practical measures aimed at promoting international understanding, peace, progress and justice, through exchanges between youth.

<sup>1</sup> *World Youth Assembly*, document 56/WYA/P/10.

*The meeting rose at 1.5 p.m.*