

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TWELFTH SESSION

Official Records


**725th
PLENARY MEETING**

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at 3 p.m.

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President: Sir Leslie MUNRO (New Zealand).

**Address by His Majesty Mohammed V,
King of Morocco**

1. The PRESIDENT: I have the honour to present to the General Assembly His Majesty Mohammed V, King of Morocco. I now respectfully request His Majesty to address the twelfth session of the Assembly.

2. H.M. KING MOHAMMED V OF MOROCCO (*translated from Arabic*): Mr. President, we are greatly honoured by the opportunity we have been granted to address this high Assembly of the United Nations and most profoundly moved by the kind message of greetings which you have just addressed to us.

3. On our behalf and in the name of the Moroccan people, we should also like to express to the Secretary-General of the United Nations our sincere appreciation of the praiseworthy efforts which he has pursued with outstanding determination during the extremely perilous times through which the world has passed in recent years.

4. All those guests who have been invited to address this august Assembly have had the same feelings as we have today; but for us this is an occasion of special and profound rejoicing because it represents the fulfilment of one of the dearest and most long-cherished desires of the Moroccan people. We stand here today as the spokesman of a nation which recently had the joy of being admitted as a Member of this Organization. On Morocco's behalf we convey a message of friendship to all the peoples represented in this Assembly.

5. The object of our visit to these parts, which we have long looked forward to, is to proclaim once again our people's devotion to your Organization and to the high principles enshrined in the Charter. From the very foundation of this Organization, our people have always pinned their hopes to every reference, every recommendation and every decision of the United Nations relating to them. Today they are glad to participate in your deliberations and ready to make their modest contribution to the great edifice of the happier and better world of the future.

6. We have the advantage of being, at one and the same time, both a young State and an ancient nation attached to its religious beliefs and the spiritual values of Islam, the foundations of a civilization whose aims are peace, justice and equality.

7. The United Nations, which is dedicated to an unceasing struggle for a lasting peace between the different parts of the world and is striving to unite all peoples by establishing close links of solidarity between them, has chosen for itself a noble ideal of understanding and co-operation between big and small nations, of love and brotherhood between peoples.

8. The principles of justice, freedom and equality on which this Organization is founded correspond to those sacred principles to which we are bound by our beliefs. For that reason, the aims defined in the Charter accord with our own preoccupations and conform to those essential objectives which we have never ceased to pursue.

9. Desirous of establishing peaceful relations with other States and of ruling out any other means of settling the problems with which we may be confronted, Morocco has chosen the method of negotiation, a method which guarantees the free consent of all concerned and opens the way to the unity and international solidarity between nations which is now imperative. Without such unity and solidarity all efforts would be vain. It has always been our constant concern to ensure that good will and equality should prevail among all the people of Morocco, without distinction of race, religion or nationality.

10. Our main desire is to assure to all who live in our country a better and more prosperous life. We have declared a total war on ignorance, poverty and famine in order to raise the living standards of our people in all respects, materially, intellectually and morally. The experience of various other nations faced with similar problems is helpful in guiding and inspiring our efforts.

11. In this century of ours, peoples cannot live apart in isolation. The ever-increasing inter-penetration of economic interests has imposed upon all of us the necessity for solidarity and co-operation and ruled out all forms of narrow and self-centred nationalism. Mankind can no longer remain a mere collection of races and religions with divergent points of view. Thus, despite Morocco's pride in its sovereignty and its determination to maintain its independence intact, we are ready, jointly with all other Member States, to agree to such limitations of sovereignty as may be in the general interest.

12. The United Nations will not have fulfilled its mission until it has made war impossible. No constructive work can be done so long as the constant threat of destruction, with all the misery and suffering it entails, continues to lower over mankind. War today means the total annihilation of ways of life which countless generations have followed, the disappearance of principles and moral values gradually acquired through centuries of civilization.

13. Fear and dismay haunted ancient Man in his struggle against the forces of nature; the same fear and dis-

may haunt twentieth-century Man, faced with an armaments race which threatens him with mortal peril.

14. Scientific progress is Man's crowning achievement. The benefits Man could derive from it would, however, be immeasurably greater if the enormous energies and vast resources now devoted to the manufacture of weapons of destruction were used for more peaceful purposes, the improvement of Man's lot and the promotion of the well-being and prosperity of mankind throughout the world.

15. Our desire and hope is that the inestimable benefits of peace and security may be shared by all peoples.

16. There are, however, certain parts of the world where neither peace nor security reigns today. We are deeply grieved by the tragic spectacle in Algeria, our close friend and neighbour, of a conflict which, with every day that passes, assumes more dangerous proportions. We are most anxious that negotiations should be opened between the two parties concerned so that this conflict may be settled in conformity with the prin-

ciples of the United Nations Charter, which solemnly recognizes the principle of the self-determination of peoples. We feel that by a combined effort of good will and understanding a solution to this painful problem can be found and the bloodshed brought to an end.

17. May the United Nations become a meeting place for discussion and consultation between all the peoples of the world; may its activities and efforts in all spheres be crowned with success so that peace, justice and freedom may prevail upon the earth.

18. The PRESIDENT: I wish on behalf of the General Assembly to thank Your Majesty for the speech you have graciously delivered. Your Majesty, whose historic descent is well known to us all, comes to this place as a great national and spiritual leader of an ancient State. We are privileged to have heard a monarch proclaim so eloquently his adherence to the high principles of the Charter.

The meeting rose at 3.30 p.m.