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**President: Mr. Leopoldo BENITES (Ecuador).**

**AGENDA ITEM 22**

**The situation in the Middle East (*concluded*)\*\***

1. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): As representatives know, this plenary meeting has been convened for the purpose of closing the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

2. I gathered, as a result of consultations, that the general feeling was that item 22, which is the only item remaining on the agenda of the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly, should be included in the provisional agenda of the twenty-ninth session. If there are no objections, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides to include this item in the draft agenda of the twenty-ninth session.

*It was so decided.*

**Completion of the work of the General Assembly  
at its twenty-eighth session**

3. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I shall now call on those representatives who have expressed a desire to speak at this stage of our proceedings.

4. I call first on the chairman of the group of African States, the representative of Uganda..

5. Mr. KINENE (Uganda): As this is the first time I have had the occasion personally to address you, Sir, as President of the twenty-eighth session, whose closure we have gathered here to witness, allow me to express on my own

behalf and on behalf of the African group of States our well-deserved appreciation for the dignity and deep sense of responsibility with which you have performed your high office, not only during the regular session, but also during the sixth special session, to which the group for which I speak and all the developing countries attached so much importance. The magnitude of your task could have daunted a lesser man, but because of you and, indeed, because of the Secretary-General, our source in international co-operation has been steered through crises, both economic and political, which threatened to drown the United Nations in recrimination but in fact left the United Nations vessel afloat. For me, Mr. President, the fact that this is your fourteenth year as Permanent Representative of your country and your nineteenth year of close and intimate association with the United Nations has demonstrated a confidence that the Government of Ecuador has placed in you, a confidence that has been well crowned as your name joins the names of the other distinguished world leaders who have held this high office before you.

6. This is not an occasion for labouring the crises and problems that we have witnessed during the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly. Suffice it to state, as we stated before, that we will continue to endeavour in the next and subsequent sessions to aim for common goals under the umbrella of the United Nations.

7. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I thank the chairman of the African group of States for his kind words. I take pleasure in calling upon the chairman of the Asian group of States, Mr. Siddiq of Afghanistan.

8. Mr. SIDDIQ (Afghanistan): It is an honour for the Afghan delegation to speak at this juncture on behalf of the Asian Member States in its capacity as chairman for the current month and to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for the distinguished and able manner in which you, Mr. President, have guided the deliberations of the twenty-eighth regular session, as well as of the sixth special session, of the United Nations General Assembly. As you are relinquishing the high office of the presidency of the twenty-eighth session, it is a pleasure for my delegation to recall a leadership which succeeded in furthering the effectiveness of the deliberations of those sessions. Mr. President, during your long experience as representative of your country to this Organization, you have amply displayed your qualities as an eminent jurist and diplomat, and have brought those qualities to bear on the tasks before the President of the General Assembly, carrying out your heavy responsibilities with skill, tolerance, impartiality and distinction. The kind of leadership you have displayed during your tenure of office will long be remembered as this Organization continues its endeavours for the cause of peace and security. The success of those sessions of the General Assem-

\*1 For the records of the 2207th-2231st plenary meetings, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixth Special Session, Plenary Meetings*.

\*\* Resumed from the 2206th meeting.

bly, during which many important decisions were taken and resolutions adopted, is to a large degree attributable to your wise leadership and guidance.

9. The sixth special session was one of the significant events in the history of this Organization, as for the first time the vital questions relating to raw materials and economic development received careful political attention in an international forum. The session, held on the initiative of the non-aligned countries, established a new world economic order based on interdependence and on the welfare of the world community as a whole, thus paving the way for further international understanding and co-operation towards the building of a new, just and viable economic relationship among States having different levels of economic development.

10. May I also avail myself of this opportunity to extend our deep gratitude to the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs, Mr. Bradford Morse, and all his colleagues in the Secretariat for their hard work and serious contribution to the success of these sessions of the General Assembly.

11. On behalf of the members of the Asian States and of the delegation of Afghanistan, I wish you, sir, a happy and prosperous future.

12. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I thank the chairman of the group of Asian States for his kind words. I take pleasure now in calling on the chairman of the group of Eastern European States, Mr. Grozev of Bulgaria.

13. Mr. GROZEV (Bulgaria) (*translation from Russian*): Mr. President, many former Presidents and perhaps even future Presidents of the General Assembly will be envious of you because you have really been President three times: President of the twenty-eighth session, President of the sixth special session, and President of this very short meeting today, the closing meeting of the twenty-eighth session; and tomorrow you will be opening the twenty-ninth session and handing over your powers to the incoming President.

14. In December last, as Chairman of the group of socialist countries of Eastern Europe, I had the opportunity to congratulate you, Mr. President, and to convey to you our thanks and gratitude. I should like now to confirm that our delegations are extremely grateful to you for the very wise manner in which you have guided the work of the twenty-eighth session, which took decisions making it possible concretely to carry out and recognize the principles of peaceful coexistence, the consolidation and the strengthening of peace and security, and the improvement in the international climate which has been going on for quite a while. Those results were applied to improve the well-being of all peoples of the world, and it has been within that framework that the twenty-eighth session has carried out its work.

15. We are very grateful for the way in which you, Mr. President, guided the work of the sixth special session which took important decisions concerning developments in raw materials. We wish to express the utmost gratitude for the wisdom with which you guided these sessions. You have vast experience as an eminent diplomat of Latin America and as the representative of your country, Ecuador. We are also

appreciative of your *savoir faire* and your talents in negotiations which have made it possible for us to achieve positive results.

16. As we approach the closure of the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly, our delegations would like to assure you of our good wishes for good health and active participation for many years to come in the work of the Organization. We are really very happy to see you present here with the enthusiasm and wisdom that are characteristic of you, and we are glad to see you here in person and not merely to see your photograph in the gallery of Presidents of the General Assembly.

17. At the closure of the twenty-eighth session we cannot fail to express once again our very sincere thanks to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kurt Waldheim, whom we all respect. We appreciate his devotion to the objectives and purposes of the United Nations, and the way in which he and his colleagues in the Secretariat have made every possible effort successfully to carry out the work of the twenty-eighth session, as well as their efforts to maintain peace during the summer, which was not completely quiet and tranquil. We are completing the work of the twenty-eighth session in the certainty that the twenty-ninth session will contribute even further to the successful solution of the political, economic and other problems currently facing the world and will above all make it possible to strengthen peace and security throughout the world.

18. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I thank the chairman of the group of Eastern European States. I now take pleasure in calling upon the chairman of the group of Latin American States, Mr. Roberto Martínez Ordóñez of Honduras.

19. Mr. MARTÍNEZ ORDÓÑEZ (Honduras) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Mr. President, on this occasion I am speaking on behalf of the Latin American group of States to convey to you our heartfelt satisfaction at knowing that you, a candidate sponsored by our group and having our unanimous support from the very outset, have discharged your responsibility so well, as we had all anticipated you would do. That is more than a source of satisfaction; it is a source of true and genuine pride. It is a matter of pride for Ecuador and for Latin America that it should have been Leopoldo Benites who, with a dignity always characteristic of him, filled the post of President of the General Assembly at both the twenty-eighth regular session and the sixth special session of the Assembly, at which new progress was made in economic agreements to achieve a better world.

20. On this occasion, Sir, through me, Latin America wishes to express the hope that the attitude of continuing devotion to the principles of the United Nations and the responsibility of assignment here, which you have demonstrated through a long and brilliant period of activity, will be emulated by those who follow you in order to continue every day to ensure that the actions of the United Nations promote the interests and well-being of all mankind.

21. Latin American solidarity for the principles of the United Nations and its ideals has been constant, and we all know that has been the lodestar that has guided the steps of our distinguished President. Just as the Secretary-General

has relied upon you, Sir, as a guide and a colleague always available to struggle for the same principles, so can he rest assured that in Latin America the spirit you have sown has reaped a rich harvest and that all Latin America will be at the side of the United Nations in any struggle it may have to wage in order to raise humanity to a level we should all like to see it reach—namely, a level of equality for all peoples in a world of justice, peace and progress.

22. Mr. President, when the path has already been long, that is the time to offer congratulations. Latin America conveyed to you its confidence when you took your post, and this is the time to tell you that we whole-heartedly support you and are proud of you, Sir.

23. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I thank the chairman of the group of Latin American States for his kind words. It is now my pleasure to call upon the chairman of the group of Western European and other States, Mr. Denis Carayannis of Greece.

24. Mr. CARAYANNIS (Greece): Mr. President, at this closing meeting of the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly, it is my privilege and honour, acting in my capacity as chairman of the group of Western European and other States, to congratulate you upon the outstanding and efficient manner in which you have conducted the work of this session. Your presidency was marked by many and various international events, and we are sure it will remain a very important presidency in United Nations history. Your wisdom, equity and experience were in fact badly needed by all of us, not only to cope with the international crises that arose during your presidency but also to prepare important international conferences such as the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea and the World Population Conference, 1974.

25. The group of Western European and other States already, in December last, had occasion to express its gratitude to the President and other officers of the twenty-eighth session. As a matter of fact, your duties and tasks, Mr. President, were prolonged throughout the year 1974 by the organization and realization of the General Assembly's sixth special session on raw materials and development, a session unique in the records of this Organization and with results of world-wide importance. Your skill in presiding over the special session was again of great importance to all of us. We are sure that much of the success of the special session was the result of the dedicated and inspired efforts of the President and other officers of this Assembly.

26. Our expression of gratitude is also addressed to our Secretary-General and to his assistants, to the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs, Mr. Bradford Morse, and to all the staff of the Secretariat, who often work as hard, and sometimes even harder, than we do.

27. It is an additional pleasure for my delegation to address the Assembly at the moment we are formally closing the twenty-eighth session and preparing to open tomorrow, with renewed hopes, the twenty-ninth session. At such a moment all of us need a renewal of our goodwill and patience to face the international problems waiting for us.

28. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I thank the chairman of the group of Western European and other States for his kind words and I request the Assembly to allow me to address it now.

29. I have expressed to you on another occasion my deep ethical conviction that any honour received carries with it the obligation of a responsibility accepted. I received from your hands the highest honour to which one could aspire, namely, to guide the deliberations of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the supreme organ of the international community, and now that that lengthy assignment is coming to an end I must report to you on the way in which I have fulfilled the mandate I received and the responsibility I accepted.

30. You will all recall that in December we did not close the session of the General Assembly, but that rather this body suspended its session, leaving in abeyance a single item which has now been transferred to the provisional agenda for the forthcoming session, which is to begin tomorrow. It is for this reason that we are holding a closing meeting today.

31. By virtue of exceptional circumstances, I exercised the office of President for almost an entire year—the only precedent for which occurred during the twenty-second session, under the eminent presidency of Mr. Corneliu Manescu—and, in addition, before the end of the twenty-eighth session, which we are closing today, I was elected to preside over the sixth special session of the General Assembly, whose Declaration on the principles of a new international economic order [*resolution 3201 (S-VI)*] is a milestone in the life of the Organization and whose resolutions will have consequences of exceptional importance for the twenty-ninth regular session, which is to begin tomorrow.

32. I was entrusted with the task of appointing members to four Committees, subsidiary organs of the General Assembly, and therefore I feel it my duty to inform you how I carried out that task. Under resolution 3182 (XXVIII) I was called upon to appoint nine additional members to the enlarged Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space; resolution 3154 C (XXVIII) entrusted to me, in like circumstances, the task of completing the membership of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation; and resolution 3093 A (XXVIII) gave me the task of completing the membership of the Special Committee on the Distribution of the Funds Released as a Result of the Reduction of Military Budgets, for the provision of assistance to developing countries as an addition to the assistance that is already provided to them through the existing channels. In addition, it was one of my duties to replace a member of the Commission of Inquiry on the Reported Massacres in Mozambique who was unable to carry out his functions.

33. I have reported to each Member State on the fulfilment of those tasks through the usual organ of the Secretariat, and I do not think there is any need for me to repeat myself here. However, for me it is not only an obligation which I cannot shirk, but also an agreeable duty, to express my sincere gratitude to the regional groups, with which I have maintained close contact and have been in continuous consultation through their chairmen, for the ready and timely



co-operation they have given me in the exercise of my function as President of the General Assembly, which today comes to an end with the closure of the twenty-eighth regular session.

34. Nevertheless, I feel that I must make particular mention of the membership of one of those Committees, that established by resolution 3093 A (XXVIII), paragraph 4 of which reads:

*“Establishes a Special Committee on the Distribution of the Funds Released as a Result of the Reduction of Military Budgets, for the provision of assistance to developing countries as an addition to the assistance that is already provided to them through the existing channels, consisting of China, France, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, and also of three countries from each of the regional groups of Africa, Asia and Latin America and two countries from each of the regional groups of Eastern Europe and of Western Europe and other States, which will be appointed by the President of the General Assembly after consultations with those regional groups, and instructs the Special Committee to distribute the said funds on an equitable basis, having regard to the most urgent needs and requirements of the recipient countries and without discrimination of any kind, and to determine the amount of the funds to be allotted to the various countries and the schedule for provision of the funds”.*

35. Thus the General Assembly established the Special Committee, and appointed to it five Member States without indicating that it was doing so because the Charter conferred upon them specific duties and powers or because they possessed a certain type of armed power. The Committee having been established in this incomplete form, the Assembly empowered its President to appoint the remaining members in accordance with a pattern of regional distribution which the Assembly itself had determined in its resolution 3093 A (XXVIII) establishing the Committee.

36. In my view, the General Assembly in that resolution established two types of rights: it imposed upon its President the obligation of appointing the remaining members in accordance with a pattern of regional distribution which it had itself determined, and it gave the regional groups the power of appointing a fixed number of States as members of the Committee. Obviously, the President could not change the pattern of regional distribution decided upon by the General Assembly, and he was obliged to appoint as members those States selected by the regional groups as candidates in accordance with the pattern indicated in resolution 3093 A (XXVIII). I am convinced that the President cannot make mandatory appointments, because the willingness of the State in question to be appointed is essential. Therefore, in those circumstances I considered it my obligation to appoint to the Committee the candidates indicated by the regional groups, leaving open the possibility of appointing later the members of the regional group which, after many consultations, was unable to present its candidates. This approach, which I had made known orally and in writing to the chairmen of the regional groups, did not give rise to any objections, and on that basis I therefore proceeded to appoint the members of the Committee and,

through a letter to the Secretary-General, to turn over to him the task of convening its meetings. Naturally, the appointment of five members by the General Assembly was not a matter which concerned the President of the Assembly, whose mandatory task was solely to establish the Committee in accordance with a predetermined pattern of geographical distribution, apart from the five members appointed directly by the Assembly.

37. As an exceptional circumstance, before the termination of the regular session, whose only outstanding item was agenda item 22, which has just been referred to the forthcoming session of the General Assembly, a special session had to be convened in order to discuss the item “Study of the problems of raw materials and development”. The sixth special session honoured me by unanimously electing me to preside over its deliberations, and, although there is no legal nexus between the special session and the twenty-eighth regular session which we are closing today, I feel it is necessary to refer briefly to that special session not only because of its intrinsic importance but also because it left urgent problems that will doubtless constitute one of the main items of the next session of the General Assembly, which begins tomorrow.

38. The sixth special session adopted two resolutions: one, a Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order [*resolution 3201 (S-VI)*] and the other, a Programme of Action relating to that matter [*resolution 3202 (S-VI)*]. The former resolution is a milestone in the history of the United Nations. While it is true that many of the principles set forth in the Declaration form part of the Charter or have appeared in earlier resolutions of the General Assembly, there are others which are entirely new, in particular the fact that the content of the resolution is the need for a new international economic order constitutes in itself the point of departure for co-ordinated action to regulate the new relations existing in the world of today with reference to problems of development, which are the basic problems of mankind.

39. Although I am not called upon at this time to make a study of that Declaration, I regard it as my duty to state that that document marks the beginning of a new approach to the problems in question and the opening of new paths leading to the just distribution of wealth and the effective development of the countries which are today living in conditions of economic under-development. But I do consider it my duty to refer to the Programme of Action laid down in resolution 3202 (S-VI) because it conferred upon me certain important residual powers. Paragraph 6 of the resolution contained in chapter X of that resolution empowered the President of the General Assembly to appoint the 36 members of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Special Programme. This I did after painstaking consultations with the regional groups, first in order to establish what number would represent equitable geographical distribution and then to obtain from the regional groups their nominations for candidates.

40. Permit me very briefly to analyse chapter X, entitled “Special Programme”. In paragraph 1 of the resolution the Assembly at its special session decided to launch a Special Programme to provide emergency relief and development assistance to the developing countries most seriously

affected, those defined in subparagraph (c) of the first preambular paragraph of the resolution. As a first step in the Special Programme, it was decided in the resolution "to request the Secretary-General to launch an emergency operation to provide timely relief to the most seriously affected developing countries" and, to that end, he was requested:

"...to invite the industrialized countries and other potential contributors to announce their contributions for emergency assistance, or intimate their intention to do so, by 15 June 1974 to be provided through bilateral or multilateral channels, taking into account the commitments and measures of assistance announced or already taken by some countries".

41. Clearly, then, the emergency operation was to be a first step in the Special Programme and, precisely because of its emergency character, it had to be initiated immediately. In fulfilment of his duties, and with the deep sense of responsibility characteristic of him, the Secretary-General appointed the noted Argentine economist Mr. Raúl Prebisch for that purpose and 44 States were invited to contribute in accordance with the decision to which I have referred.

42. In paragraph 5 of the resolution the Assembly at its special session decided to establish a Special Fund

"...under the auspices of the United Nations, through voluntary contributions from industrialized countries and other potential contributors, as a part of the Special Programme, to provide emergency relief and development assistance, which will commence its operations at the latest by 1 January 1975".

43. It seems clear that there is a difference between the immediate emergency operation entrusted directly to the Secretary-General and the establishment of a Special Fund "under the auspices of the United Nations", which is to commence its operations at the latest by 1 January 1975. For this second purpose the Assembly at its special session decided to establish an *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Special Programme, to which it assigned three specific functions. The first is to make recommendations, *inter alia*, on the scope, machinery and modes of operation of the Special Fund. In accordance with paragraph 11, these recommendations should be made by the Committee to the Economic and Social Council. The second obligation of the *Ad Hoc* Committee is to monitor the various measures being taken pending commencement of the operations of the Special Fund, which, in accordance with the provision I have just cited, should be established by 1 January 1975 at the latest. I understand that the word "*observar*" in Spanish does not have a passive meaning but has the active meaning of "monitor", the equivalent word in English. Finally, the third obligation of the *Ad Hoc* Committee is to prepare, on the basis of information provided by the countries concerned and by appropriate agencies of the United Nations system, a broad assessment of the difficulties and needs facing the most seriously affected countries. The report of the *Ad Hoc* Committee, like the recommendations to which I have referred, was to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council, the specific organ which is to present its recommendations to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session, in accordance, again, with paragraph 11.

44. After the painstaking consultations to which I have referred I was able to appoint the *Ad Hoc* Committee, and I

am sure that its recommendations and those which the Economic and Social Council is to make will constitute one of the most serious and important items of the forthcoming session, opening tomorrow. I hope that the twenty-ninth session will succeed in bringing into existence the Special Fund, which should begin to operate as soon as the General Assembly examines the recommendations submitted by the Economic and Social Council on the basis of the work of the *Ad Hoc* Committee in accordance with paragraph 11 of resolution 3202 (S-VI) and at the latest by 1 January 1975, in accordance with paragraph 5 of that same resolution.

45. I felt it was my duty to put before you this summary of the way in which I have carried out the tasks entrusted to me by the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session, which is coming to a close today, and have used the residual powers conferred on me by the sixth special session of the Assembly.

46. Normally my statement should conclude with this report but I find it necessary to inform you that, in the time during which the twenty-eighth session was in recess, not only did economic developments occur which led to the convening of the sixth special session on the initiative of President Houari Boumediène of Algeria and on the basis of the proposals made by His Imperial Majesty the Shahanshah of Iran, but also events of extraordinary importance occurred in other fields which will have to be considered by the forthcoming session of the General Assembly. Although the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, held in Caracas, was unable to complete its work and the General Assembly will have to consider authorizing a new session of that Conference and providing it with sufficient funds to enable it to meet at the appropriate time, it is to be hoped that just solutions for the developing countries will be found in the future. The World Population Conference, 1974, dealing with a matter of major concern to mankind, apparently succeeded only in making recommendations to be applied by States within the limits of their sovereignty; but, in my opinion, it has drawn attention to the central problem, namely, that the population explosion is only one aspect but does not constitute the whole of the problem, which is essentially a problem of achieving greater justice in the distribution of wealth so that the developing countries, where the population explosion is most in evidence, may develop their productive capacities to the maximum within what has been called a new international economic order. It is to be hoped that the World Food Conference will have positive results. The problems considered by the three Conferences have as their common denominator the fact that they are concerned with problems closely related to development, to greater justice in the international distribution of wealth and to a technological and economic transfer which will enable the developing countries to reach their maximum level of production.

47. I do not wish to refer to the political problems which have fallen within the competence of the Security Council. The forthcoming session of the Assembly—which will start tomorrow—will deal with some of them, and this, like the economic solutions it will be called upon to work out, will give the twenty-ninth session, which is expected to be under the youthful and expert direction of an illustrious son of Africa, a special importance. I wish only to stress the need to strengthen the work of the United Nations and make sure

that indecision or political compromises do not detract from the essential duties of the bodies comprising the United Nations and endanger the prestige and even the life of the Organization. The world in which we live is a world in transition and only if we have a clear awareness of the changes which are occurring can we find just solutions to the problems with which we must deal. Against the background of a past dominated by violence, guided by ambition, determined by the interests of the powerful, stained by the blood shed in unjust wars caused by the lust for power, the Charter presented to suffering humanity the hope of a better world in which war would cease to be the means of creating, extinguishing or altering rights, in which all forms of aggression, including retaliation, whether peaceful or military, would be proscribed, in which the individual would be free from discrimination of any kind, in which the peoples subjected to foreign rule would secure the full measure of self-government, in which nothing could justify intervention by any State in the right of peoples to establish their own forms of government, and in which the United Nations would be the centre for economic and social co-ordination in the interests of mankind. Obviously, many of the goals to which we have aspired have yet to be attained and many situations which it was hoped could be eliminated still exist, but we must have confidence that the Organization established by the Charter is a dynamic instrument which will make it possible to formulate new rules of law and establish a new international economic order.

48. In closing the twenty-eighth session I should like to say that I take a realistic view of the mistakes of yesterday and the anxieties of the present, but I believe that effort, co-ordinated endeavours and vigorous action will create a better future. The United Nations, like all human creations, is subject to the invariable law of change and alteration. Therefore, in closing this session I should like to recall the Olympic athletes who, with the last strength remaining to them after their long race, passed to other hands the torch which was the symbol of life and hope.

49. Although when we suspended our meetings last December I expressed my thanks to each and every delegation for its kind and helpful assistance, may I reiterate that gratitude today, in particular to the chairmen of the regional groups who have given me co-operation without which my tasks would have been made much more difficult. The very generous words that they have just addressed to me, for which I am truly grateful, have touched me deeply.

50. It remains for me only to express once again my sincere thanks to the Secretary-General for his constant, generous and wise co-operation; to Under-Secretary-General

Mr. Bradford Morse, who has been unfailingly cordial and kind, timely in his advice and loyal in his friendship, for whom I shall retain a feeling of lasting gratitude; and to all the staff attached to the office of the President who have so untiringly and successfully assisted me and, in general, to all the staff of the Secretariat—interpreters, translators, editors, other employees and workmen—who have made possible the work of the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly which ends today.

51. Before closing the session, I shall call upon the representative of the United States, the host country.

52. Mr. SCHAUFLE (United States of America): Mr. President, over the past year you have had the unusually heavy responsibility of presiding over this Assembly, not only during its regular session but throughout the historic sixth special session this spring. Today, as we formally close the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly, my delegation, representing the host country, would like to express its great appreciation for the wisdom, skill and perseverance with which you have carried out these onerous duties. Your long and extensive experience in these halls have been amply demonstrated during our deliberations. Thanks largely to your efforts, the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly, which opens tomorrow, will be able to build on a record of solid achievement.

53. The Assembly's wide-ranging debates during the last year on the major issues of our time have not resolved all of our differences. I believe, however, that under your leadership, this Assembly has helped bring all of us and the nations we represent closer together.

## AGENDA ITEM 2

### Minute of silent prayer or meditation

54. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I invite representatives to stand and observe one minute of silent prayer or meditation.

*The representatives stood in silence.*

### Closure of the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly

55. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I declare closed the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

*The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.*