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Chairman: Mr. Jiří NOSEK (Czechoslovakia).

Suspension of meeting

1. Mrs. AFNAN (Iraq), speaking on a point of order, said that a number of representatives would like to attend the plenary meeting of the General Assembly which was in progress.

2. After an exchange of views in which Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic), Mr. PAZHWAK (Afghanistan) and Mr. FOMIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) took part, the CHAIRMAN proposed that the meeting should be suspended.

It was so decided.

The meeting was suspended at 4.55 p.m. and resumed at 5.40 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 59

Status of women in private law: customs, ancient laws and practices affecting the human dignity of women (A/2718, A/2686, chapter V, section XI, paragraphs 811 to 818, A/C.3/L.457 and Corr.1) (concluded)

3. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that in operative paragraph 2 of the ten-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.457 and Corr.1) the words "in paragraph 1" should be replaced by the words "in the second paragraph of the preamble".

4. U MAUNG MAUNG GYEE (Burma) emphasized that his delegation was in favour of any measure which would ensure the recognition of the human dignity of women; it therefore supported the ten-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.457 and Corr.1). Nevertheless, he wished to comment on the section of operative paragraph 1 urging the establishment of a civil register. Under Buddhist law, which was in force in Burma, marriage was simply a civil contract concluded with the agreement of the spouses; there was no religious or other formality. In the courts marriage was proved by the testimony of witnesses that the persons concerned had lived as husband and wife. No one could be forced to marry against his or her will; the parents' consent was not necessary if the spouses

had attained their majority. There was no formality for divorce; property held jointly was divided on the basis of a friendly agreement and the fate of the children was settled in the same way. In case of disagreement, the usual practice was to ask a village elder to act as arbiter, but recourse to the courts was always possible. A Burmese woman could obtain a divorce against her husband's wishes if he had been guilty of cruelty or serious misconduct; in that case it was obviously necessary for her to prove her charges. A divorced woman who remarried retained full rights to the property she retained from her first marriage. Divorce, however, was not common. Those comments were enough to show that a civil register was not essential in Burma. Subject to that reservation, his delegation supported the draft resolution.

5. Mr. NUÑEZ (Costa Rica) supported the draft resolution (A/C.3/L.457 and Corr.1) and the Afghan amendments (A/C.3/L.459). The Egyptian representative had said (621st meeting) that the complete equality of the sexes was in conformity with the principles of Islam. He wished to emphasize that Christianity had always defended the dignity of woman, the mother of the family. Christians, and in particular Roman Catholics who had a profound veneration for the Mother of God, gave an equal part to women and to men in social life. He was glad that Islam and Christianity were in agreement on that point.

6. Miss FLOURET (Argentina) expressed her satisfaction at seeing a woman represent Egypt for the first time in a United Nations body. She wished to pay a tribute to all the women members of the Third Committee.

7. With regard to the proposed amendments (A/C.3/L.459), her delegation, which was one of the sponsors of the draft resolution (A/C.3/L.457 and Corr.1), could not agree to the deletion of the word "ancient". It was important to make a distinction and to be clear. Modern laws were generally based on just and realistic principles; the resolution should refer only to practices which might have seemed justified in the past but which had become intolerable. Her delegation accepted points 2 (a) and 2 (b) of the amendments, affecting operative paragraph 1. With regard to point 2 (c), the French and English texts of the draft resolution apparently did not correspond to the Spanish original, which contained no reference to a special magistrate; it might be well to concord the three versions.

8. Mrs. AFNAN (Iraq) noted with pleasure that yet another country had appointed a woman representative to the Third Committee; she hoped that other States would follow that example.

9. Previous speakers had explained the exact status of women in the Moslem countries and she would not dwell on that point. She wished to emphasize that the disappearance of discriminatory practices with regard

to women was a fairly recent development. From the point of view of human dignity it was an essential step forward. To alter the laws would not be enough unless ways of thought were to change in many areas of the world; the Commission on the Status of Women certainly exercised a healthy influence in that respect. The draft resolution (A/C.3/L.457 and Corr.1) before the Committee mentioned only some of the practices which should be banned. Other practices, such as the economic discrimination against women imposed by the Napoleonic Code in those countries where it was in force, seemed to be quite as harmful as the ancient customs. The effect of economic conditions should not be under-estimated; the example of the Arab countries showed that economic progress was accompanied by an improvement in the status of women.

10. Iraq was one of the sponsors of the draft resolution and it accepted the Afghan amendments (A/C.3/L.459).

11. Mr. BOZOVIC (Yugoslavia) said that, as one of the sponsors of the draft resolution (A/C.3/L.457 and Corr.1), his delegation accepted the proposal in the Afghan amendments (A/C.3/L.459) to delete the word "ancient" from the second and third paragraphs of the preamble. That adjective was open to two different interpretations: it might imply that the laws in question had been adopted in the past or that they were recent laws based on obsolete concepts. His delegation accepted the second interpretation, but it would be better to delete the adjective in order to avoid any confusion. It should also be deleted from operative paragraph 1; the laws to be abolished were those which militated against the complete equality of the sexes. His delegation accepted points 2 (a) and 2 (b) of the amendments, relating to operative paragraph 1. As for point 2 (c), the sponsors of the draft resolution had not wished to speak of a special magistrate and it might therefore be sufficient to bring the French text into line with the Spanish original.

12. Mr. MENESES PALLARES (Ecuador) stressed that where the rights of the human person were involved, progress required that the injustices of the past should be set right and women given absolute equality. They were capable of discharging the highest functions, as was demonstrated by the women representatives on United Nations bodies.

13. His delegation supported the ten-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.457 and Corr.1), the operative part of which laid down a number of principles already embodied in his country's legislation.

14. The amendments (A/C.3/L.459) to operative paragraph 1 would improve the text. On the other hand, the word "ancient" should not be deleted, as it brought out the legacy of tradition on which the non-recognition of women's rights was usually based.

15. Mr. PINTO (Chile) supported the ten-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.457 and Corr.1). The word "ancient" should be retained in the preamble and in operative paragraph 1 as the proposal was intended to bring about the abolition of those traditional practices, sanctioned by law, which affected the human dignity of women. His delegation would vote for point 2 (a) of the amendments (A/C.3/L.459), relating to operative paragraph 1. With regard to point 2 (b), referring also to that paragraph, he would prefer the words "or other" to be inserted after the word "civil" in the text as it stood. As to point 2 (c), the difficulty

apparently arose because the English and French texts on the one hand and the Spanish text on the other did not correspond; it should be possible to bring them into line.

16. Mrs. PERERA (Cuba), whose delegation was one of the sponsors of the draft resolution (A/C.3/L.457 and Corr.1), could not accept the deletion proposed in point 1 of the Afghan amendments (A/C.3/L.459), which involved a change of substance, but she would accept the amendments proposed in points 2 (a) and (b).

17. In Cuba, women enjoyed complete equality in every aspect of national life. The draft resolution would promote the universal application of the principles of the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. She had been happy to learn how much progress had been made by women in Egypt, a country which had followed the example of so many others in appointing a woman to represent it on the Third Committee. That fact showed that the work of the Commission on the Status of Women had had a good effect and that the United Nations had done much to promote political, social, economic and cultural progress in many countries.

18. Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic), whose delegation was one of the sponsors of the draft resolution (A/C.3/L.457 and Corr.1), could not agree to the deletion of the word "ancient". She accepted the first two Afghan amendments to operative paragraph 1, but not the third.

19. Mrs. TSALDARIS (Greece), whose delegation was one of the sponsors of the draft resolution (A/C.3/L.457 and Corr.1), agreed to the deletion of the word "ancient" in the preamble and the operative part because it would broaden the scope of the draft resolution. She also agreed to the first two amendments to operative paragraph 1. With regard to the third amendment, she was afraid that the word "magistrate" would be rather vague by itself; in any event, the sponsors of the draft resolution had not wished to imply that the magistrate should be specially appointed.

20. Mr. PAZHWAK (Afghanistan) pointed out that the Chilean representative had just repeated a suggestion he had himself made earlier. Since nobody objected to that idea, he would change point 2 (b) of his amendments (A/C.3/L.459), and propose simply that the words "or other service" should be included in the text of the draft resolution, after the words "civil register". Regarding point 2 (c), the text of the draft resolution as it stood might give the impression that a special magistrate would be appointed to consider each specific case. It might therefore perhaps be better to say "a judicial body".

21. After an exchange of views in which Mr. GARCIA (Philippines), Mr. PAZHWAK (Afghanistan), Mr. BIHIN (Belgium) and Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) took part, Mr. EL-FARRA (Syria) suggested that the words "a competent judicial body" should be used. Those words, which were commonly used in law, could mean either a single judge or a court composed of several persons, depending on the conditions peculiar to each country.

22. Mr. PAZHWAK (Afghanistan) accepted the Syrian proposal and would change point 2 (c) of the amendments (A/C.3/L.459) accordingly: the words "a duly appointed magistrate" should be replaced by the words "a competent judicial body".

23. The CHAIRMAN stated that the general discussion on the draft resolution and the amendments was closed. Several representatives had asked for an opportunity to explain their vote before the voting.

24. Mr. GREEN (United States of America) said that his delegation opposed all discriminatory practices which were contrary to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular article 16 of the latter. Nevertheless, the draft resolution (A/C.3/L.457 and Corr.1) seemed to go beyond what the General Assembly could properly recommend to Member States on matters so closely related to their domestic legislation. In such matters, recommendation of principle alone should be made. The questions at issue fell, in the United States of America, within the jurisdiction of the component states, and the Federal Government could take no decision committing them in any way. His delegation had a number of objections regarding the substance of the draft resolution, but in view of its fundamental disagreement with the very approach of the draft resolution, it would not explain them in detail.

25. His delegation would abstain in the vote on the text.

26. Mr. MEADE (United Kingdom) recalled that his delegation had abstained in the vote taken in the Economic and Social Council on a similar draft resolution (A/C.3/L.457 and Corr.1) before the Committee, for the following reasons: the draft resolution did not take account of the work being done by the Economic and Social Council, under the heading of slavery, with regard to the practices mentioned; moreover, in the draft resolution Governments were urged to take measures which would be impossible in the near future in certain backward countries. As the representative of India had previously stressed in the Economic and Social Council, the abolition of those practices was in some cases bound to be a rather slow process.

27. The United Kingdom delegation shared that view, and therefore, while whole-heartedly endorsing the principles on which the draft resolution was based, it would have to abstain in the vote on it.

28. Mr. RAJAN (India) said that his country had always attached great importance to the role of women in society. The Indian Constitution guaranteed equal rights to both sexes and India was proud of the active part its women were taking in all spheres of the national life. Nevertheless, the draft resolution (A/C.3/L.457 and Corr.1) called for some practical measures for the rapid elimination of certain customs having deep roots in tradition and religion, which would disappear only with time under the influence of education.

29. Accordingly, while supporting the principles underlying the draft resolution, the Indian delegation would have to abstain in the vote, as it had done in the Economic and Social Council on a similar draft resolution.

30. Mr. LUCIO (Mexico) paid a tribute to the remarkable work done by the Commission on the Status of Women. Mexico approved of all measures taken to repair the injustices women had suffered for centuries. The general progress of humanity was possible only if men and women enjoyed equal rights.

31. The Mexican delegation would vote in favour of the draft resolution (A/C.3/L.457 and Corr.1) and the Afghan amendments (A/C.3/L.459) to it.

32. Mr. HOOD (Australia) said that he would abstain in the vote on the draft resolution (A/C.3/L.457 and Corr.1). While appreciating the intentions of its authors, he did not think that adoption of the text would lead to practical results. As far as the Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories were concerned, the Administering Authorities of those territories were striving daily for the elimination of the practices in question, but such elimination could not be achieved by direction; it had to be the result of progressive development. Recommendations by the General Assembly would not speed up that development or help the Administering Authorities in their work. Consequently, the Australian delegation doubted whether it would be realistic or entirely honest to adopt a draft resolution on that subject which could bring no immediate results.

33. Mr. ALTMAN (Poland) warmly supported the draft resolution (A/C.3/L.457 and Corr.1). He would vote in favour of it and of the Afghan amendments (A/C.3/L.459) as modified.

34. Mrs. HARMAN (Israel) said that she had not taken part in the general debate as her delegation's views were already well known. Her country had always been in favour of the equality of men and women and her delegation would vote for the draft resolution. It was gratifying to note the advances made in that field in many countries within a relatively short time. In Israel important legislative measures had been taken for the benefit of women. One such measure had been the 1951 Women's Equal Rights Act, one of the main provisions of which was the guarantee of equality before the law. In Israel women shared in all the activities of the country and had access to the highest posts; they held 10 per cent of the seats in Parliament and all forms of employment were open to them on the same footing as men, except those entailing risk for mothers. Working women were entitled to maternity leave for twelve weeks, during which they received 75 per cent of their usual salary; they were given free hospitalization and a layette. Pregnant women or women on maternity leave could not be dismissed without the express permission of the Minister of Labour, a post currently held by a woman. Matters pertaining to marriage and to divorce remained within the competence of the religious courts, but an amendment to the Penal Code laid down serious penalties for a husband who dissolved his marriage against the wife's wishes and without a decision by a competent court.

35. The complete equality of men and women was concomitant with deep social changes which were occurring at an ever-increasing rate; it also depended on the adoption by all countries of measures to enable women to play their proper part in the home and in society.

36. Mr. KING (Liberia) said that his country, one of the oldest democracies in Africa, could not but support the principles by which the sponsors of the joint draft resolution (A/C.3/L.457 and Corr.1) had been actuated. The organic laws of Liberia applied to both sexes without distinction, since the Constitution had been based on that of the United States of America; however, unlike other countries upon which the social

structure of the West had been imposed for very many years, Liberia had long been independent—since 1847—and 75 per cent of the inhabitants had customs and traditions which dated from long before. Such customs could not be eradicated overnight, as the representative of India had said, and consequently the Liberian delegation could not endorse a draft resolution asking for immediate action in that respect. Liberian women had access to the same functions as men when they had reached a sufficient stage of development, and in 1953 Liberia had been represented on the Third Committee by a woman. It would however be difficult, if not impossible, immediately to impose on the inhabitants a radical change of all its customs and traditions without impairing the country's whole social structure. Furthermore, there was a large Moslem population and that added to the difficulties; economic conditions, which had a considerable influence on marriage, should also be taken into account.

37. He supported many of the statements in the preamble and wholly endorsed paragraph 2 of the operative part, but could not accept paragraph 1. If that paragraph was deleted, he would vote for the draft resolution; if it was not, he would have to abstain, despite his country's whole-hearted regard for the protection of human rights.

38. Mr. EL-FARRA (Syria) observed that Syrian women had enjoyed a large number of rights and freedoms, in particular the right to vote, which was conferred on them by the Constitution. They had full exercise of all political rights and Syria favoured any step to promote women's rights in all countries. The draft resolution (A/C.3/L.457 and Corr.1) was a step in the right direction; the Syrian delegation would vote for it and for the Afghan amendments (A/C.3/L.459).

39. Mr. PAZHWAK (Afghanistan) said that he had already stated his position on the draft resolution and would vote for it. Afghanistan was 99.9 per cent Moslem. He would point out to those who believed that the presence of a Moslem population in their country was a reason for not supporting the draft resolution that nothing in it was contrary to Islam.

40. Mr. KING (Liberia) pointed out that the Moslem population of Liberia practised polygamy, and that was inconsistent with the principles on which the draft resolution was based.

41. Mr. PAZHWAK (Afghanistan) reminded the Liberian representative of the Egyptian representative's statement on that very point. The Dominican representative had expressed the hope that that statement would appear in full in the records and he too hoped that it would.

42. Mrs. AFNAN (Iraq) assured the Liberian representative that any step to combat polygamy would be heartily welcomed by all Moslem countries.

43. Mr. RIVAS (Venezuela) supported the oral amendment proposed by the Syrian representative. The expression "a competent judicial body" laid the proper stress on the separation of powers and the independence of the judiciary.

44. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should proceed to the vote on the draft resolution submitted by Argentina, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Greece, Guatemala, Iraq, Peru, Venezuela and Yugoslavia (A/C.3/L.457 and Corr.1) and on the amendments submitted by Afghanistan (A/C.3/L.459).

45. He put to the vote first point 1 of the Afghan amendments.

Point 1 of the amendments was not adopted, 20 votes being cast in favour and 20 against, with 6 abstentions.

46. The CHAIRMAN reminded the Committee that points 2 (a) and 2 (b) of the amendments as revised had been accepted by the sponsors of the draft resolution.

47. He put to the vote point 2 (c) of the amendments as revised by the Afghan representative at the Syrian representative's suggestion, the words "a duly appointed magistrate" being replaced by the words "a competent judicial body" in paragraph 1 of the operative part of the draft resolution.

Point 2 (c) of the amendments was adopted by 36 votes to none, with 9 abstentions.

48. Mr. PAZHWAK (Afghanistan) asked for a separate vote on the word "ancient" in operative paragraph 1.

49. Mr. AMANRICH (France) pointed out that since the word "ancient" had been retained in the preamble, its deletion in the operative part would make the text unintelligible.

50. Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic) fully endorsed the French representative's observation. She would vote for the retention of that word.

51. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the word "ancient" in paragraph 1 of the operative part of the draft resolution (A/C.3/L.457 and Corr.1).

At the request of the representative of Afghanistan, a vote was taken by roll-call.

The Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, having been drawn by lot by the Chairman, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Union of South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Greece, Guatemala, Indonesia, Israel, Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, Philippines, Sweden.

Against: Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Iraq, Mexico, Pakistan, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Syria.

Abstaining: Ethiopia, India, Iran, Liberia.

It was decided, by 30 votes to 13, with 4 abstentions, to retain the word "ancient".

52. Mr. KING (Liberia) asked for a separate vote on paragraph 1 of the operative part.

53. The CHAIRMAN put paragraph 1 of the operative part to the vote.

Paragraph 1 was adopted by 40 votes to 1, with 7 abstentions.

54. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the draft resolution (A/C.3/L.457 and Corr.1) as a whole, as amended in accordance with the amendments accepted by the sponsors or adopted by the Committee.

At the request of the representative of Cuba, a vote was taken by roll-call.

Nicaragua, having been drawn by lot by the Chairman, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Peru, Philippines, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Syria, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Argentina, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Guatemala, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand.

Abstaining: Pakistan, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Australia, Canada, India, Liberia.

The draft resolution as a whole, as amended, was adopted by 39 votes to none, with 8 abstentions.

55. Mrs. MONTGOMERY (Canada) said that she endorsed the principles on which the draft resolution was based, but had unfortunately been obliged to abstain from voting on it, because several of the questions mentioned in operative paragraph 1 fell within the competence of the various Provinces.

56. Mr. AMANRICH (France) said that the French delegation had already stated its position on the matter in the Economic and Social Council and had expressed its satisfaction with the work of the Commission on the Status of Women. It had voted for the draft resolution, which was a balanced, general and universally applicable text.

57. Mr. ABDEL GHANI (Egypt) thanked the members of the Committee, and especially the representative of the Dominican Republic, for the kind words addressed to Mrs. Hussein and the Egyptian delegation. That expression of sympathy would be an encouragement to all Egyptian feminist movements.

58. Mr. JOHNSON (Bolivia) said that his country always welcomed with great satisfaction any effort to promote equal rights for men and women. In Bolivia, the Government had secured such equality by means of legislative measures.

59. His delegation had voted for the joint draft resolution, the adoption of which was a new step in the right direction.

Completion of the Committee's work

60. The CHAIRMAN announced that the Third Committee had completed its agenda. He thanked representatives for the spirit of co-operation and patience they had shown at the eighty meetings that the Committee had held during the ninth session of the General Assembly. His special thanks were due to the Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteur, the Assistant Secretary-General, the Secretary of the Committee and all the members of the Secretariat for the assistance they had given him.

61. Mr. GEORGES-PICOT (Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Economic Affairs and of Social Affairs) took his leave of the Committee. At the request of the Secretary-General, he had agreed to stay with the Secretariat until the end of the current year, but after that he would assume the duties of French Ambassador to Mexico. Mr. de Seynes, whom many delegations already knew, would replace him as the head of the Department. He would remain in contact with the United Nations and, in the

hope of meeting many of the members of the Committee again in the future, would merely say *au revoir* to them.

62. The CHAIRMAN, on behalf of the whole Committee, expressed to Mr. Georges-Picot sincere good wishes for his happiness and success.

63. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) wished to be the first to congratulate and thank the Chairman, who had shown admirable tolerance, patience, impartiality and tact in the conduct of the debates. Mr. Nosek was one of the best Chairmen that the Third Committee had ever had. The Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteur also deserved high praise. He paid a special tribute to Mr. Georges-Picot and also thanked the Secretary of the Committee and all the members of the Secretariat.

64. Mr. SAKSIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) thanked the other fifty-nine members of the Committee for their co-operation, which had made it possible for them to perform their duties within the fixed time limit. That success was largely due to the Chairman, whose exceptional qualities had rightly been stressed by the Saudi Arabian representative. In thanking Mr. Nosek, he wished also to thank the Czechoslovak delegation for doing without the services of one of its most valuable members throughout the session, for the benefit of the Third Committee. The Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteur had greatly contributed to the smooth conduct of the work. Finally, he expressed his gratitude to Mr. Georges-Picot and all members of the Secretariat; although he had twice protested against certain mistakes, his purpose in doing so had been further to improve the services and in no way to disparage them. He considered that the successful way in which Mr. Nosek had carried out his functions qualified him to hold an even higher post in the future.

65. Mr. HERAVI (Iran), speaking also on behalf of the Afghan, Indonesian and Iraqi delegations, associated himself with the thanks addressed to the Officers of the Committee, Mr. Georges-Picot and members of the Secretariat.

66. Mr. ALTMAN (Poland) paid a tribute to the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteur and thanked Mr. Georges-Picot and all the members of the Secretariat.

67. Mr. RODRIGUEZ FABREGAT (Uruguay), speaking on behalf of the Latin American countries, congratulated the Chairman on the equanimity and ability he had shown in guiding the debates; the Vice-Chairman had followed his example. Mrs. Tsaldaris had carried out the functions of Rapporteur with a devotion and ability which did credit to all women. Mr. Georges-Picot and the whole Secretariat had greatly helped the Committee to carry out its task, which was of such great humanitarian importance.

68. Mr. NUÑEZ (Costa Rica) was glad that he had been able to work with the Chairman and the Rapporteur, whose high qualities he had greatly appreciated. He thanked the Secretary of the Committee and his assistants for the useful advice they had given him. He paid a special tribute to Mr. Georges-Picot and expressed his gratitude to all the members of the Committee, over whose work he had presided on many occasions.

69. Mrs. TSALDARIS (Greece) congratulated and thanked the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman and expressed her regret at Mr. Georges-Picot's departure. The members of the Committee and all the representa-

tives of the Secretariat had facilitated her work as Rapporteur. Finally she thanked the representatives who had so kindly mentioned her work.

70. Mr. SLIPCHENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic), speaking on behalf of his own delegation and that of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, congratulated and thanked the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, the Rapporteur, Mr. Georges-Picot and the members of the Secretariat.

71. Mr. BIHIN (Belgium), Mrs. HARMAN (Israel), Mr. EL-FARRA (Syria), Mr. KOS (Yugoslavia), Mr. RAJAN (India), U MAUNG MAUNG

GYEE (Burma), Mr. KING (Liberia) and Ato Addimou TESEMMA (Ethiopia) associated themselves with the praise and thanks expressed to the Officers of the Committee, Mr. Georges-Picot and the members of the Secretariat.

72. Miss FLOURET (Argentina) expressed her delegation's congratulations to Mr. Georges-Picot and her regret at his departure.

73. The CHAIRMAN thanked delegations for the kind words that had been said about him. He wished all mankind a happy and peaceful New Year.

The meeting rose at 8.25 p.m.