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President: Mr. Salim Ahmed SALIM
(United Republic of Tanzania)

AGENDA ITEM 29

**Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte:
report of the Secretary-General**

1. The PRESIDENT: I should like to propose that the list of speakers on this item be closed this afternoon at 6 o'clock. If there is no objection, I shall take it that the General Assembly adopts that proposal.

It was so decided.

2. Mr. MROUDJAE (Comoros) (*interpretation from French*): First of all I should like to express the sincere gratitude of the people and Government of the Comoros to the members of the Assembly for their active participation in seeking a just and lasting solution to the problem that concerns us. The virtually unanimous support that they have so far given us is for us a source of legitimate satisfaction; it eloquently shows that our claims are well-founded, and that nourishes the hope of the delegation of my country that we may resolutely embark upon a decisive phase in our work.

3. Our hope is all the stronger since the question of the Comorian island of Mayotte is for us an essential question that can be settled only by our recovering the rights of which we have been deprived—that is, by the affirmation of our full and complete sovereignty over our entire national territory.

4. The problem that we are now considering is, as we have always emphasized, a problem of decolonization, the solution of which is to be found in application of the rules and principles governing that field and recognized by all States, including France.

5. For that reason, since this question arose, we have advocated the following: first, the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) regarding the right of peoples to self-determination, and, secondly, respect by the former colonial Power and third States

for the sacrosanct nature of the boundaries inherited from colonial times.

6. The recognition of this principle by the Government of France is undisputed, as is clear from the statement made by the President of the Republic of France at a press conference held on 24 October 1974. He said:

“Our position is that decolonization must proceed within the boundaries drawn by the former colonial Power.”

In the case of the archipelago of the Comoros, what are those boundaries? If we refer to the position taken by the former colonial Power, in this case France, we note that, in the organization of the territory of the Comoros, the archipelago of the Comoros has always been viewed as a whole comprising the islands of Anjouan, Grande-Comore, Mayotte and Mohéli.

7. Throughout its effective administration, France held to that same geographical framework, which, indeed, was inevitable. The various statutes that it successively accorded the archipelago always took into account the physical, ethnic and cultural factors that constituted and strengthened the unity of the four islands.

8. Thus the Comoros, which initially together constituted a French protectorate, in 1912 became a French colony, placed under the authority of the General Government of Madagascar. In 1946 the four islands evolved into an administratively and financially autonomous entity, with an elected General Council.

9. In 1962, within the framework of the decolonization of the continent and the political evolution within the archipelago, the Comoros, still as a group, acceded to genuine domestic autonomy, which paved the way for the Territory's independence within the geographical, administrative and political boundaries set by the former colonial Power. These geographical boundaries, which France strove to preserve, were not artificially created; nor were they fixed solely for reasons of administrative convenience. Their outline merely corresponded to the need to respect the integrity of a group of islands inhabited by one people professing the same faith.

10. Thus, with regard to the populations, Professor Yves Person of the Sorbonne, an eminent specialist in African history, showed that the inhabitants of the four islands that make up the archipelago belonged to a single people. In addition, there is not a single family on Mayotte—we are not speaking of populations that settled there later—whose origins cannot be traced back to the other three islands, and this has held true since the second generation.

11. From the point of view of religion, the Comoros are united as a group by the same religion, Islam. Adherence to the same religious community existed

well before the French entry into the islands and is one of the elements that also made it possible to strengthen the unity of the archipelago.

12. Therefore we note that French colonization merely served to ratify, based on the existing state of affairs, the objective situation that had previously prevailed. Furthermore, taking these various considerations into account, this is why the French Government, through the law of 17 October 1974, recognized the archipelago's orientation towards independence as a single geographical and political entity. The Secretary of State for Overseas Departments and Territories at the time, Mr. Olivier Stirn, stated in this regard:

“The French Government has opted for an archipelago-wide consultation for three reasons: first, for the legal reason that under the rules of international law a territory retains the frontiers that it had as a colony; secondly, a multiplicity of different statuses for the various islands of the archipelago is inconceivable; thirdly, it is not for France to set the Comorians against each other; on the contrary, its role is to help to bring them closer together. . . .”

13. The Government and the people of the Comoros have never expressed any claims contrary to the statements contained in the declaration of the French Secretary of State. All we are asking is respect for the rights recognized as ours by the international community.

14. The question of Mayotte has arisen because France has refused to apply the rules it had previously accepted. I shall not dwell on the considerations that led to the French authorities' adoption of the law of 3 July 1975, which, providing for an island-by-island consultation, was to lead to a decolonization process contrary to the ideas that that country had until then upheld. Nor shall I mention the three difficult years that have ensued in the relations between Paris and Moroni. I shall simply emphasize that the Organization of African Unity [OAU] and the United Nations, as well as the non-aligned movement and the Islamic Conference, have from the outset called upon France to respect its commitments and to abide by the rules to which it has subscribed.

15. There has been no lack of action by these bodies to bring about a negotiated and just settlement, but throughout this period it has encountered obstacles caused mainly by the absence of diplomatic relations between France and the Comoros and by the intransigent attitude each country has taken.

16. This is why ever since the institutions were established in Moroni, the Government of the Comoros, deeply concerned over the settlement of the Comorian island of Mayotte, has resolutely engaged in seeking a new strategy that could, with the support of the United Nations and OAU, bring about a relaxation of the existing rigid positions and open the way to a rapid and satisfactory solution.

17. Recently, during the general debate in this Assembly, I referred to the actions being taken by the Government of the Comoros to achieve this aim [26th meeting]. I should like to recall them.

18. First, on the external level, we have agreed to resume the relations with France that have been inter-

rupted in recent years. Thus our two countries have exchanged diplomatic representatives at the ambassadorial level and we have signed co-operation agreements. On the basis of General Assembly resolution 32/7 and the recommendations of the Committee of Seven of OAU on the question of Mayotte,¹ preliminary contacts have been entered into with France which have made it possible to create an atmosphere more favourable to dialogue. Meetings at the ministerial level and at a higher level between the Comorian and French delegations are also planned, the first series of which is scheduled for the present month of December. These meetings should provide an opportunity for an objective examination of the situation prevailing in Mayotte and for the settlement of this question at an early date. The Comorian side, for its part, is prepared, as always, to contribute to the success of these negotiations.

19. On the domestic level, in response to the wishes of the population and in order better to take account of each island's special characteristics, we have decided to establish a federation among the islands of Anjouan, Grande-Comore, Mayotte and Mohéli. This federation grants broad autonomy to local authorities, namely governors and councillors, elected by the population of each island. The Constitution setting up this federation, which was overwhelmingly approved by the people in October 1978, will thus enable our brothers on Mayotte, as soon as they have rejoined the large Comorian family, to enjoy the same rights and guarantees as the inhabitants of the other islands.

20. In conclusion, I should like to recall a statement by the President of the French Republic, the terms of which faithfully reflect my Government's concerns:

“[The Comoros] are an archipelago which constitutes a single entity. . . . The population is homogeneous, with practically no people of French origin, or only very few. . . . was it reasonable to imagine that a part of the archipelago should become independent and that one island, whatever sympathy one might have for its inhabitants, should retain a different status?”

“I believe that one must accept contemporary realities. The Comoros are a single unit, they have always been a single unit, and it is natural that their fate should be a common fate. . . .”

21. Mr. TUBMAN (Liberia): It is quite possible for any issue to be over-simplified. Therefore, in our work here at the United Nations where new and very complicated issues must constantly be tackled, over-simplification is a danger always to be guarded against. However, when a matter is simple, or can be stated in a simple manner or when a matter is not an issue, there is no need to present it otherwise. In the view of my delegation, the issue of Mayotte is a very straightforward question.

22. What is the question? The question is whether the island of Mayotte is an integral part of the Republic of the Comoros and, if it is, what steps, if any, need to be taken by the United Nations in order that the situation in the archipelago may conform to what legally it ought to be.

23. Prior to the referendum of 22 December 1974, by

¹ See A/32/305, annex II.

which the Comorian people, in exercise of its right to self-determination, opted for independence, the colonial administration of the Comoros extended to and included the island of Mayotte. No less an authority than the President of the French Republic is on record as having stated on 24 October 1974 during a press conference that the Comoro archipelago forms an integral entity, with a homogeneous population. The President went on to declare:

“ . . . was it reasonable to imagine that a part of the archipelago should become independent and that one island, whatever sympathy one might have for its inhabitants, should retain a different status?”

That was the question posed by the President. He then went on to answer his own question. He said:

“I believe that one must accept contemporary realities. The Comoros are a single unit, they have always been a single unit, and it is natural that their fate should be a common fate. . . .”

24. In spite of so clear and correct a stand by the French President, nevertheless on 3 July 1975 the French Parliament adopted a bill which, instead of purely and simply ratifying the clearly expressed wish of the Comorian people to accede to independence, subjected the granting of independence to several pre-conditions. At this juncture, however, the Comorian leaders, as was their right if not also their duty, proclaimed the independence of the Republic of the Comoros on 6 July 1975. A fortnight thereafter France arbitrarily and without any legal right proceeded to conduct a second referendum on the island of Mayotte, an island that had been, was then and still is part and parcel of the Comoros. Such an act by France runs contrary to the principles of the United Nations Charter, in particular those parts of it that protect the territorial integrity of States and proscribe interference in their domestic affairs. The action by France, moreover, violates United Nations resolutions regarding decolonization.

25. The Government of the Comoros continues to press its legitimate claim and its legal entitlement to the island of Mayotte, and that claim has been endorsed and supported by OAU, the movement of non-aligned countries, the Islamic Conference and the League of Arab States.

26. It is our delegation's understanding that the President of the Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros and the President of the French Republic have had talks during which they have agreed in principle to reconsider the question of the Comorian island of Mayotte. Speaking, therefore, this afternoon as the representative of Liberia and as the current Chairman of OAU, I wish to urge both France and the Comoros to speed up their efforts aimed at an early resolution of this problem. I make this plea because the resolution on the Comorian island of Mayotte that was passed by the Council of Ministers of OAU at its thirty-third ordinary session, held at Monrovia from 6 to 20 July last, reaffirmed OAU's solidarity with the people of the Comoros in its determination to defend its political unity, national sovereignty and territorial integrity [see A/34/552, annex I, CM/Res. 730 (XXXIII)].

27. Mr. LEPRETTE (France) (*interpretation from*

French): The position of France on the question of Mayotte has frequently been explained in this body. The principles that guide us are quite clear and universally recognized. It is by their impartial implementation in a spirit of constructive co-operation that we can reach solutions that are based on law and equity, and are therefore acceptable to one and all.

28. Our attitude is based on the application of the principle of self-determination which, as we see it, is the main criterion for the determination of the destiny of peoples, as well as the political and geographical framework of their existence. The Charter of the United Nations itself states as one of the foundations of international relations the right of peoples to self-determination; it refers expressly to the need to take account of “the freely expressed wishes of the peoples”.

29. The inhabitants of the island of Mayotte, by an overwhelming majority during the referendums of December 1974 and February 1976, expressed their will to remain a part of the French Republic. They did this in full freedom, without the governmental authorities having sought to influence them one way or the other.

30. France had stated in advance that it would bow to the results of the vote, whatever the outcome. How could it have subsequently rejected a community which requested to remain part of France? How could it have forced that community to choose any path other than that which they had deliberately chosen? Such an attitude would be unjustifiable from the point of view of general principles and, at any rate, would have been contrary to the constitutional rules which govern our country.

31. I do not think it necessary for me to rehearse the recent past, but a few points should be recalled, because essentially they motivated the position taken by the French delegation at the beginning of this session² when considering the request for the question of Mayotte to be included on the agenda of the General Assembly. We were against that item being discussed. We explained this, referring to the provisions of Article 2 of the United Nations Charter, which states that the United Nations is not authorized to intervene in the internal affairs of States. Having recalled this fundamental objection, therefore, we are now speaking in a debate which we believe should never have taken place, and we are doing this because we are anxious to serve the truth as far as the General Assembly is concerned and thus to contribute to the calm of this discussion.

32. Any investigation into eventual intentions, if one were tempted to carry one out, would be not only unjust but erroneous: it has already been stated that the choice made by the Mahorais is not irrevocable in nature. The present status of Mayotte is quite capable of evolving. The law which created it has laid down a legal framework which can easily be revised and adapted to the characteristics of the island.

33. The final choice will depend solely on the democratically expressed opinion of the Mahorais themselves. France is in no wise opposed, we repeat, to

² See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, General Committee, 1st meeting, paras. 68-69, and ibid., General Committee, Sessional Fascicle, corrigendum.*

a freely agreed alliance between Mayotte and the other parts of the archipelago. We have always sought common ground for agreement with the Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros and therefore we are very gratified at the favourable way in which relations between our countries have grown during the past 18 months. Ambassadors have been accredited in both capitals. A number of important agreements have been signed: a treaty of friendship and co-operation and agreements in economic and financial matters, in the field of culture and education, concerning assistance in personnel, and regarding defence and military technical assistance. The conclusion of those agreements was made possible and their implementation greatly aided by the arrangement of contacts between the leaders of both countries, sometimes at the highest level.

34. France is determined to continue on this course. As was announced in the communiqué published in Paris at the conclusion of the meeting of the Council of Ministers on 24 October last, the French Government decided

“to suggest to the Comorian Government talks at a ministerial level which would go into the problems existing between France and the Comoros that have not yet been resolved, and to study ways and means of strengthening economic and human relations between the territorial community of Mayotte and the other islands of the archipelago.”

35. The Comoros Government stated that it agreed to those talks being held. They are at present being arranged and they will shortly take place. We have no doubt, for our part, that the two parties will approach them in a spirit of mutual co-operation which will help further progress in the relations between our two countries.

36. That is what my delegation wished to say. We have described the situation as it exists and we have shown the prospects which are open, provided that the required conditions are met.

37. Mr. MATANE (Papua New Guinea): This is not the first time that the item under consideration has been included on the agenda of this body. The question has been debated before, beginning with the debate three years ago in the General Assembly,³ when resolution 31/4 was adopted reaffirming the necessity of safeguarding the unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of the Comoros. At the thirty-second session, the question was debated again by the General Assembly⁴ because the French Government had not acted on the resolution of the previous session. Consequently, the General Assembly adopted resolution 32/7, in which, *inter alia*, it requested the French and the Comorian Governments to negotiate an agreement which would settle the question, in keeping with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and in respect for the political unity and territorial integrity of the Comoros.

38. Furthermore, the question has also been considered by the CAU, by the countries in the non-aligned movement and by the Islamic Conference, as well as by

³ *Ibid.*, Thirty-first Session, Plenary Meetings, 33rd to 39th meetings.

⁴ *Ibid.*, Thirty-second Session, Plenary Meetings, 53rd to 55th meetings.

the League of Arab States, all of which have reaffirmed in their meetings that Mayotte is part and parcel of the Republic of the Comoros.

39. Now at the current session, this item has been once again included on the agenda for our consideration. At the same time, the French Government has either chosen to ignore or refused to implement or to act on the resolutions on Mayotte adopted by this body. It is precisely for this reason that this item has once again come before us, and if this is any indication, presumably it will continue to appear on the agenda, for the reasons stated, until such time as the French Government and the Republic of the Comoros have resolved the question in a mutually acceptable manner and in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations.

40. My Government regrets that this item has once again appeared and that there has been no settlement and no satisfactory explanation from the French Government as to why it has consistently chosen not to heed the genuine and legitimate concern of the Government of the Comoros and to ignore the resolutions of the General Assembly on this matter.

41. On the other hand, this is not the first time that the French Government has acted in this way, for its past history as a colonial Power contains examples of it adopting the same position in respect to some of its former colonies that are now independent sovereign nations. Indeed, it still adopts that position with regard to its remaining colonies, as in this case, as well as to its remaining territories elsewhere, the argument advanced by the French Government being that they are an integral part of France.

42. It is clear, however, that even when this argument was applied in the past to former colonies, the French Government in the end was very constructive in its approach to the question of decolonization where it involved colonies considered to be integral parts of France, the Republic of the Comoros being a case in point. Indeed, not only was this done, but it was done despite the fact that since 1947 it had unilaterally decided to withdraw some of its Territories, including the Comoros in 1957, from the list of Territories on which by virtue of Article 73 *e* of the United Nations Charter it was required and obliged to transmit information.

43. My delegation believes that the French Government and the Government of the Comoros can now, in the same spirit of co-operation and understanding in which they agreed that the Comoros should be an independent sovereign nation, proceed to complete that agreement by returning Mayotte to the Comoros, as was always envisaged in the original agreement.

44. Until Mayotte was detached from the Comoros just before they became an independent nation, it had always been geographically, historically and culturally part of the Comoros. The people of Mayotte have religious and linguistic affinities with the people of the Comoros. Indeed, except for the fact that Mayotte is still under French control, the people of Mayotte and the Comoros have always been one and the same people. Until it was detached in 1975—and only until then—it had always been the French Government's position that Mayotte was an integral part of the Comoros. Its detachment without any proper consideration for the Comoros was in fact a violation of resolution 1514 (XV)

of 14 December 1960, particularly of paragraph 6 of the Declaration contained therein.

45. No doubt the strategic and military importance of Mayotte is of concern to the French Government. But so it is to the Comoros, and so, even more, is its economic potential in terms of its fish and other resources, which would be of far greater value to a not-so-well-endowed country economically than it would be to France.

46. The question of decolonization has always been of special concern to us in the South Pacific region. The right to self-determination and independence is one to which countries such as my own are strongly committed. In this particular case, it is obvious that the process of decolonization has been left incomplete for reasons that only the French Government would be in a position to explain.

47. It is my delegation's hope, therefore, that the French Government will see its way clear to initiating discussions with the Government of the Comoros with a view to arriving at a mutually acceptable agreement to return Mayotte to the Republic of the Comoros.

48. The PRESIDENT: We shall conclude the debate on this item tomorrow afternoon, and I wish to urge those delegations wishing to speak on this particular item to inscribe their names on the list today.

AGENDA ITEM 25

The situation in the Middle East: report of the Secretary-General (*continued*)*

49. The PRESIDENT: I wish to draw the attention of the Assembly to draft resolution A/34/L.53 on the situation in the Middle East, the debate on which was concluded yesterday afternoon. The Assembly will continue consideration of this item tomorrow and, in the afternoon, will take a decision on the draft resolution.

AGENDA ITEM 15

Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs (*continued*): (a) Election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council

50. The PRESIDENT: The General Assembly will now resume the election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council from the group of Latin American States for a two-year term beginning on 1 January 1980.

51. Following the inconclusive ballots held at its 47th, 48th, 50th, 53rd, 83rd and 89th plenary meetings, held on 26 and 30 October and 2 and 29 November and this morning, the Assembly will now proceed, in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure, to the next ballot, which is the 48th ballot.

52. Before proceeding to the next series of ballots, I wish to make an announcement in connexion with the balloting that took place this morning. During the 45th ballot, the ballot box contained a ballot paper that had been intended for the 44th ballot. Therefore, after a

careful recount, the results of the 45th ballot are as follows:

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	148
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	0
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	148
<i>Abstentions:</i>	2
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	146
<i>Required majority:</i>	98

<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Cuba	86
Colombia	60

53. We now turn to the 48th ballot. In this second unrestricted ballot, any member State from the Group of Latin American States may be a candidate for election, except, of course, Bolivia, which is about to vacate its seat, and Jamaica, which is already a member of the Council. The ballot papers will now be distributed.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Mardovich (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) and Mr. Çelikol (Turkey) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

54. The PRESIDENT: I propose now to suspend the meeting while the ballot papers are being counted.

The meeting was suspended at 4.05 p.m. and resumed at 4.10 p.m.

55. The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting is as follows:

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	142
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	0
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	142
<i>Abstentions:</i>	1
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	141
<i>Required majority:</i>	94

<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Cuba	80
Colombia	61

56. The PRESIDENT: Since the second in this series of unrestricted ballots has proved inconclusive, we shall now proceed to the third unrestricted ballot. As before, in this unrestricted ballot any member State from the group of Latin American States may be a candidate for election, with the exception of Bolivia and Jamaica. The ballot papers will now be distributed.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Mardovich (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) and Mr. Çelikol (Turkey) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

57. The PRESIDENT: I propose now to suspend the meeting while the ballots are being counted.

The meeting was suspended at 4.20 p.m. and resumed at 4.30 p.m.

* Resumed from the 88th meeting.

58. The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting is as follows:

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	145
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	0
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	145
<i>Abstentions:</i>	1
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	144
<i>Required majority:</i>	96

<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Cuba	79
Colombia	65

59. The PRESIDENT: Since the third unrestricted ballot has proved inconclusive, in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure, the General Assembly will now proceed to the first of three restricted ballots. This ballot is restricted to Cuba and Colombia. Any ballot papers containing the name of any other country will be declared invalid. The ballot papers will now be distributed.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Mardovich (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) and Mr. Çelikol (Turkey) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

60. The PRESIDENT: I propose now to suspend the meeting while the ballots are being counted.

The meeting was suspended at 4.35 p.m. and resumed at 4.40 p.m.

61. The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting is as follows:

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	147
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	0
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	147
<i>Abstentions:</i>	2
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	145
<i>Required majority:</i>	97

<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Cuba	82
Colombia	63

62. The PRESIDENT: As neither of the countries obtained the required two-thirds majority, the General Assembly will continue the voting and will hold a second restricted ballot. As in the last ballot, the only countries whose names may be included in the ballot papers are Cuba and Colombia. Any papers containing the names of other countries will be declared invalid. The ballot papers will now be distributed.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Mardovich (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) and Mr. Çelikol (Turkey) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

63. The PRESIDENT: I propose now to suspend the meeting while the ballots are being counted.

The meeting was suspended at 4.50 p.m. and resumed at 4.55 p.m.

64. The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting is as follows:

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	145
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	0
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	145
<i>Abstentions:</i>	2
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	143
<i>Required majority:</i>	96

<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Cuba	80
Colombia	63

65. The PRESIDENT: It may be of some interest to delegations to know that in taking the next ballot they will have set a new record in the annals of the United Nations. The largest number of ballots ever taken until now was 51 in 1959. In proceeding to the 52nd ballot, the Assembly now advances to an unprecedented number. Naturally, as President of the Assembly it is my hope that we shall not surpass that record by too great a number.

66. As neither of the countries obtained the required two-thirds majority, the General Assembly will continue the voting and will hold a third restricted ballot. As in the last ballot, the only countries whose names may be included in the ballot papers are Cuba and Colombia. Any papers containing the names of other countries will be declared invalid. The ballot papers will now be distributed.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Mardovich (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) and Mr. Çelikol (Turkey) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

67. The PRESIDENT: I propose now to suspend the meeting while the ballots are being counted.

The meeting was suspended at 5 p.m. and resumed at 5.15 p.m.

68. The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting is as follows:

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	146
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	0
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	146
<i>Abstentions:</i>	1
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	145
<i>Required majority:</i>	97

<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Cuba	82
Colombia	63

69. The PRESIDENT: As the third restricted ballot has proved inconclusive, we shall now proceed to hold a series of unrestricted ballots. In this context any member State from the group of Latin American States may be a candidate for election except, of course, Bolivia and Jamaica. The ballot papers will now be distributed.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Mardovich (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) and Mr. Çelikol (Turkey) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

70. The PRESIDENT: I propose now to suspend the meeting while the ballot papers are being counted.

The meeting was suspended at 5.20 p.m. and resumed at 5.30 p.m.

71. The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting is as follows:

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	146
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	0
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	146
<i>Abstentions:</i>	2
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	144
<i>Required majority:</i>	96

<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Cuba	82
Colombia	60
Mexico	1
Saint Lucia	1

72. The PRESIDENT: Since this first unrestricted ballot has proved inconclusive, we shall proceed to the second unrestricted ballot on the same terms and conditions. Therefore, any member State from the group of Latin American States may be a candidate for election except, of course, Bolivia and Jamaica. The ballot papers will now be distributed.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Mardovich (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) and Mr. Çelikol (Turkey) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

73. The PRESIDENT: I propose now to suspend the meeting while the ballots are being counted.

The meeting was suspended at 5.35 p.m. and resumed at 5.45 p.m.

74. The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting is as follows:

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	147
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	0
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	147
<i>Abstentions:</i>	2
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	145
<i>Required majority:</i>	97

<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Cuba	80
Colombia	62
Brazil	1
Mexico	1
Nicaragua	1

75. The PRESIDENT: Since the second unrestricted ballot has proved inconclusive, we shall now proceed under the same terms and conditions, to the third unre-

stricted ballot. The ballot papers will now be distributed.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Mardovich (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) and Mr. Çelikol (Turkey) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

76. The PRESIDENT: I propose now to suspend the meeting while the ballots are being counted.

The meeting was suspended at 5.55 p.m. and resumed at 6.05 p.m.

77. The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting is as follows:

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	147
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	0
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	147
<i>Abstentions:</i>	2
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	145
<i>Required majority:</i>	97

<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Cuba	81
Colombia	59
Brazil	1
El Salvador	1

78. The PRESIDENT: Since the third unrestricted ballot has proved inconclusive, the Assembly will now proceed to the first of a series of three restricted ballots in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure. This balloting is restricted to the two candidates which have obtained the largest number of votes, namely Cuba and Colombia. The ballot papers will now be distributed.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Mardovich (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) and Mr. Çelikol (Turkey) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

79. The PRESIDENT: I propose now to suspend the meeting while the ballots are being counted.

The meeting was suspended at 6.10 p.m. and resumed at 6.20 p.m.

80. The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting is as follows:

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	147
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	0
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	147
<i>Abstentions:</i>	1
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	146
<i>Required majority:</i>	98

<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Cuba	84
Colombia	62

81. The PRESIDENT: As neither of the countries obtained the required two-thirds majority, the General

Assembly will hold a second restricted ballot. As in the last ballot, the only countries whose names may be included in the ballot papers are Cuba and Colombia. Any papers containing the names of other countries will be declared invalid. The ballot papers will now be distributed.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Mardovich (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) and Mr. Çelikol (Turkey) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

82. The PRESIDENT: I propose now to suspend the meeting while the ballots are being counted.

The meeting was suspended at 6.25 p.m. and resumed at 6.30 p.m.

83. The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting is as follows:

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	145
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	0
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	145
<i>Abstentions:</i>	2
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	143
<i>Required majority:</i>	96

<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Cuba	81
Colombia	62

84. The PRESIDENT: As that second restricted ballot has proved inconclusive, we shall now proceed to the third ballot, which will be restricted to Cuba and Colombia. The ballot papers will now be distributed.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Mardovich (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) and Mr. Çelikol (Turkey) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

85. The PRESIDENT: I propose now to suspend the meeting while the ballots are being counted.

The meeting was suspended at 6.40 p.m. and resumed at 6.50 p.m.

86. The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting is as follows:

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	147
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	0
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	147
<i>Abstentions:</i>	1
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	146
<i>Required majority:</i>	98

<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Cuba	84
Colombia	62

87. The PRESIDENT: In view of the inconclusive nature of our voting, I should like now to advise the Assembly of my intention with regard to the future consideration of this item. Despite the fact that we have

had 58 ballots and thus exceeded all previous records, this Assembly has still not been able to complete its election of all the non-permanent members of the Security Council as required by the Charter.

88. May I again remind you that rule 142 of our rules of procedure specifies:

“The General Assembly shall each year, in the course of its regular session, elect five non-permanent members of the Security Council for a term of two years.”

89. Furthermore, in implementation of this provision, rule 94 of the rules of procedure specifies that when the balloting is inconclusive after a series of unrestricted and restricted ballots, the procedure shall be repeated “until all the places have been filled”.

90. I am determined that this session shall discharge this important obligation. As members know, however, we have less than two weeks left. Moreover, the Assembly has an extremely full programme for that period. The only option left to me is to schedule further balloting whenever possible, even though this could involve resorting to extended all-night sessions.

91. The next occasion on which we could return to the balloting is Wednesday, 12 December. It is therefore my intention on that morning to begin consideration of agenda item 18, “Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples”, and as soon as we have exhausted the list of speakers for the morning we shall resume the election of one non-permanent member of the Security Council. During the afternoon of the same day, that is, of 12 December, we shall resume the debate on decolonization and, if further balloting is still required, we shall then resume the voting process after the speaker’s list for that afternoon is exhausted, proceeding into the evening hours if necessary.

92. I wish to urge delegations to make every possible effort, during the intervening period, to ensure that the Assembly will be in a position to conclude its work on this item and thus discharge its responsibilities.

Organization of work

93. The PRESIDENT: I should now like to bring to the attention of the Assembly a matter which affects a previous decision of the General Assembly and is of great importance to the work of the Second Committee, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee, during the concluding weeks of the session.

94. It now appears that despite all efforts of the Second Committee to conclude its work on Friday, 7 December—the target date set by the Assembly—the Second Committee will not be able to do so. There are also draft resolutions with financial implications that are still being negotiated among the regional groups.

95. After extensive discussion on that matter, and in consultation with the Chairmen of the Committees involved, I have agreed to propose that the General Assembly approve that the deadline for submission of draft resolutions with financial implications from the

Second Committee should be extended until Saturday, 8 December, and that the Second Committee should conclude its work not later than Thursday, 13 December. I take it that the General Assembly has no objection to these proposals.

It was so decided.

96. The PRESIDENT: This decision, I am confident, will enable the Assembly to conclude its work on 18 December 1979, the date set for the closing of the session. May I once again appeal to all members for their co-operation and understanding.

The meeting rose at 6.55 p.m.