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GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 7 October 1986, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. CHOUDHURY (Bangladesh)

later: Mr. KNIPPING-VICTORIA (Dominican Republic)
(Vice-President)

- General debate [9] (continued)

Statements were made by:

Mr. Jameel (Maldives)
Mr. Mboumoua (Cameroon)
Mr. Reid Cabral (Dominican Republic)
Mr. Maye Ela (Equatorial Guinea)

- Programme of work
- Question of peace, stability and co-operation in South-East Asia [39]

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 9 (continued)

GENERAL DEBATE

Mr. JAMEEL (Maldives): It is indeed a pleasure for me and all the members of my delegation to congratulate you, Sir, on your election to the presidency of the General Assembly at its forty-first session. Your unanimous election testified to this body's recognition of your experience and accomplishments in your illustrious diplomatic career. It also constitutes a well deserved tribute to your country, Bangladesh, which demonstrates exemplary courage in overcoming the obstacles to rapid development and modernization. Maldives is especially pleased to see you presiding over this session because of the fraternal relations that exist between our two peoples. Our shared involvement in international and regional co-operation activities and the primary role played by your Government and by you personally in the launching of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) have a special meaning for us. We are confident that you are amply qualified to guide the deliberations of the Assembly to a successful conclusion.

My delegation would like also to associate itself with previous speakers who have expressed their admiration for the able manner in which your predecessor, His Excellency Mr. Jaime de Piniés, discharged his duties as President of the General Assembly at its fortieth session. With his outstandingly rich background in United Nations affairs, the remarkable leadership shown by Ambassador de Piniés surpassed our expectations. His efforts deserve special appreciation.

Last year we commemorated the historic fortieth anniversary session of the General Assembly. In their addresses during that session, Heads of State or Government expressed faith in the United Nations. The Organization has reached maturity, and the President of Maldives, addressing that session, explicitly stated

(Mr. Jameel, Maldives)

our view of the United Nations. We are aware that the United Nations system is not without shortcomings, but we must not fail to recognize its invaluable contributions to mankind.

The past year has been an eventful one. But despite efforts to contain the tension and the numerous crises that exist between States the world continues to be volatile and turbulent. It is under these threatening circumstances that we are reminded of the indispensable nature of the United Nations. The Secretary-General's wise and meaningful endeavours to defuse explosive situations are most praiseworthy. His annual report on the work of the Organization reveals the extent of his earnest and sincere efforts to deal with pressing, diverse and complex issues. I am firmly devoted to the idea that the role of the United Nations should be strengthened, and I should like to express our appreciation for his dedication to his tasks. What we require at this crucial time is dedication to the noble principles of the Charter, to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war and to create conditions conducive to justice, peace and development. The courage to do so is weakened by self-centred political motives, and each passing year compounds existing obstacles, intensifying, among other things, the East-West rivalry, and enlarging the gap between North and South.

The report of the Group of 18 High-level Intergovernmental Experts which reviewed the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations has generated a measure of attention and thought. A debate has begun. Maldives believes that the continuation of this process of reflection and reform is essential. We vitally need the United Nations as a strong and constructive force in our increasingly interdependent world.

(Mr. Jameel, Maldives)

The arms race continues to rage, with some States pouring billions of dollars into their military budgets. So long as a third of the world's population is malnourished and plagued by hunger, disease and ignorance, such wanton expenditure cannot but be vigorously criticized. The Assembly proclaimed 1986 as the International Year of Peace. Yet the year is coming to an end without any practical gains and is sinking into history as nothing more than celebration.

(Mr. Jameel, Maldives)

The Geneva summit meeting between the two super-Powers in November last year raised our hopes for the revival of détente, but we were forced to abandon them quickly to face increased tension. As a developing State, we cannot help stressing our concern over the lack of progress in the sphere of arms control, disarmament and détente. We welcome the announced agreement between President Reagan and General-Secretary Gorbachev to meet in Reykjavik, Iceland, next week. Maldives hopes that the two leaders will take into account in their negotiations not only their own national interests but also the vital interests of all the peoples of the world. We are encouraged by the outcome of the recently concluded Stockholm Conference on Confidence and Security Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe. We welcome the forthcoming Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe to be held in Vienna, which will provide an opportunity to continue along this road in the interests of all.

Efforts to protect outer space from the dangers of the arms race should be continued vigorously by the United Nations and through the United Nations. Agreements should be sought and global mechanisms evolved to prevent further proliferation of nuclear weapons. Unless we are able to generate greater political will and assume more shared responsibility on this particular issue now, we fear that our children will be the ones who will suffer the consequences of our own aggressive instincts, which breed nothing but hostility, violence and destruction. In this context, we wish to reiterate that, while we are marking the International Year of Peace, it is important to seek progress in action together with the demonstration of the political will to make our world a safer place.

The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in various regions of the world would, we believe, contribute towards international peace and security. The people of any region have an unquestionable right to determine their priorities and work

(Mr. Jameel, Maldives)

Over the years, the Palestinian problem has spilled over and disastrously affected the security of the entire Middle East. The General Assembly has reiterated that the crux of the Middle East problem is the question of Palestine. Israel, with its military might, continues to exacerbate the crisis by its occupation of more and more Arab territories. It continues to perpetuate its designed policies of expansionism through the establishment of illegal settlements, in violation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations. We strongly condemn such illegal activities, including acts of aggression against the Arabs, and we urge Israel to withdraw all its forces unconditionally from all the occupied Arab territories. My country firmly believes that there cannot be a just and lasting solution to the Palestine question and to the crisis in the Middle East, unless the inalienable rights of the Palestinians are respected and their homeland returned to them. The Palestinians and the Arabs have repeatedly expressed their readiness to resolve the problem on a just and equitable basis. In this context, we support the call to convene an international conference on the Middle East with the participation of all parties concerned. We urge all of them to enter into negotiations with the genuine intention of seeking permanent and durable peace.

Maldives would extend its support to all initiatives that would restore to the Palestinians their inalienable right to self-determination, national independence and sovereignty and ensure their return to their homeland. We would likewise support all measures aimed at restoring peace to the war-torn and smouldering region of the Middle East.

My delegation is also in favour of all moves that would help to abate the situation in Afghanistan and Kampuchea. We support the call for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from these countries in order to pave the way for the people of these countries to determine their own affairs and exercise their rights without

(Mr. Jameel, Maldives)

external interference. We wish to place on record our appreciation of the efforts of the Secretary-General in his relentless attempts to end the warring situation both in Afghanistan and in Kampuchea. We are also pleased to see the willingness expressed by the Kampuchean people in their most recent eight-point proposal outlining a constructive framework for a negotiated settlement. The Charter of our Organization provides ample procedures for dealing with international conflicts. Therefore, any suggestion to involve all parties concerned to seek a national reconciliation would fall entirely within the framework of the United Nations Charter.

(Mr. Jameel, Maldives)

The Cyprus conflict also has caused untold suffering and misery to its people. This prolonged conflict should be solved urgently with due regard to Cyprus' sovereignty and national integrity. However, we are convinced that such solutions should take into consideration the grievances of both communities on an equal basis. My Government has repeatedly expressed its conviction along similar lines in several other international meetings.

It is now a decade and a half since the General Assembly declared the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace within limits to be determined. Pending the agreement on principles and modalities to implement that Declaration, the rising rivalry among the big Powers for politico-economic gains, coupled with commercial jealousies, has virtually turned the Ocean into an area of confrontation. The presence of all types of instruments of war now poses a security threat to all the States, littoral and hinterland, of the region. We reiterate our support to, and urge all States to facilitate the early convening of, the proposed Colombo Conference and express our appreciation of United Nations efforts in this respect.

Hopes for the reunification of Korea are still dim, despite the continued efforts of the international community. We reiterate our firm conviction that reunification can be achieved only through peaceful dialogue and negotiations between the North and the South. My Government feels strongly that interference by other States in the inter-Korean dispute should cease immediately so as to allow them to reach an amicable agreement that will serve the interests of the Korean people itself.

The delegation of Maldives wishes also to stress the importance of reaching a more balanced agreement on Antarctica. The present treaty system which gives special privileges to the consultative parties should consciously be replaced in favour of an equitable arrangement that would recognize Antarctica as a common

(Mr. Jameel, Maldives)

heritage of mankind. Antarctica's resources could then be explored and exploited in a way that would benefit all the peoples of the world, with due respect to Antarctica's fragile environment. We feel that the United Nations role should be enhanced in this regard and before the issue drifts out of reach.

The world economy is still in a shamble after the recess that set in at the beginning of this decade. The repercussions of that economic downturn are still grim for the developing countries. Although recovery is taking place at the level of the industrialized countries, its results have not been adequately felt throughout the world. The recovery's stability and sustenance still seem to be in doubt, even for the industrialized countries. Retreat by the developed countries from multilateralism and international co-operation in order to resuscitate economic growth has literally squeezed the economies of the rest. If the present trend of recovery is to be sustained with a broader effort by the world as a whole, protectionism needs to be rolled back and concessional capital flow to the developing countries should be increased beyond present levels, not only to enable them to service their debt - which now stands at the trillion-dollar mark - but also to assist them to reach a level of self-reliance. It is indisputable that a healthy growth in third-world economies is crucial and will remain critical to global economic stability.

A sign which encourages hope for a change issued from the recent Conference of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) at Punta del Este, and without a doubt has been the most significant event of the year in the field of international trade and economic relations. The importance of the GATT conference lies in the fact that agreement was reached to launch a new general round of trade negotiations to dispel the existing gloom.

(Mr. Jameel, Maldives)

If the world is to extricate itself from the claws of more economic crises the present unjust structure of the international economic system should be replaced by a new international economic order. The stalled North-South dialogue is a clear demonstration of the reluctance of the developed countries to redress the imbalances in the present set-up. In this regard, we welcome the establishment of a non-governmental independent commission of the South for development issues. We are dismayed by the paucity of assistance generated for the least developed countries, despite the Paris Conference and repeated calls for increased contributions. It is also in these circumstances that we feel that South-South co-operation also should be expanded and strengthened.

My country belongs to the group of least developed countries. As a small island developing country, the Maldives faces innumerable and formidable economic difficulties and limitations arising from its small size, remoteness from great market centres of the world, constraints in transport and communications, highly limited internal markets, scarcity of natural resources, and dependence on a narrow-based economic structure.

We note with disappointment that the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action has been extremely slow and urge those responsible to contribute generously to implement it in the remainder of this decade so that the least developed countries can overcome their difficulties and become self-reliant.

My country is endowed with little or no natural resources, except the sea that surrounds the several hundreds of tiny islands. It is this special circumstance of my country and many other small countries that we ask for special attention and assistance. In this regard, we note with satisfaction the steps being taken by the United Nations, specifically by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), to alleviate the problems of island developing countries.

(Mr. Jameel, Maldives)

We appreciate also the sympathy shown by many other international and regional bodies towards small States and their problems; but sympathy alone will not solve those problems. Bearing in mind those facts, we stress the need for the competent organs of the United Nations system, particularly the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other financial institutions, to respond urgently to the specific needs of island developing countries.

We are proud to belong to this Organization and to participate in its activities. In a world teeming with hotbeds of tension, conflict and bloody wars, where mankind is hostage to the awful nuclear arsenals of its own creation, the importance and indispensability of the United Nations cannot be exaggerated. Our Organization certainly has its problems and difficulties, as can be expected. In the words of my President:

"There is no question that it has its problems and difficulties, but with all of them there is ample proof that the world needs the United Nations."

We feel that there is no better institutional arrangement than the United Nations to deal with grievances among States of the world. Our firm belief in the constructive role that the United Nations is playing will not be diminished by its failure on some issues caused by the deliberate and often self-centred acts of some States.

While we remain convinced of the effective measures that the United Nations continues to take, at the same time we must think of ways and means for further strengthening the Organization and its activities. The valuable services that the United Nations specialized agencies are rendering to mankind cannot be easily described or assessed. As I said in my statement to the General Assembly in 1984,

(Mr. Jameel, Maldives)

the United Nations agencies came into existence not only because the prominent men who created them were wise but also because the services that they envisage and render are directly related to the well-being of mankind, irrespective of race, religion or region.

In conclusion, let me reiterate my Government's firm and sincere support of the United Nations, for this body has now become the only force on earth that can save human civilization and reverse our drift towards nuclear catastrophe.

Mr. MBOUMOUA (Cameroon): My delegation is pleased to see you, Sir, presiding over the forty-first session of the General Assembly. The important issues on the agenda of this session will undoubtedly call upon your leadership qualities and oriental wisdom, your experience as an internationalist and your vast diplomatic skills.

We pay tribute to the outgoing President, Mr. Jaime de Piniés, for his valuable contribution to the work of the historic fortieth session of the General Assembly.

We salute the return to better health of our friend Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary-General. In a year that has been particularly difficult for international relations, this Organization has drawn strength from the courage and dedication he has demonstrated in the performance of his heavy responsibilities. We wish him the very best for the future.

We assemble once again at a time when our generation faces grave challenges to many of our universal hopes and aspirations. At stake are our values, based on affirmations of basic human needs. Every sphere of existence seems to be dominated by a crisis of the human spirit, a crisis deriving from an apparent inability to comprehend the truth of the contemporary interdependence among States and among peoples.

It is essentially the bases of those various crises that we must continue to address together, whether or not the year marks a numerical milestone in history. We must keep faith with a universal will to survive. An overdose of subjectivity would destroy values of the common good.

The past year has witnessed the convening of a number of special sessions. The objective in each case was to highlight an aspect of the critical issues of our time. We recognized the circumstances and history underlying the fate that cements our destiny. Yet what has happened since does not inspire the kind of hope that gives impetus to the solution of international problems.

(Mr. Mboumoua, Cameroon)

It is our hope that this session will seriously address those critical questions in specific terms, avoiding recourse to confrontation and the hardening of national positions. We pledge ourselves to give of our best and to co-operate in the selection and treatment of urgent questions. It is clear to us that the resolution of many of these questions would enhance the cause of lasting international peace, security and development. We shall now set forth some of the views and policies of the Cameroon Government and peoples in an attempt to promote that advancement.

(continued in French)

Last year, with all the solemnity due the event, we celebrated the fortieth anniversary of our Organization. At that time, we expressed our gratification at the tremendous political, economic, cultural and legal achievements of the Organization during its four decades of existence.

Once again, we declared our firm attachment of the peoples of the entire world to the ideals, purposes and principles of the Charter that the founding fathers had made into rules of positive conduct for nations. Beyond those initial manifestations of gratification, however, we were, notwithstanding the hope that had been earlier aroused, distracted by the various upheavals that seemed to be making ever darker the prospects of our permanent quest for peace, security and wellbeing for all. Today, more than ever before, in this International Year of Peace, that distraction is exacerbated by anxiety over the challenges of the future.

First, there is the abhorrent crime of apartheid with all its implications in southern Africa and in the world.

The massacres of the black population, the daily incidents of violence, the restoration and tightening of the state of emergency, the increase in the number of barbaric raids against the courageous front-line States, which lack any adequate means of defence - all those developments bear witness to the stubbornness of the

(Mr. Mboumoua, Cameroon)

Pretoria racists and to their determination to perpetuate a system of dehumanization in South Africa and to extend it throughout the entire region as an integral part of their sinister plan to establish a constellation of satellite and vassal States in southern Africa.

In illegally occupied Namibia, the implementation of the United Nations plan for that Territory's peaceful accession to independence continues to be thwarted by the manoeuvres of Pretoria and its friends and allies.

Cameroon considers Security Council resolutions 385 (1976) and 435 (1978) to be the only valid bases for the process intended to lead Namibia to independence while respecting its territorial integrity, under the leadership of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), the Namibian people's sole authentic representative.

Once again, we cannot but reject the delaying tactics designed to establish a linkage between implementation of resolution 435 (1978) and the withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola.

For Cameroon, the adoption of comprehensive mandatory sanctions under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter against the supporters of apartheid is clearly a decisive way to exert the kind of pressure that will hasten the demise of the criminal system of apartheid in South Africa and the unconditional liberation of Namibia. We urgently appeal to the Security Council to embark resolutely and immediately upon that course, and we appeal particularly to those of its members who bear a special responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and who on other occasions have always been quick to come to the defence of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

We urge the United States Government, the Governments of the States members of the European Economic Community, the Governments of the Nordic countries and others to go beyond the stage of selective and more or less token sanctions and to impose,

(Mr. Mboumoua, Cameroon)

with firmness, measures of constraint that would exert decisive and significant pressure on the rebellious South African Government.

The vast majority of the peoples of America and Europe have expressed their rejection of the abhorrent system of apartheid and have urged their Governments to adopt comprehensive and mandatory sanctions.

(Mr. Mboumoua, Cameroon)

Peoples throughout the world are aware of the serious threat inherent in the explosive situation in southern Africa and its effect on peace and security in the sub-region, in Africa and in the world.

Loyal to its commitments, our country this year had the responsibility and the honour to host an international seminar on aid and assistance to the peoples and movements struggling against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination and apartheid, the conclusions of which will be submitted to the present session for consideration.

We appeal here and now to States Members and to the institutions of the United Nations system, as well as to non-governmental organizations, actively to contribute to the implementation of the recommendations that emerged from that seminar.

This is also the place to express our support for the results of the Paris International Conference on Sanctions against Racist South Africa, the Vienna International Conference on the Immediate Granting of Independence to Namibia and of the fourteenth special session of the General Assembly and to hope that they will be effectively implemented.

As a sign of active solidarity, our country this year invited our friend Sam Nujoma, the President of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), who carried out an important official visit to Yaounde, during which President Paul Biya reiterated to him the total support of the Government and people of Cameroon for the sacred cause of the immediate liberation of Namibia.

Cameroon reiterates its support for SWAPO and the liberation movements of South Africa, the front-line States, the United Nations Council for Namibia, the Special Committee against Apartheid and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, all of whom are making efforts worthy of encouragement.

(Mr. Mboumoua, Cameroon)

We cannot pass over two other sources of conflict - namely, the situations in Chad and the Western Sahara.

In the case of Chad, we are pleased at the success of the efforts made under the aegis of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and several African Heads of State in order to effect the national reconciliation of Chad. This country, a neighbour of my own, has for a number of years been beset by a perturbed and disintegrating situation due to internal dissension aggravated by all sorts of interference.

But over and above reconciliation, which remains to be consolidated and perfected, Cameroon believes that it is more than ever necessary to weigh carefully the very crux of the problem in Chad - that is, the question of foreign interference and of the occupation of part of its territory - and to that end to work for the respect of its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity in order that Chad - stabilized, at peace and unified - can, under the leadership of its legal Government, pursue the tremendous task of national reconstruction and development.

In regard to the question of the Western Sahara, Cameroon believes that the solution to the problem can be found in the implementation of the resolutions of both the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the United Nations, which advocate the organization of a referendum on self-determination under the auspices of both organizations. It is for this reason that we are pleased at the willingness expressed by the parties concerned to pursue contacts - which are for the moment, of course, indirect - as part of the efforts undertaken along these lines by the Secretary-General of the United Nations with the encouragement of the OAU.

We are similarly worried by the emergence, persistence and intensification of tension in other parts of the world, first and foremost in the Middle East. The

(Mr. Mboumoua, Cameroon)

particulars of the situation prevailing in that region are well known to this Assembly. The position of my country is similarly well known.

We can only deplore the absence of agreement on a common formula that could serve as the basis for negotiation for the various parties to the conflict. In all events, we are convinced that the United Nations has a major part to play in the settlement of that issue, the most serious implication of which is the threat it poses to international peace and security. That is why Cameroon would like to reiterate its support for the resolutions adopted both by the Security Council and by the General Assembly.

It is in that spirit as well, in the exercise of its sovereignty and its freedom of choice, in its choice of non-alignment and without any hostility to anyone else whatsoever and without any intention of breaking away from its traditional partners in the region, that Cameroon recently decided to re-establish diplomatic relations with Israel. Our profound conviction is that the search for a just, lasting and peaceful solution to the problem of the Middle East must transcend the blocked situation of conflict that is neither real war - but rather latent - nor negotiations, nor real peace. Rather, it should resolutely be geared towards open, pragmatic and constructive dialogue based on the principles and resolutions of the United Nations and should furthermore take account of the need to safeguard international peace and security as well as the fundamental interests of all parties concerned. In particular, it means the recognition of the State of Israel within internationally recognized frontiers and of the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, independence and a homeland.

That is the construction which should be placed on the Israeli-Cameroon communiqué which ratified the re-establishment of diplomatic relations, as follows:

(Mr. Mboumoua, Cameroon)

"Both parties expressed their determination to work for peace and stability in the Middle East, in Africa and throughout the world and both are convinced of the need to promote the process of peace between Israel and the Arab States on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973)."

Cameroon is convinced that it is along these lines that the international community and all people of good will should work. Certain recent signs would lead us to believe that an evolution in this sense is possible.

Recent pronouncements by Mr. Yasser Arafat at the eighth Non-Aligned Summit - in Harare, when he announced his acceptance of the principle of negotiations on the basis of Security Council resolution 242 (1967), appears to us to be a positive step. Similarly, the attitude of certain Israeli leaders seems to have evolved along the right lines to the extent that they no longer systematically reject the principle of holding an international conference to lay the foundations for a lasting peace in the area, which has always been the main concern of the United Nations. This new trend should be encouraged and supported by all States and by the international community.

We must, however, deplore the fact that the sometimes ambiguous positions of various States in the region on the delicate question of Palestine have not yet been clarified - not only to contribute to progress in finding a just and lasting solution, but also to allay the fears of those who wish to make a contribution to and show active solidarity with the noble struggle of the Palestinian people.

In this regard, the authority of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the legitimacy of its leaders should not constantly be called into question by certain countries which nevertheless proclaim their commitment to the Palestinian cause.

(Mr. Mboumoua, Cameroon)

Efforts to resolve problems in other parts of the world, where focal points of tension exist, are also of concern to us. This is particularly true of Latin America, where we praise the efforts made by the Contadora Group, or Asia, where the ASEAN countries continue to make a valuable contribution to peace. The strict observance of the cardinal principles of the Charter, including the peaceful settlement of disputes, non-interference, respect for territorial integrity and national sovereignty, as well as the right of every people freely to choose its future, should be observed by all.

(Mr. Mboumoua, Cameroon)

On the threshold of the twenty-first century we are still faced with the appalling scandal that poverty, disease and illiteracy remain the daily lot of millions of human beings. This unquestionably constitutes a serious threat to the very foundation of the peace and security of nations and of the world. It results from deep structural imbalances in the world economic system. These imbalances, which are found in such spheres as trade, finance, money, technology, industry, transport and communications, exacerbate an already profoundly unfair situation. The industrialized countries determine erratic variations in commodity prices and welcome the advantages they reap. They enjoy the positive results of their balance of trade - which, however, does not always derive from genuinely good economic performance, but rather from depressed terms of trade, speculation and monetary manipulation. The recovery of some of their economies has had no major impact either in terms of true world economic recovery or of the social advantages we might have expected. Neither does it have any substantial positive effect on the economies of poor countries, which continue to bear the brunt of the disastrous effects of this situation, which involves regression, stagnation and excessive indebtedness.

Yet we know that in this era of interdependence individual States cannot resolve today's major economic problems by themselves or in small groups with selfish and narrow interests. This means that when rich countries block every effort to establish a new international economic order they are jeopardizing not only an improved life for the peoples of the South but also the interests of their own peoples. We deplore the lack of political will, which has thus far prevented the beginning of global negotiations, which are the appropriate framework for jointly seeking solutions based on justice and equity.

(Mr. Mboumoua, Cameroon)

The convening earlier this year of a special session on the critical economic situation in Africa testifies to the gravity of the crisis in our continent. We are gratified at the attention the international community has given that situation and, especially, at the General Assembly's adoption of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990. The main lesson of that special session concerns Africa's acknowledgement of its own primary responsibility and commitment regarding the economic and social development of the continent in the framework of the Lagos Plan of Action and Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery adopted by African Heads of State or Government. It also concerns recognition that this commitment can lead to success only if there is similar determination, even a pact of solidarity, on the part of the international community to create a world environment propitious to the success of our countries' efforts to achieve economic, cultural and social development.

We hope that despite an occasional display of hesitancy during the special session, the rich countries will make a concrete contribution in support of Africa's own efforts. It is therefore extremely important that the United Nations and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system work to establish follow-up machinery for the co-ordination of action to be undertaken internationally. Likewise, countries which have expressed their willingness to participate in Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery should make the necessary contact with Africa's national, sub-regional and regional follow-up bodies, and get the priority operations of the plan under way.

As if to exacerbate the problems engendered by the crisis I have just described, natural disasters - of late particularly massive - have stricken the world, plunging families and nations into grief and reminding us all of the common destiny of mankind. My country, Cameroon, was recently the victim of a geological catastrophe which took a particularly heavy toll. The efforts of the Government

(Mr. Mboumoua, Cameroon)

and the people of Cameroon were promptly and massively supported by a great wave of international solidarity. I wish to take this opportunity solemnly to reiterate our gratitude for the good will of all those who came to our aid on that occasion.

My country views the question of human rights and fundamental freedoms as being of great importance. I shall not go again through the arguments which have too long been used to point the finger at certain States; Cameroon believes that human rights should be understood in their broadest and most universal sense, and should take into account the economic, social, legal, civil and political aspects of the concept. In the same way, Cameroon deplores the advent of new kinds of violence that blindly strike out at innocent victims, of which terrorism is the basest and most reprehensible manifestation.

A strange paradox of the twentieth century is that, in the face of serious challenges demanding a high sense of awareness, we are gradually day by day giving up on improving the human condition by taking advantage of the enormous possibilities of the latest achievements of science and technology; instead we are accumulating more and more so-called means of security, which far from guaranteeing security actually point us on the road to the total destruction of mankind.

The problem of world peace and security can no longer be viewed in purely military terms; there is now a close link between peace, security and development. That means that, well beyond purely military aspects, the true foundations of disarmament and international peace and security are to be found in economic justice and equity, in confidence-building measures, and in the promotion of good-neighbourliness and peaceful coexistence.

Africa has always supported initiatives to promote peace, security and constructive co-operation among nations, because we consider peace to be a precondition for stability and development. Consequently, we continue to follow

(Mr. Mboumoua, Cameroon)

closely developments in the relations between the super-Powers, since the actions of the world's two most heavily armed and powerful countries have a great influence on the chances for bringing about peace throughout the world. We hope that the leaders of those two Powers will continue the dialogue they began last November. We hope their meetings will not consist of empty monologues that aggravate international tension, but will rather make it possible to undertake fruitful, constructive action towards the conclusion of specific, effective disarmament agreements. The super-Powers have the responsibility and the duty to take the first steps and to set an example, particularly as regards nuclear disarmament.

(Mr. Mboumoua, Cameroon)

We reiterate that disarmament, the reduction of tension between States, respect for the right to self-determination and independence, the peaceful settlement of disputes and the strengthening of international peace and security are all closely linked. Progress in one of these sectors would have a positive impact on all the others and, by the same token, failure in one sector would necessarily have a negative effect on all the others. It is essential that this be borne in mind if progress is to be made towards an agreement on a realistic programme for comprehensive security for the international community as a whole.

Nevertheless, responsibility for world peace and security cannot rest with the two super-Powers alone. The United Nations should be seen as the regulator of our common higher interests, of which peace and security are the determining elements. It is thus essential to strengthen the role of the United Nations in any approach designed to lead to international peace and security.

We are pleased by the very thorough consideration given to the proposals on these lines made by Cameroon at the last session of the Disarmament Commission. We hope that at the present session, too, the Assembly will give careful attention to this matter.

We welcome the practical steps taken by the Secretary-General to ensure an effective beginning of the work of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, in Lomé, Togo. We hope that this important Centre will have the material and financial support of the international community.

The relationship between disarmament and development is of particular importance. We deplore the postponement of the International Conference to deal with the subject, which it was originally planned to hold in Paris, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/155. We reaffirm our support for the convening of that Conference. Disarmament and development are two of the most pressing needs

(Mr. Mboumoua, Cameroon)

at the present international juncture. The achievement of these goals would make a major contribution to stabilizing international relations, as contemplated in the Charter, to promote the advent of a world free from the threat of war and poverty. However, peace, security and development would not rest on sound foundations if they were not based on a reformed world system geared to universally accepted juridical norms. In this connection we appreciate the dynamism demonstrated by our Organization in its standard-setting activities, in particular the codification and progressive development of international law. The Vienna Convention on the Law on Treaties between States and international organizations or between international organizations is to be attributed to that same dynamism. We hope that any remaining reluctance can be overcome so that this Convention may be put into effect without delay, along with a number of other instruments, in particular the agreement on the creation of a common fund for commodities and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, signed at Montego Bay.

In this connection we welcome the agreement adopted recently on the procedures and mechanisms for considering requests for registration as pioneer investors in sites for exploration of the deep sea-bed and the settlement of disputes relating thereto. This encouraging action should give new life to the work of the next session of the Preparatory Commission of the International Sea-Bed Authority and of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. At the same time, it represents a notable point of reference in progress towards the operational phase of the new juridical régime of the oceans. Cameroon will continue to give active support to this Convention and the work of the Commission, which will pave the way towards a new era of peace, security and economic co-operation in the seas and oceans.

At a time when this effort to codify a revised world legal order should be intensified, it is regrettable that the United Nations, which is the keystone of an

(Mr. Mboumoua, Cameroon)

orderly world system, is as was recently the case with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in the grip of a serious crisis. It is essential above all that all Member States honour their financial commitment to the Organization so that it is not paralysed and can function in a viable fashion and to continue to be the indispensable centre where the nations of the world endeavour to reconcile their views and coexistence for common ethical purposes.

It is undoubtedly these preoccupations that have motivated the appeal made frequently by the Secretary-General since last year. Our country is one of those that responded favourably to that appeal, not only by paying its full part of our quota of the regular budget, but also by making available to the Organization considerable voluntary contributions, notwithstanding our difficult economic situation. This is further evidence of our devotion to the Organization and the ideals, principles and objectives which it represents.

Nevertheless, despite the financial aspects of the present crisis, it is really a reflection of the political will of certain Member States which already enjoy considerable influence and privilege in the Organization to get almost exclusive and sometimes abusive control of its decision-making machinery, thus endangering the ethical basis and even the future of multilateralism. As we had occasion to say last year, if, in order to be effective, the structures and methods of the United Nations must constantly be improved, this must be done by democratization of international relations in order to achieve increasingly effective, dynamic and equitable participation by all the members of the international community in the conduct of world affairs on which the fate of each and every one of us depends.

(Mr. Mboumoua, Cameroon)

It is in the light of these considerations that we shall consider the recommendations submitted to the General Assembly by the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations, and any other proposals relating to the structure, management and budget of the Organization.

It is hoped that wisdom and tolerance will guide the action of all States in the international arena and that the general interest of the international community will prevail over selfish, sectarian considerations. Only then will the United Nations be able to play its full part. In this International Year of Peace, surely the time has come for all of us to reiterate our solemn commitment to work together resolutely to assure and bequeath to future generations a better world free from the scourge of war and the spectre of poverty.

Mr. REID CABRAL (Dominican Republic) (interpretation from Spanish): At this traditional gathering all the peoples of the world converge to reflect once again on the ideals of collective peace and security and to renew our commitment to the principles and values governing the international unification which is enshrined in this Organization. It is therefore a great honour for me in these circumstances to address the United Nations General Assembly at its forty-first session. It is also a great pleasure to convey to you, Mr. President, and to the heads of delegation the greetings of the Dominican people and its newly constituted Government, freely elected by popular suffrage.

This is an excellent opportunity to offer you, Sir, my congratulations on your unanimous election to the prestigious office of President of the current session of the General Assembly. My congratulations are also extended to the other members of the Bureau, with heartfelt wishes that the work entrusted to them will result in an understanding and solution of the many problems afflicting the international community and covering social, economic and political aspects. You may rely on the full support and co-operation of the delegation of the Dominican Republic. You, Sir, your country and your regional group deserve the signal honour of occupying the presidency of the General Assembly. Your outstanding personal and professional skills, as well as your extensive knowledge of the problems and issues affecting international life, and particularly those related to the interests of the developing countries, are a sound guarantee that you will conduct our business with wisdom and objectivity.

We are deeply grateful to your predecessor, the distinguished diplomat Don Jaime de Piniés, a son of Spain - a country to which we owe many of the fundamental features of our culture and to which we are linked by unbreakable bonds

(Mr. Reid Cabral, Dominican Republic)

of friendship. He provided exemplary leadership during the debates of the very important Assembly session commemorating the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations.

My sincere and warm congratulations are extended to the Secretary-General, who has throughout the duration of his mandate displayed abnegation, zeal and complete dedication to the cause championed by the nations assembled in this world Organization. Please accept, Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, our compliments and admiration for your praiseworthy and constructive work to promote the development of the Organization and the leading role which it is playing in the constant search for appropriate solutions to the problems affecting today's world.

The delegation of the Dominican Republic also wishes to express gratitude to the Presidents and Secretaries-General of the United Nations who are no longer with us. The mere fact that so many peoples are associated with cordial solidarity in the ideal of peace which should govern the international order is in itself tangible proof of the work accomplished by them in promoting the values and principles enshrined in its Charter.

For the Dominican Republic, the Charter of the United Nations continues to be the valid structure for the attainment of the goals of peace, social development and world security pursued by this international body. We are aware that the observance of international law, of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and of the norms and practices derived from the multilateral approach to problems will improve relations between States and permit solutions to the major issues affecting mankind.

This is an appropriate time for the Dominican Republic to express special pride to be the host country of the International Research and Training Institute

(Mr. Reid Cabral, Dominican Republic)

for the Advancement of Women, better known as INSTRAW. This international body is devoted to the improvement of women in all spheres - politics, economics, society and the family - in keeping with the cultural characteristics of each society.

These objectives reflect concerns and approaches of the Dominican Government. In 1975, during International Women's Year, it gave a decisive impetus to this item which concerns half, and perhaps slightly over half, of the world's inhabitants. The presence and operation of INSTRAW on our soil will undoubtedly provide an even greater incentive for Dominican women to participate in national development. We are most willing to extend any co-operation that may be necessary in the valuable task performed by the United Nations Institute.

We also wish to announce that, at the request of our Government, the United Nations has established a trust fund for the promotion of a United Nations programme on aging. The creation of such a programme to deal with the economic, social and cultural problems resulting from the aging of the world population has been a concern of our country since 1981.

The holding of the World Assembly on Aging and the formulation of an International Plan of Action on Aging place upon us all as States Members of the United Nations an obligation vis-à-vis future generations to put into practice the concepts set out in such a plan of action.

By a happy coincidence, my first statement to the United Nations General Assembly as Secretary of State for External Relations of the new Government of the Dominican Republic is being given in the context of the celebration of the International Year of Peace. This coincidence could not be more fortunate. The preservation of peace is the fundamental aspiration of the new Dominican Government, both at home and on the international scene. Without peace there can be no economic progress or social development. Without peace there can be no

(Mr. Reid Cabral, Dominican Republic)

harmonious and civilized relations between peoples and nations. Without peace it is impossible to achieve true international solidarity to tackle our shared problems.

For over 25 years now a genuine democratic process has been taking place in the Dominican Republic, with difficulties and set-backs but with firm determination. Barely four months ago, at honest and exemplary elections, the Dominican people, exercising its sacred right of suffrage, elected Dr. Joaquín Balaguer to the highest office in the country.

There is no doubt that the latest Dominican elections constitute a clear manifestation of constitutional reaffirmation and democratic continuity. It was President Balaguer himself who bravely and patriotically paved the way for this process. Not to state this here would be to commit an injustice by overlooking a historical truth.

From this very same rostrum, on 2 October 1961, Dr. Joaquín Balaguer, who was then and is today again President of the Dominican Republic, denounced the atrocities of the Trujillo dictatorship and promised to open the doors of the nation to fundamental freedoms. It fell to him to lay the foundations of our democracy, of which the observance, respect and promotion of human rights is an essential element.*

*Mr. Knipping Victoria (Dominican Republic), Vice-President, took the Chair.

(Mr. Reid Cabral, Dominican Republic)

I should like to take this opportunity to outline some of the basic objectives and goals the newly installed Dominican Government has set itself at the national level. First, I should like to refer to the clear interest taken by our President in enhancing the necessary conditions for the establishment of a genuine climate of national conciliation and harmony. This conciliation stage, a prerequisite for our current democratic life, is the correct framework for promoting the Government's projects and plans for solving the problems oppressing our country.

In his speech upon taking the oath as President of the Dominican Republic on 16 August 1986, Joaquin Balaguer enumerated the basic concepts that will guide the new Administration. Our Government is based on participatory democracy, which fosters an evolution based on the responsibility and interaction of all sectors of our society in the affairs of State. Its objectives are concord and constitutional democratic continuity through sustained economic development. This is therefore a democracy in a republican mould, pluralist and rooted in social justice and in the values of the common welfare prevailing in a free society. It is a political system that recognizes freedom of enterprise as a right.

Mr. Balaguer has set as his first goal the restoration of the country's confidence in the honesty of public servants and in the rectitude of the highest authorities of the nation - confidence, security, stability and development, all within the framework of the ethical principles of Christian democracy and of the categorical imperative of the national interest.

Defining with crystal clarity what would be his attitude towards the people, the Dominican President stated:

"I intend to govern exclusively for the country; I am not going to be the vassal of economic or ideological interests of any kind. Whenever I have to take any decision, I shall openly discuss the problem at issue with the sectors concerned, but my final decision will be the one that conforms to the

(Mr. Reid Cabral, Dominican Republic)

interest of the country and not to that of a particular group. Our Government, to sum up, will not be a Government of accommodations or a weather-vane veering in the direction in which it is blown by the winds of demagoguery."

The political design of the Dominican Government encompasses a strong desire to govern mainly with the younger generations, but without ignoring the experience acquired by mature men who are exemplary citizens.

The aspects of social life the new Dominican Government intends to promote include the upkeep of public works, encouragement of domestic savings and protection of the Dominican forests.

I now wish to refer to the foreign policy of the new Dominican Government. As I said in the first part of my statement, peace is our fundamental goal in the international sphere. The objective of peace will thus be the foundation setting the philosophical tone of all our activity on the international scene. This ideological concept will therefore be very much present in all the principles that shape our foreign policy, which can be summed up as follows: national independence and the interest of the nation; solidarity and friendship with all peace-loving, freedom-loving peoples; the juridical equality of all States; faith in the fundamental rights of the human person; faithful fulfilment of legally contracted international obligations; peaceful settlement of international conflicts and disputes; non-intervention in the affairs of other States; the self-determination of peoples; renunciation of the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State; development and strengthening of good-neighbourliness; international co-operation and, lastly, the establishment of a true international social justice.

In line with our policy of peace, which is simply the reflection of the pacifist vocation of the Dominican people, I wish to refer to a situation that is a

(Mr. Reid Cabral, Dominican Republic)

matter of deep concern to our Government. I refer to the situation in Central America. It is clear that the problems experienced by our brothers in Central America are due principally to the unfair economic, social and political structures that have prevailed for some time now in that part of our America. There lie the roots of the current Central America crisis. For this reason, it is imperative to establish in the region a more open and participatory social order, with fairer and more equitable relations between all the members of the social conglomerate, a social order in which the masses have access to the minimum benefits of civilization and culture, free from continental or extra-continental interference.

The case of El Salvador is one of the most important in that region. The President of that country has again offered all those involved in the armed guerrilla activities the opportunity to participate directly in the new political order of that nation. That offer was made on the basis of principles underlying the peaceful coexistence of a democratic, pluralist and representative society, so that, together, they may build a new El Salvador. This is an example of determination to solve the problems involved in the Central American conflicts.

We acknowledge that if the Central America crisis has not spread into a serious, generalized conflagration it is basically because of the tenacious work done by the Contadora Group. That Group - the most authentic expression of the Latin American pacifist vocation - has created a propitious climate enabling the Central American States, which are the only ones competent to resolve their differences, to find ways to overcome their regional problems through dialogue, negotiation and mutual understanding. The Group has formulated a legal instrument that provides a broad basis for unravelling the political aspects of the crisis and offers substantive solutions to the unfair socio-economic structures causing the problems.

(Mr. Reid Cabral, Dominican Republic)

In this spirit we urge the Central American countries to continue the negotiations on pending matters in accordance with the Contadora Act on Peace and Co-operation in Central America. At the same time, we would encourage States with ties and interests in that region to display political will and offer their strongest backing to the activities being undertaken by the Contadora Group, which reflect the thinking of the entire region.

Another situation that is a constant source of concern to the international community, and particularly to the Latin American region, is the one still existing in the South Atlantic. It is an incontestable fact that, until the situation of the Malvinas Islands is resolved fairly and peacefully, a latent element of disturbance will remain that could affect international peace and security. In this connection we make an urgent appeal to the Governments of Argentina and of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to resume negotiations with a view to finding, as soon as possible, a peaceful solution to the sovereignty dispute and to the other questions linked to that problem.

(Mr. Reid Cabral, Dominican Republic)

The reasoning of the Dominican Republic is that there is no international dispute or conflict that cannot be resolved through the means of peaceful settlement provided by international law and by the Charter of the United Nations.

Continuing the examination of some of the main trouble spots that could jeopardize the maintenance of international peace and security, I wish to refer to the situation still existing in Korea and to the relations between the two communities inhabiting that peninsula. On this occasion, our delegation echoes the wish - already expressed previously by the General Assembly - that ways be found of solving the Korean problem. We hope that in accordance with the principles of the Charter and through the machinery provided by the United Nations, those two countries will succeed in establishing peaceful relations, reducing the tension in that part of the world. This would represent a step towards the restoration of peace in an important part of our world, as well as an effort by our international organization to promote dialogue and mutual co-operation between the two communities.

A constant element of international conduct is defence of the principle of self-determination of peoples and of the right of peoples freely to decide which form of government they consider best suited to their national interests.

Unswerving attachment to those principles compels us to voice before this gathering of the international community our profound concern at the situation existing in various parts of the world, where foreign interference is undermining the sacred rights of national sovereignty and independence.

For all those reasons, we share the grave concern of the international community at the continuing foreign armed intervention in Afghanistan. Consequently, we supported the resolutions on the subject adopted by the United Nations, which advocate a political solution to this situation based on the

(Mr. Reid Cabral, Dominican Republic)

withdrawal of foreign troops and full respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan.

We express similar concern at the continuing conflicts and tension in Kampuchea. We believe that only a negotiating process aimed at finding a comprehensive political solution through peaceful means would be able to reduce that tension and to establish the necessary conditions to enable the people of Kampuchea to exercise its right to self-determination.

In this part of my statement, devoted to consideration of the principal conflicts and situations that constitute a real source of concern in the context of efforts to achieve peace, I must necessarily refer to the situation in the Middle East. There is no topic of greater concern to international public opinion than the Middle East. It is the desire of the delegation and people of the Dominican Republic to approach with complete impartiality and fairness the complex situation in the Middle East, because of the effects of such confrontations on the international political balance and hence on world peace.

The Dominican Republic is firmly of the opinion that any peace solution in the Middle East should adhere very closely to Security Council resolution 242 (1967), which notes the existence of the State of Israel and its right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries. But it is also undeniable that the problem of the Palestinians is a crucial one, which must be solved. We therefore support all initiatives and efforts conducive to peace and stability in that region.

The situation in Lebanon, a country cruelly torn by fratricidal struggles, is extremely alarming. It is the moral obligation of the international community to help the parties involved to negotiate a just and lasting peace and to extend its full co-operation in the restoration of Lebanon's sovereignty.

The bloody war in the Persian Gulf between Iran and Iraq, with enormous ensuing problems for the belligerent parties as well as for neighbouring countries,

(Mr. Reid Cabral, Dominican Republic)

may lead to an expansion of the area of conflict and to an increase in destruction. This war is an example of the irrationality which sometimes prevails in international relations.

The occupation of the territory of Cyprus and the risk of its partition are also alarming. Such situations undermine the confidence placed in the principles and norms governing the international order and therefore must not be tolerated.

All forms of discrimination on grounds of race, sex, language or religion are odious to the conscience of mankind. An act of discrimination against someone because of the colour of his skin is a morally reprehensible, socially unjust and truly unworthy act. It is therefore regrettable that political systems are still being established with racial distinctions at their base.

Apartheid is therefore a crime against humanity and a threat to international peace and security. We condemn the policy pursued by the South African régime and identify ourselves with the efforts of the United Nations to help to establish a democratic society in that country. Such a society should guarantee respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, irrespective of race, colour, sex or religion.

It is obvious that any form of colonialism or foreign domination contains the seeds of a threat to current international relations. For this reason, we express our deep concern at the continuing illegal occupation of Namibia by the South African régime, in flagrant violation of the resolutions of the United Nations. The Dominican Republic has been and still is a stubborn champion of the independence of subjugated communities and considers that this process of emancipation must not be interrupted. We therefore support all the efforts undertaken by the United Nations and by other countries to achieve the independence and autonomy of Namibia. We also advocate the retention by Namibia of its entire cultural patrimony and of all the resources in its possession. Our country and

(Mr. Reid Cabral, Dominican Republic)

its new Government reiterate their firm opinion that Security Council resolution 435 (1978) remains the only basis for the peaceful settlement of the situation in Namibia.

The Government of the Dominican Republic views with great alarm the upsurge of international terrorism, which may become a danger to the right of preservation of States and an imminent risk for the maintenance of peace. This practice has become so extensive and frequent that it currently constitutes one of the most pernicious forms of violation of human rights. It is also one of the practices with the greatest divisive power, creating international tensions that may provoke serious conflicts.

Another dangerous practice I wish to mention is the narcotics trade - a scourge that has the most merciless effects on mankind. The Dominican Republic sympathizes with any activity designed to combat the underlying causes of this social evil and to establish effective machinery to fight drug trafficking. The Dominican Republic urges the United Nations to appoint a commission to study the problem of the narcotics trade and its prejudicial effects on the life of our peoples, so that we may find a solution to that serious evil.

(Mr. Reid Cabral, Dominican Republic)

The flight of capital and administrative corruption are two more evils afflicting human society. The Government of the Dominican Republic is appalled and highly alarmed at those practices, which are becoming endemic. We believe that the problems caused by the flight of capital and administrative corruption should be included on the agenda of the next United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. That would ensure that the necessary measures are taken to guarantee a concerted and sustained co-operative effort to deal internationally with such crimes as administrative corruption, tax evasion and flight of capital. We therefore make a formal request for international solidarity in the condemnation of any form of national and international administrative corruption. Many problems faced by our countries would be surmounted or minimized if the huge amount of capital deposited in foreign banks were to be reinvested in the countries of origin.

The global economic situation too demands our attention. We have for several years been immersed in an economic crisis, the worst since the 1930s. As was to be expected, it is those who are least prepared to face it that the crisis has hit hardest. We refer to those who are suffering the most adverse consequences: the developing countries. The deterioration of their economies necessitates a new approach to economic problems, one guaranteeing that the correlation between peace and development is maintained.

In the past few months there have been promising changes in global macro-economic variables. Among the changes beneficial to the economies of our countries are: United States monetary expansion and its effects on international liquidity, the decline in the value of the dollar and in interest rates on United States and international capital markets, and the notable drop in the price of oil and oil products. Nevertheless, there are persistent unfavourable factors in the

(Mr. Reid Cabral, Dominican Republic)

global panorama, including the protectionism implicit in the decline of the United States dollar, the reluctance of the principal industrialized countries to assume an aggressive leadership role in the upswing of international free trade, and the refusal of the banks to bear the consequences of the risk they took when they lent what they are now trying to collect from us.

In view of the distressing state of affairs provoked by the economic crisis it may be stated confidently that the large burden of social tensions resting upon almost two thirds of the world's population as a result of this crisis constitutes a serious threat to international peace and security. It could be said without exaggeration that nearly all the Latin American and Caribbean countries have been seriously affected by the current economic and financial crisis. Among all the economic problems facing our nations, external indebtedness is becoming the most burdensome. According to reliable figures, Latin America will have to devote the equivalent of one third of its total export earnings to interest payments alone.

In the case of the Dominican Republic, certain aggravating circumstances exist in relation to its overwhelming external debt. In recent years our country has undergone a highly painful process of adjustment. That was asked of us, and we complied. Today we are an example of a successful case for the International Monetary Fund. But what have we obtained in exchange? The obligation to renegotiate our external debt every one or two years? The obligation to continue to bear the unfortunate consequences of the Common Market's subsidies to its sugar producers?

If our creditors are pressing us to pay them on time they must help us demolish the protectionist tariff barriers set up by the industrial world. Otherwise, the creditor banks will suffer with us the negative consequences of protectionism. Ultimately this will aggravate the situation, postponing once again the solution of the debt crisis, with its incalculable social repercussions.

(Mr. Reid Cabral, Dominican Republic)

In addition to the terrible situation created by the need for debt repayment, which is difficult in itself, we are also facing excessive growth in unemployment, a decline in real wages, constant inflationary pressure and a consequent deterioration in the quality of life.

In speaking of the world economic crisis and the need for international co-operation to avert or alleviate this state of affairs, I have been unable to put out of my mind the fine example of solidarity that was given here in the United Nations when the situation in Africa was being studied. The extraordinary feeling of solidarity present in our peoples was apparent on that occasion. Imbued with that profound sense of solidarity and because Haiti and the Dominican Republic are the only two free countries to share an island, I should like on behalf of the Government and the people of the Dominican Republic to exhort the international community in general and the Latin American region in particular to launch a crusade of international assistance to the sister Republic of Haiti.

After long years submerged in a dark labyrinth of oppression, suffering and poverty, the Haitian people is currently struggling to establish a real State based on the rule of law, and a climate of freedom in which equality, law, justice and respect for human rights reign. We must therefore help our brethren in Haiti in their brave effort to create a democratic society.

I cannot let this opportunity pass without referring to one of the most serious of universal concerns, which in my opinion involves the possibility of the extinction of mankind: nuclear war. It is not my intention to paint a sombre and fatalistic picture as I deal with this topic, but I want my words to carry a power of persuasion sufficient to underline and emphasize the real danger to the human race represented by the outbreak of a nuclear conflagration. The power of nuclear weapons to wreak mass destruction and annihilation is so catastrophic that the

(Mr. Reid Cabral, Dominican Republic)

foreseeable result of a nuclear war would unquestionably be universal disaster. That horrifying prospect should touch our most sensitive cords and move us to reflect on the urgency and advisability of negotiations on the control of nuclear weapons.

In view of those considerations, the Dominican Republic has supported the convening of an international conference on the relationship between disarmament and development. We trust that at its forty-first session the General Assembly will be able to set a definite time and place for the holding of that conference in 1987.

(Mr. Reid Cabral, Dominican Republic)

According to the numerous reports of the Secretary-General, the financial situation of the United Nations is truly critical. We very much appreciate the interest shown by the Secretary-General in overcoming this difficult situation. Accordingly, we support the package of measures he has formulated to alleviate the current crisis. We are confident that the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts established to deal with the problem will be able to evolve suitable measures to resolve it. The Dominican Government will do everything in its power to help to negotiate these difficult economic straits.

In conclusion, I should like to leave with the Assembly the points I have mentioned which I believe should be the subject of particular thought.

Acts of terrorism, which formerly served to express repugnance towards tyrannical Governments, are now daily occurrences in countries with democratic régimes, where public freedoms are fully exercised. Terrorism has penetrated free and democratic societies with its divisive and criminal action. It is imperative that international bodies start a concerted search for immediate solutions to the problem.

The trade in narcotic drugs is causing the physical and moral destruction of our young people, and the day is not far off when the capital acquired through drug-trafficking will be used to finance political operations that are contrary to the democratic essence that we hope will predominate in our world.

The problem of the external debt of the poor part of America must be tackled bravely and wisely. It is essential to set long repayment periods and low interest rates for the debt as a whole, but then it is necessary for us creatively to invent financial compensation formulas that do not condemn our peoples to poverty, oppression or the indefinite postponement of their economic development. It is possible, within legal limits and in accordance with the national interest, for shares in firms of debtor countries to be sold to creditor countries. Thus, where

(Mr. Reid Cabral, Dominican Republic)

there are foreign exchange shortages debtors and creditors could become partners. Similarly, there should be a study of the possibility of granting to creditors for periods contractually agreed on, without prejudice to national sovereignty, the use of geographical areas suitable for tourism to generate income that could be applied to the payment of the external debt.

On behalf of the Dominican Government and people, I thank you, Sir, and the Assembly for this opportunity to speak here to explain my country's thinking about what is happening in the world and is affecting us all. The Dominican Republic will spare no effort to retain its place in the concert of free nations fighting for the preservation of peace, respect for human rights and the creation of development opportunities for their peoples, all within a democratic régime which upholds the principle of free enterprise.

Mr. MAYE ELA (Equatorial Guinea) (interpretation from Spanish): I am honoured and proud to express, on behalf of His Excellency Mr. Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, our warm congratulations to Mr. Humayun Rasheed Choudhury of Bangladesh on his election to preside over the General Assembly at its forty-first session. His election to that important post is seen by the people of Equatorial Guinea as recognition of his personal qualities and accomplishments and as a well-deserved tribute to the role and prestige of Bangladesh, his country, in international affairs.

As is traditional, I congratulate his predecessor, Ambassador Jaime de Piniés, on the able and experienced manner in which he presided over the General Assembly at its forty-first session and at the special session on the critical economic situation of our continent, Africa. His impartiality and firm dedication commanded the admiration and praise of the whole international community.

I wish also to express the appreciation of the Government and people of Equatorial Guinea of the constant efforts in the sphere of international relations

(Mr. Maye Ela, Equatorial Guinea)

made by the Secretary-General, Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, in favour of peace; his role as mediator in the dispute between New Zealand and France; and his role in the separate negotiations between the parties to the Western Sahara dispute to establish a cease-fire and organize a referendum there, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations.

When we proclaimed 1986 the International Year of Peace, we were guided by the conviction that the promotion of international peace and security required a serious commitment by States to take resolute action in favour of the non-use of force, the solution of disputes by peaceful means, non-interference in the internal affairs of others, disarmament, decolonization and the elimination of all forms of discrimination. Similarly, the promotion of peace involves a collective, sustained effort to promote development. To that end, there have been many public events throughout the world, which have made it possible to sensitize world public opinion to the urgent need for thought and for systematic, innovative action to achieve the goals set by the United Nations. But we must recognize that the international scene is still, as in past years, giving cause for concern, owing to the persistence of many hotbeds of tension, the worsening of certain conflicts, the widening of differences between the rich and poor nations and the continuation of the unchecked arms race.

Equatorial Guinea reiterates its appeal to the international community to try once again to see that the dialogue between the super-Powers prospers and that the forums for understanding intensify their work. We harbour the hope that the desirable strengthening of a climate of dialogue and greater trust in international relations will lead in a relatively short time to a drastic reduction of nuclear arsenals, a complete ban on chemical weapons, the halting of the arms race and significant advances in conventional disarmament. We are encouraged that following a period of alienation and uncertainty we now see a prospect of understanding between the great Powers.

(Mr. Maye Ela, Equatorial
Guinea)

The international economic situation remains a source of concern and gives rise to uncertainties. This has serious consequences for the future. The growth of production in world trade has slowed considerably. The developing countries in particular are still confronting exceptionally difficult circumstances. The machinery of international co-operation, which could have helped to mitigate these problems, has to a great extent become ineffective. The developing countries are urged to undertake drastic adjustments in the unfavourable international economic system. Their efforts are obstructed by a sharpening of protectionist barriers, a sharp economic decline and an ever more intolerable debt burden. International trade, which has been an important instrument for development in the past and an effective channel to guarantee the mutual benefit of all nations, has been blocked, mainly by the growing trend towards protectionism. These adverse factors, together with a grave shrinking of financial flows, an alarming increase in the debt-servicing burden and monetary instability have led to the ironic phenomenon of the reverse transfer of resources from the developing countries to the developed.

The international economic system remains characterized by structural imbalances and therefore it is the economically weak countries that have to bear the weight of world-wide economic setbacks and are the ones that suffer the most. Their vulnerable economies are subjected to downward adjustments, which has a critical effect on their development process.

It is in that context that the Republic of Equatorial Guinea is considering the start of the new round of multilateral trade negotiations in Punta del Este, Uruguay, as the beginning of concerted efforts to reverse the trend of erosion in the international trade system. The new round should also give us an opportunity to make international trade more free.

(Mr. Maye Ela, Equatorial
Guinea)

Five months ago, here in the United Nations, a special session of the General Assembly was held on the critical economic situation in Africa. That was the first occasion in the history of our Organization when a session of that type had been held for the exclusive consideration of the problems of a given region: our continent. The special session made it possible to discuss and examine in detail the level and scope of the economic crisis which is afflicting our continent. The adoption of the United Nations Programme of Action for the Economic Recovery and Development of Africa for the coming five years is a symbol of firm political support by the international community to Africa in its adjustment and development efforts within the framework of its Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990. None the less, in spite of the fact that that special session commanded an encouraging consensus in adopting a Programme of Action, that unanimous support was not immediately followed by concrete financing offers. We hope that the international community will make efforts to mobilize resources and set that recovery programme under way.

As we have stated from this rostrum on many occasions, the Government of Equatorial Guinea, on the basis of changes that took place in the country in August 1979, has successfully carried out the difficult but noble task of restoring, in accordance with our basic laws, the executive, legislative and judicial powers. It has achieved considerable progress in the social and political spheres. The peace and tranquillity prevailing in the country bear witness to that.

Unfortunately, and despite the efforts the Government is unceasingly making, the economic situation in my country, which is only a consequence of the situation inherited from an earlier period and the widespread world crisis, still has many obstacles to overcome, since Equatorial Guinea, as a devastated, underdeveloped

(Mr. Maye Ela, Equatorial
Guinea)

and least developed country, immediately feels the harmful effects of that world crisis. Nevertheless, in the context of the work done by my Government to create a solid basis for sound economic recovery, for the rehabilitation and development of the country, negotiations at the level of our subregion in Central Africa have been carried out successfully, with the result that Equatorial Guinea has joined the Economic and Customs Union of the Central African States. Likewise, the President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea has signed the treaty of admission for our country as a member of the Bank of the Central African States. We believe that with this process our national efforts join together with those of the subregion in our shared struggle against the underdevelopment, hunger and poverty which afflict our populations. It is in the framework of this effort to rehabilitate and develop in my country that I take the opportunity to express my Government's gratitude for the aid and support that friendly countries and international organizations have always given to the Republic of Equatorial Guinea since 3 August 1979; and, given the long road ahead of us, we are confident and hopeful that that assistance will be broadened and diversified, on the basis of resolution 38/224 adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 1983.

As we are holding this forty-first session of the General Assembly of the United Nations the economic situation of the overwhelming majority of States Members of this great family is becoming increasingly critical and solutions to emerge from the crisis are ever more distant, since the imbalance now characterizing international relations still persists. If some improvements are recorded in the political, social and cultural spheres, the influence of ideological blocs and so-called strategic interests and the selective protection of human rights based on criteria that do not take into account the specific characteristics of countries and peoples, prompts us to draw the overall conclusion

(Mr. Maye Ela, Equatorial
Guinea)

that negotiations aimed at redressing imbalances and unfairness are in a state of stagnation. The Summit Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity held at Lagos in 1980, the New Delhi Declaration of the Non-Aligned Movement dated 1983, the intense activities of the Group of 77, the proposals by the 11 Latin American countries for the solution of the foreign-debt problem - to mention just a few - are initiatives that should meet with a response from the developed countries in order to co-operate in such a way as to make it possible for a fair exchange to take place between North and South, because it must be accepted that the growth and stability of the North are related to the speedy development of the South. The worsening of the international economic crisis emphasizes the urgent need to apply in relations among States the principles of the United Nations Charter, bearing in mind the interdependence of trade. The constant increase in the balance-of-payment deficits of the underdeveloped countries and the increase in their foreign debt must lead to fair prices being paid for the raw materials they produce, as well as to the establishment of appropriate measures to make it possible not only for the rich to be further enriched but also for the economic conditions of poor countries to improve considerably.

We hope that the resolutions and recommendations of an economic nature which will be adopted at this session of the General Assembly will not only confirm the need for the objectives of the poorer countries to be met but also lead to a practical and positive reaction which will guarantee that such a contribution will be made. At the same time, the international financial organizations should contribute, as an example, to the attainment of those objectives.

(Mr. Maye Ela, Equatorial Guinea)

In keeping with the constant efforts of the Government of Equatorial Guinea to democratize the country, the House of People's Representatives, at its regular session from 10 to 17 April 1985, adopted an agreement requesting that the Government create and institutionalize of a political organization. In implementation of the plan of action of the Economical and Social Council of the United Nations, in accordance with resolutions 1982/36, 1983/35, 1984/36 and 1984/51, on 4 July 1986 it adopted Law No. 7/1986 on political parties in our country. Since the adoption by referendum, on 15 August 1982, of a new Constitution clearly establishing the system of separation of powers, the process of democratization in Equatorial Guinea that began on 3 August 1979 has remained incomplete because so far our country has lacked any political organization capable of assuming the functions reserved by political science to a country's political party.

Although it does not prohibit a Western system of pluralism, the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, like other African countries of the region with which we are waging a joint struggle to achieve development in accordance with our political, economic and socio-cultural characteristics, must, until our experience and level of development warrant the contrary, adopt a political organization within a unified system.

My delegation is deeply concerned at the wave of terrorist attacks throughout the world in recent years. It is regrettable that such acts should persist in spite of the efforts made by the international community to prevent them. Terrorism affects human lives, without distinction as to nationality or race, threatens relations of friendship and co-operation between States and jeopardizes international peace and security. Equatorial Guinea is firmly convinced that terrorism has no legal justification and that it can never be acceptable.

Another major threat to mankind is the existence of the drug problem. The danger caused by the unlawful use of drugs is giving rise to ever greater alarm.

(Mr. Maye Ela, Equatorial Guinea)

We must unite our efforts and do everything in our power to reduce and eventually eradicate the threat which this scourge poses to our families and peoples. My delegation expresses its profound concern at the growing danger of the unlawful use of and illicit traffic in drugs. At the national level our country is exerting tireless efforts and adopting firm and effective measures to root out this evil.

We believe that were it not for the racist régime established in South Africa that country's multiracial population would have found channels of understanding and peaceful coexistence within an atmosphere of equality. Realism and sincere commitment to human rights demand that the still-reluctant Western Powers join the international community in applying the measures needed to eradicate all traces of the abhorrent policy of apartheid. From 16 to 20 June, the international community took a unanimous stand on the situation in southern Africa. The Security Council must now adopt mandatory resolutions reflecting the will of the vast majority of the world's countries, thereby fulfilling the basic and historic responsibility for international peace and security vested in it by the United Nations Charter.

Our Organization must define a programme of assistance to the front-line countries and to the brave combatants of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC), the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC) and the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) in keeping with the international community's duty to those fighting for their freedom.

Equatorial Guinea reiterates its position that South Africa's presence in Namibia, being illegal, must be ended. We reaffirm our support for SWAPO and repeat that conditions and situations unrelated to the Territory of Namibia must not be allowed to affect or delay Namibia's accession to independence.

(Mr. Maye Ela, Equatorial Guinea)

The Republic of Equatorial Guinea hopes that the wisdom and spirit of African solidarity will make it possible for the various Governments that control the continent's destiny to preserve the Organization of African Unity (OAU) from attempts to destroy it.

Equatorial Guinea expresses the hope that, within the Security Council, a preparatory committee will be set up to carry out the preliminary work for the convening of an international conference on the Middle East. Nevertheless, it is also necessary and appropriate for the parties to the Israeli-Lebanese conflict, as rational human beings, to attempt to put an end to that tragic situation through dialogue and negotiation in a spirit free of pride and passion and on the basis of realism, in keeping with the right of the Palestinian people to create their own State in the region, the right of Israel to exist within legal and secure borders and the right of Lebanon to regain its sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence.

Since the outbreak of the war between Iran and Iraq, sister countries fated to live for ever in close proximity, Equatorial Guinea has urged them to put an end to that senseless fratricide. We urge all the peoples of the world to seek ways of persuading the warring parties to reach a peaceful settlement.

One Member of our Organization, Kampuchea, is now the arena of violence because of the presence of foreign forces on its soil. We reaffirm our solidarity and support for the proposal that guarantees the return of all the Kampuchean refugees now in neighbouring countries and a peaceful solution that can ensure respect for the national independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity not only of Kampuchea but of all the countries of the region.

We are extremely concerned at the tense situation in Central America and urge all the parties involved to use dialogue to find peaceful solutions to their disputes.

(Mr. Maye Ela, Equatorial Guinea)

We encourage the efforts of the Contadora Group to find a peaceful, equitable solution to the conflict in Central America, a region with which Equatorial Guinea has cultural and historical ties. We hope that the initiatives of the Contadora Group will lead to an overall solution of the problem and restore peace and security to that region.

In Afghanistan there have been no signs of preservation of that country's sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence notwithstanding the international community's insistence that only the withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan can guarantee the Afghan people their inalienable right to self-determination and to choose the economic and political system most conducive to their interests, free from foreign interference or influence. The efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General to find a peaceful solution that will facilitate the return of the Afghan refugees to their homeland should therefore be supported in order to establish guidelines for the restoration of peace and tranquillity in Afghanistan, as well as in neighbouring countries that are also victims of the situation now prevailing in the region of South-West Asia.

The tragedy of Cyprus has persisted for many years and there appears to be no shortage of intermediaries or settlement plans. Although all sorts of alternatives have been advanced, the proposal to resolve the Cyprus problem at an international conference sponsored by the United Nations remains stubbornly shelved.

(Mr. Maye Ela, Equatorial Guinea)

The Mediterranean must not be allowed to become a trouble spot where the bludgeon of neo-globalism is brandished, a bludgeon sometimes used without thought of the consequences, as in many cases with which we are familiar.

We support the unification of the Korean Peninsula and invite the leaders of the respective Governments to create conditions conducive to the resumption of negotiations, which we hope will lead to a successful conclusion for the entire Korean people. Third countries should work to achieve that peaceful reunification, so that Korea can take its rightful place in the concert of nations.

Since 1945 mankind has felt the need to unite in international co-operation designed to save future generations from the scourge of war, and we believe there is a need to reaffirm and strictly observe the principles set forth in our Organization's Charter.

This world is for all of us, and we can hardly find another like it in some other part of the universe. It is man who makes life enjoyable. But how can that same man rob his fellow man of what cannot be given as a gift? I am referring to life, that indescribable treasure that the frantic arms race is threatening with extinction. To protect lives that cannot exceed 130 years - the lives of human beings - we are embarking on unthinkable and inhuman practices that threaten the future of coming generations. Let us be reasonable with that future.

The PRESIDENT: I shall now call on those representatives who wish to speak in exercise of the right of reply.

May I remind members that, in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, statements in exercise of the right of reply are limited to 10 minutes for the first intervention and to five minutes for the second intervention and should be made by representatives from their seats.

Mr. ORAMAS OLIVA (Cuba) (interpretation from Spanish): The representative of the Salvadoran régime in a statement this morning, referred to Cuba, and to an alleged revolution of freedom taking place in his country, with the undoubted participation of the killers of American nuns, who are now in power in El Salvador. What is certainly a true reference in that statement is his reference to the bloodshed and pain in that country, for which he shares the responsibility. Today, abuses of human rights in El Salvador are so much a matter of routine that they do not even make the headlines anymore.

That representative of El Salvador stated that his country has changed. According to the Church in El Salvador itself, in 1985, the death squads killed 136 people, the security forces 10, the army 73, and the so-called civil defence organization 21. Indiscriminate killings by the army caused over 371 deaths, and 1,045 civilians were killed by the army in military operations that remind us of the massacres committed by Batista's army in our own country.

This, together with the impunity enjoyed by the Salvadoran armed forces and the power of the military killers, together with the use of coercion and other abuses in resettlement policies, the destruction of crops and the torturing of political prisoners, among other things, is what so-called representational democracy has brought to the people of El Salvador - a system which is maintained in power through injections of dollars and the presence of American advisers in the territory.

The spokesman of that régime said this morning that President Duarte and his Government are fulfilling their promises. Those killed and those tortured bear true witness as to how those promises are being kept.

Nevertheless, we do agree with him when he says:

"Hence we are sure that, after a long dark night of hatred and rancour, soon the dawn will break and all Salvadorians will proudly join in singing these lines of our national anthem." (A/41/PV.26, p. 26)

(Mr. Oramas Oliva, Cuba)

That dawn will come when the true representatives of the people of El Salvador, the heroic fighters of the Farabundo Marti and Revolutionary Democratic Fronts, free their country from all the trials suffered by the Salvadorian people in a dark night of rancour, hatred, and death.

Mr. MELENDEZ (El Salvador) (interpretation from Spanish): I just want to refer to a few points familiar to the international community in connection with the progress that has been made in El Salvador.

I should just like to say that there are five reports by the Commission on Human Rights for El Salvador, and a careful study of those reports reveals the favourable evolution brought about by the Government of El Salvador, especially in the field of human rights.

In El Salvador, there is a political crisis, there is an economic crisis, and there is a social crisis. And at a certain moment that social crisis has been fuelled by external factors - factors that in the main are alien to the ideology of our own people's culture. We ourselves now indeed believe that there has been a change in El Salvador, a change that has been seen by the mass of the Salvadorian people, and has been observed by international observers. I should merely like to remind the Assembly that it is possible to refer to the report of the Special Representative to see the type of change that has taken place. That report demonstrates that a change has indeed occurred in El Salvador.

PROGRAMME OF WORK

The PRESIDENT: I should now like to give members an outline of the tentative programme of plenary meetings in order to help delegations plan their work.

On Friday, 10 October, in the afternoon, the Assembly will take up agenda item 16, "Appointment of the Secretary General of the United Nations", and begin the consideration of agenda item 38, "Review of the efficiency of the

(The President)

administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations".

On Thursday, 16 October, the Assembly will take up agenda item 22, "Co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference"; item 15 (a), "Election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council"; and item 15 (b), "Election of 18 members of the Economic and Social Council".

On Friday, 17 October, in the morning, the Assembly will consider agenda item 27, "Co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity"; agenda item 30, "Co-operation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee"; and agenda item 23, "Co-operation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States".

Beginning Monday, 20 October, the Assembly will take up agenda item 25, "The situation in Kampuchea".

On Tuesday, 21 October, in the afternoon, the Assembly will begin its consideration of agenda item 29, "Critical economic situation in Africa".

On Thursday, 23 October, in the afternoon, the Assembly will begin its consideration of agenda item 21, "International Year of Peace".

On Monday, 27 October, the Assembly will take up agenda item 139, "Zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic".

Beginning on Tuesday, 28 October, the Assembly will take up agenda item 14, "Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency".

On Wednesday, 29 October, in the afternoon, the Assembly will begin its consideration of agenda item 24, "Armed Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations and its grave consequences for the established international system concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and international peace and security".

On Friday, 31 October, in the morning, the commemorative meeting devoted to

(The President)

the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the International Covenants on Human Rights will be celebrated by the General Assembly.

On Monday, 3 November, the Assembly will take up agenda item 7, "Notification by the Secretary-General under Article 12, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations"; item 10, "Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization"; item 11, "Report of the Security Council"; item 13, "Report of the International Court of Justice"; and item 31, "Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte".

Beginning on Tuesday, 4 November, in the morning, the Assembly will take up agenda item 26, "The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security".

On Wednesday, 5 November, in the afternoon, the Assembly will begin its consideration of agenda item 33, "Policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa".

On Tuesday, 11 November, in the morning, the Assembly will take up agenda item 17 (d), "Election of the members of the International Law Commission".

(The President)

In the afternoon of that same day, the Assembly will consider agenda item 32, "Law of the sea", and item 34, "United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy".

On Wednesday, 12 November, in the morning, the Assembly will begin its consideration of agenda item 42, "The situation in Central America: threats to international peace and security and peace initiatives".

On Friday, 14 November, in the morning, the Assembly will begin its consideration of agenda item 36, "Question of Namibia".

On Wednesday, 19 November, the Assembly will consider agenda item 142, "Declaration of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity on the aerial and naval military attack against the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya by the present United States Administration in April 1986".

On Friday, 21 November, in the morning, the Assembly will begin its consideration of agenda item 35, "Question of Palestine".

On Monday, 24 November, in the morning, the Assembly will begin its consideration of item 28, "Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)".

In the afternoon of the same day, the Assembly will continue its consideration of agenda item 35, "Question of Palestine".

On Tuesday, 25 November, in the morning, the Assembly will conclude its consideration of item 28, "Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)".

On the same day, in the afternoon, and on the next day, 26 November, in the morning, the Assembly will continue with item 35, "Question of Palestine".

On Wednesday, 26 November, in the afternoon, the Assembly will begin its consideration of item 37, "The situation in the Middle East", and will continue this on 28 November, Friday.

(The President)

On Monday, 1 December, in the morning, the Assembly will take up agenda item 19, "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples".

Furthermore, the Pledging Conference for Development Activities will be held on Thursday, 13 November and Friday, 14 November; and the announcement of voluntary contributions to the 1987 programmes of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees will be held on Friday, 14 November, in the morning; and the announcement of voluntary contributions to the 1987 programmes of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) will be held on Monday, 24 November, in the afternoon.

It is of course understood that reports of Main Committees will be considered as and when they become available.

I should like to underscore here that the programme announced is tentative and subject to changes depending on the list of speakers and other related organizational, as well as substantive, considerations. Considerations of items not mentioned in the outline of the programme of work may also be taken up subject to relevant developments and consultations among Members. As we proceed with our work, confirmation of the schedule of our work will be conveyed to the Assembly from time to time.

AGENDA ITEM 39

QUESTION OF PEACE, STABILITY AND CO-OPERATION IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA

The PRESIDENT: I should now like to turn to agenda item 39, "Question of peace, stability and co-operation in South-East Asia". As a result of consultations, it is my understanding that it would be desirable to defer consideration of this item to the forty-second session of the General Assembly.

(The President)

I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to defer consideration of this item and to include it in the provisional agenda of the forty-second session.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: That concludes consideration of agenda item 39.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.