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Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Friday, 10 October 1986, at 3 p.m.

President:

Mr. CHOUDHURY

(Bangladesh)

- Appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations [16]
- Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations [38]:
  - (a) Report of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations
  - (b) Note by the Secretary-General

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The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 16

APPOINTMENT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

- (a) LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (A/41/696)
- (b) DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/41/L.1)

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has before it a letter dated 10 October 1986 from the President of the Security Council to the President of the General Assembly (A/41/696). That letter reads as follows:

"I have the honour to inform you that the Security Council, at its 2714th meeting, held in private on 10 October 1986, unanimously adopted resolution 589 (1986) concerning the appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The resolution reads as follows:

"The Security Council,

"Having considered the question of the recommendation for the appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations,

"Recommends to the General Assembly that Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar be appointed Secretary-General of the United Nations for a second term of office from 1 January 1987 to 31 December 1991.

"(Signed) Mohammad Hussain AL-SHAALI

"President of the Security Council"

In connection with the recommendation of the Security Council, the General Assembly has before it a draft resolution submitted in document A/41/L.1 by Australia, Bulgaria, China, Congo, Denmark, France, Ghana, Madagascar, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United

(The President)

States of America and Venezuela. That is the only document before the Assembly on which action is required.

I call on the representative of the United Arab Emirates, Mr. Mohammad Hussain Al-Shaali, who is also President of the Security Council.

Mr. AL-SHAALI (United Arab Emirates) (interpretation from Arabic): In my capacity as President of the Security Council for this month, I have the honour and the privilege to address the General Assembly on the occasion of a notable event - the appointment of the Secretary-General - at a critical time in the life of our Organization.

At its 2714th meeting on 10 October 1986, the Security Council adopted unanimously resolution 589 (1986), which you, Mr. President, have just read out.

Pursuant to that unanimous recommendation of the Security Council, a draft resolution submitted by the members of the Council (A/41/L.1) has been circulated, and I should like now to introduce it, on their behalf, to the General Assembly.

The draft resolution proposes that the General Assembly of the United Nations should appoint Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuellar as Secretary-General of the United Nations for a second term of office of five years, beginning on 1 January 1987. In so doing, the Security Council has taken note of the outstanding qualities of Mr. Pérez de Cuellar, his dedication, impartiality and effectiveness in serving the higher interests of the international community and his unique contribution to an enlightened perception of the potential of our Organization during his first term of office as Secretary-General of the United Nations. Indeed, the great negotiating skill, sharp vision and unwavering sense of duty and scrupulous respect for the purposes and principles of the Charter which he has displayed throughout his long and multi-dimensional experience in the service of the Organization are well known and appreciated by its members.

(Mr. Al-Shaali, United Arab Emirates)

It is our conviction that at a time when renewed efforts are required to strengthen and revitalize the Organization, the outstanding qualities of leadership demonstrated by Mr. Perez de Cuellar during his first term of office will enable the Organization in the days ahead to rise to the challenge and find viable solutions to the problems confronting the United Nations.

I hope that, in accordance with the unanimous recommendation of the Security Council, the General Assembly will adopt unanimously the draft resolution which the 15 States members of the Council have submitted to it. That would be a renewed expression of the support that Member States intend to give to Mr. Perez de Cuellar in discharging the extremely complex responsibilities of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The PRESIDENT: The President of the Security Council has just proposed that draft resolution A/41/L.1 be adopted unanimously. May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to adopt that draft resolution by acclamation?

The draft resolution was adopted by acclamation (resolution 41/1).

The PRESIDENT: Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar has been appointed by acclamation Secretary-General of the United Nations for a second term of office, beginning on 1 January 1987 and ending on 31 December 1991.

Mr. Aly Teymour, Chief of Protocol, escorted Mr. Perez de Cuellar into the General Assembly Hall.

The PRESIDENT: Your Excellency, I have the honour to inform you officially that the General Assembly has appointed you Secretary-General of the United Nations for a second term of office, beginning on 1 January 1987 and ending on 31 December 1991. I congratulate you most sincerely and invite you to address the General Assembly.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL (interpretation from Spanish): I wish to express my profound gratitude to the members of the Security Council for their spontaneous and unanimous decision to recommend my appointment for a new mandate as Secretary-General of the United Nations, and to the General Assembly, for having appointed me by acclamation. I personally consider rotation in this high office desirable for many reasons. Nevertheless, I have complied with the decision of the Member States, which does me particular honour in view of its spontaneous and unanimous character.

The especially difficult situation of the Organization at this time has also weighed in my decision. To decline in such circumstances would have been tantamount to abandoning a moral duty towards the United Nations, with which I have been linked for many years and in whose permanent validity I have unshakeable faith. It would also have meant ignoring the creative opportunity for renewal and reform which the current crisis may provide.

I now reaffirm, with pride, my oath of office:

I solemnly swear to exercise in all loyalty, discretion and conscience the functions entrusted to me as Secretary-General of the United Nations, to discharge these functions and regulate my conduct with the interests of the United Nations only in view, and not to seek or accept instructions in regard to the performance of my duties from any Government or other authority external to the Organization.

The present moment calls not for oratory but for clear vision and effective action. With this in mind, I would like to make these brief observations:

First, the character of my appointment guarantees the membership that, throughout my renewed mandate, I shall continue to discharge the functions which have been entrusted to me with absolute independence and impartiality. It is only

(The Secretary-General)

if these qualities are recognized and respected by Member States that the Secretary-General can contribute effectively, and in harmony with the other organs of the United Nations, to the search for just and viable agreements on political, economic, social or administrative problems.

Second, it is my hope that the consensus both in the Security Council and in the General Assembly on the appointment of the Secretary-General will serve to encourage a sense of common intent in the working of this Organization. The Office of the Secretary-General is an integral part of the United Nations and not something separate and discrete. It is, to my mind, of highest importance that the same harmonization of wills and viewpoints should be achieved in relation to the great substantive issues on the agenda of the Organization. We need to act with unity and resolve to accelerate the solution of some of the long-enduring conflicts which threaten international peace and security.

Third, we stand at a juncture critical for multilateralism, a concept still strange and awkward to some, but an inescapable corollary to the growing interdependence of all nations on this planet. The United Nations, constituted by you, the representatives gathered here, is the dynamic embodiment of this concept. The reality of interdependence is underlined by all major threats to international order and civility which characterize the present age and which it would be naive to try to face unilaterally or bilaterally.

(The Secretary-General)

Fourth, I wish to point to an urgent need: for the proper functioning and the good name of this Organization, all Member States should abide strictly by their obligations under the Charter, which is a binding international treaty, and comply with those obligations which derive from such resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council as have an obligatory character. I will begin my new mandate confident that I can count on the commitment of the Governments of all Member States represented here to strengthen the integrity and enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations. As far as the Secretariat is concerned, I know that the men and women who compose the Organization will do their part to make this instrument less bureaucratic, more integrated and more efficient. I cannot fail to mention here how deeply I have been impressed by the devotion to duty shown by the staff at this difficult time. Their faithfulness to the Charter is also a requisite for the success of the Organization.

My fifth observation refers to the indissoluble link between peace and development and social justice. It is necessary for the more affluent Members of the Organization to understand that their high degree of development cannot be isolated from the welfare of all peoples of the globe. Greater co-operation between them and the developing countries is an imperative so that the latter may reach, within the shortest time possible, economic and social standards consistent with human dignity. The persistence of underdevelopment in more than 100 States Members of the United Nations is one of the greatest challenges to which solutions must be found before we enter the new millennium. Social justice is not only a matter of economic development; its other essential component is respect for human rights. We still witness egregious violations of human rights, the most

(The Secretary-General)

comprehensive of which is the system of apartheid. This Organization must be in the vanguard of the promotion and defence of human rights everywhere.

Allow me, finally, an anguished reflection. Throughout the ages, the human species has feared the unpredictable visitations of natural calamities and the terrible and uncontrollable blows dealt by them. Now, the species fears even more the forces it has itself unleashed, superior in horror to the fury of nature. We have found the diabolical means to destroy the human race and all its works.

How can we defend ourselves from such an unparalleled threat if we do not give supreme priority to our common survival? Have we perhaps lost the most primary form of compassion, which is compassion for human life itself?

The peoples of the United Nations, in whose name this Organization was created, must oppose such insanity with overwhelming solidarity and indomitable firmness. They must demand of the Governments of States which possess nuclear weapons that they reflect upon their responsibility to their peoples and to the planet itself and pursue policies that will lead to the elimination of these weapons.

There are new opportunities to reduce substantially the nuclear threat, to co-operate in overcoming the deadly dangers posed by terrorism and illegal drug traffic, to renew productive international dialogue on issues of great significance to all countries, and to strengthen this Organization so that it can make its full contribution to a peaceful world. We look with hope even now to the forthcoming meeting of two statesmen who will talk together in Reykjavik about problems affecting the whole world which they can do much to help resolve.

These opportunities impose the obligation that they be fully seized for the sake of the future of humankind. I shall participate with you in this effort to the utmost of my ability, as is required of me by my human instinct, by my conviction and by the mandate of peace which you have just entrusted to me.



The PRESIDENT: I thank His Excellency Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar for his statement.

Mr. Secretary-General, it is a great pleasure and honour for me to be the first officially to congratulate you on your reappointment. It is not only the greatest pleasure I have had as President of the General Assembly; it is without doubt the greatest pleasure I shall have during my term of office.

Witness to your past meritorious service to the United Nations, and to the service of mankind and its aspirations for peace, is the fact that this body has reappointed you by acclamation. There never was a likelihood of any other person being considered for the high post you are again to assume once it was clear that your health was such that you were prepared to take on again the arduous office of Secretary-General. The energies of those who have now reappointed you were always focused on ensuring that your great talents would remain available to us for another five years. It is our good fortune that you have accepted and bowed to our unanimous wish.

It is also particularly fortunate that your leadership will be available at this crucial juncture in the fortunes of the Organization, and that your pertinent comments will be made with renewed authority as we begin, appropriately, immediately after this warm ceremony, the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations. At this time we need your wisdom, experience and clarity of view; and I know that I speak for the whole membership and the peoples they represent in stating that your reappointment at this moment is felicitous.

(The President)

But your task is one extending far beyond the running of this house. Your reappointment is testimony that the membership continues to put their trust in you and that it continues to extend specific mandates in the search for solutions to the questions that are vexing the international community and taxing the patience of mankind, potentially or actually, issues of peace and war and the security of our planet.

(The President)

In several instances, you and your office are not only the focal point of efforts for a solution - you and your office are the only point of focus. This is a reflection of both the indispensability of the United Nations and the trust placed in you personally not only by the membership but by the parties in conflict - a trust not easily given and, more importantly, not readily retained. That this trust is unimpaired must surely have been a vital factor in the easily achieved unanimity regarding your reappointment.

In making this brief but heartfelt congratulatory speech, may I personally extend to you not only my best wishes, but my thanks for your unselfish sharing of experience and modestly extended guidance in the fulfilment of my functions.

I now call upon the representative of Benin, who will speak on behalf of the African Group.

Mr. OGOUMA (Benin) (interpretation from French): Five years ago in this very Hall, on the unanimous recommendation of the Security Council, we elected at the head of our Organization a talented diplomat, a son of the third world, a man of culture and of humanism. The work he has since done, as well as the qualities that distinguish him, suggested that we once again show our confidence in him by investing him with the very great responsibility of guiding our Organization during another term of office.

I am therefore most gratified at the honour bestowed on me, both as the Chairman of the African Group for this month and as the Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of Benin, of expressing, to Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar our feelings on this most memorable occasion.

They are first and foremost a sense of pride at seeing a son of the third world, specifically of Peru, a member of the Non-Aligned Movement which shares the destiny of the African States, preside over the activities of our Organization.

(Mr. Ogouma, Benin)

Who could better understand the profoundest aspirations of peoples, of the disadvantaged, towards a world of justice, prosperity and peace than this worthy son of that great civilization - the civilization of the Incas?

Next a sense of gratitude in recognition of the work he has done. The praise heaped on him by all delegations during this session reflect the great appreciation of States for his physical courage, moral and intellectual will and the heightened awareness that motivates him in carrying out his heavy responsibilities, which are both terribly difficult and extremely sensitive.

Mr. Secretary-General, in your role as a messenger of peace, you have spared neither time nor energy. Thus, from Bolivia to Haiti, from the Middle East to southern Africa, from Washington to Moscow, from Stockholm to Nairobi, from Afghanistan to Iraq, from Central America to Iran, you have proposed solutions which were most adequate and most likely to bring our world out of the crises that have beset it, crises which endanger international peace and security.

Your commitment to the Africans was a no lesser one. Never have you failed to use the means available to you to help the African continent resolve its most pressing problems. Here, we should merely like to mention your trip in 1984 to several countries in West Africa - particularly to my country, Benin - and the one you made to Ethiopia in 1985, where you saw for yourself the effects of drought. We also would not want to forget the establishment of the Office for Emergency Operations in Africa, whose positive contribution was greatly appreciated. It is thus only natural that the Heads of State of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) decided once again, during the twenty-second summit of the organization held at Addis Ababa, to renew their confidence in you.

(Mr. Ogouma, Benin)

We should like to express our sense of hope, finally, although the challenges still facing our Organization today are numerous and the problems complex. The most just and equitable solutions should be found for all of them.

Who could promote and implement solutions to those problems better than you - a highly experienced diplomat? Who would be able once again to reinitiate faith in our Organization better than you, for everyone speaks of its shortcomings and we all are ready to propose solutions that would harm no one's interests.

Africa remains confident that, as in the past, you will be able to assist Africa in its struggle against poverty and oppression, its struggle against colonialism and neo-colonialism and its struggle for the total and immediate eradication of the shameful system of apartheid and for the immediate independence of Namibia. We are convinced that, as in the past, you will be at our side in the struggle for an Africa free from hunger and malnutrition and for a prosperous Africa that fully participates on an equal footing with other nations in building a world free from fear and the threat of nuclear holocaust - a world of peace, prosperity and dignity for all.

In renewing our wishes of good health to you, Sir, we are convinced that Mme. Perez de Cuellar - whose presence here among us we are pleased to note - as in the past, will give you the assistance and strength you need in your difficult but high office.

Mr. KIKUCHI (Japan): It is a great honour and privilege for me, on behalf of the Asian Group, to extend sincere congratulations to Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar on his reappointment as Secretary-General of the United Nations.

As chief administrative officer of this Organization for the past five years, he has made invaluable contributions to United Nations endeavours to achieve a better world. He has spared no efforts in his attempt to bring about peaceful settlement of the numerous regional conflicts and, in the process, has travelled to the four corners of the world. His unique quiet diplomacy in quest of peace has enjoyed the support not only of the Governments of Member States but of the entire international community of nations.

In the tragic conflict between Iran and Iraq, the untiring efforts of the Secretary-General represent a ray of hope in the darkness. On the question of Afghanistan, the Secretary-General has painstakingly kept open the channel of dialogue in the form of proximity talks in Geneva. Last January the Secretary-General came very close to a settlement of the problem of Cyprus. He remains actively committed to international efforts to restore peace and independence in Kampuchea. Moreover, he is one of the focal points in the pursuit of a just and lasting settlement to the problems in the Middle East, in Lebanon and on the Korean peninsula. The Secretary-General has been a patient and staunch interlocutor with South Africa on the independence of Namibia.

The list of his noble efforts and achievements in quest of peace in his first term goes on and on. Suffice it say here that, while walking through a minefield of international conflicts and contentions, he has been a truly effective agent of peace. Through his careful efforts, he has made considerable progress on all fronts.

(Mr. Kikuchi, Japan)

The Secretary-General has also been instrumental in promoting international co-operation in the field of economic and social development. We vividly remember the appeals he made two years ago, which successfully mobilized world-wide efforts to rescue the victims of economic and natural disasters and social upheavals in the African continent.

More recently, the Secretary-General has devoted his energies to tackling knotty questions of the administrative and financial functioning of the world body. Especially in regard to the financial crisis that has come to threaten the very existence of the Organization, the Secretary-General has undertaken commendable efforts, including the economy measures introduced in the course of this year. It is to be noted that his annual report to the fortieth session of the General Assembly clearly set forth the difficulties concerning the imminent financial crisis and identified the need to undertake far-reaching administrative and financial reforms.

We firmly believe that the United Nations will overcome its financial difficulty and regain the confidence of the international community under his leadership, because we are firmly convinced that the Secretary-General will persevere in his endeavours to bring about administrative and financial reforms during his new tenure.

We rejoice in the reappointment as chief administrator of this body of this man of wisdom, devotion and foresight, for it is precisely those qualities that are needed in this troubled world. The members of the Asian Group trust that Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar will continue his tireless search for world peace and prosperity for all our brethren.

I wish on this occasion to assure him once again that he will have the full co-operation and willing support of the Asian Group at this juncture, as he embarks upon his renewed assignment that entails such difficult but noble duties to mankind.

The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States.

Mr. GURINOVICH (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) (interpretation from Russian): It is with particular satisfaction that I extend congratulations to you, Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, on your unanimous reelection to the post of Secretary-General of the United Nations. I am proud of the fact that I do so on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States.

The States of the socialist community have unswervingly favoured the enhancement of United Nations activities on the basis of its Charter and recognize the authoritative role the Secretary-General of the Organization is called upon to play in implementing the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter. Your reelection as the Organization's chief administrative officer attests to our recognition and positive assessment of your past activity as Secretary-General from 1 January 1982.

I personally have participated in the work of the United Nations with all five of the men who have served as Secretary-General of the Organization, and I know the kinds of problems and difficulties your predecessors encountered. There have also been many problems during your own tenure, and you have duly succeeded in coping with them. This can be explained to a great extent by the fact that, from the very outset, you had a correct view of the Organization's objectives. Upon your election to your post on 15 December 1981, you stated:

"the United Nations is a body of States gathered together for purposes and ends which go beyond and above purely national motives." (A/36/PV.98, p. 11)

You also correctly assessed the responsible role of the United Nations Secretary-General, who must, in your words,



(Mr. Gurinovich, Byelorussian SSR)

"become the advocate of the causes of common interest. ... His sole guiding star must be the promotion of causes favourable to the progress of all, for the benefit of all, on the basis of international peace and security and unswervingly directed towards justice, in conformity with the mandate given him by the Charter." (A/36/PV.98, p. 12)

Today, once again, you have reaffirmed your dedication to the ideals of the United Nations. The States of the socialist community wish you success in your work.

Your reelection takes place in a period when the United Nations, like the entire world, is passing through an extremely critical stage in its history. We are all faced with the pressing and urgent problem of creating an effective, operational and comprehensive system of international peace and security that will ensure equal security for all. In accomplishing this, it is necessary to make consistent progress in the sphere of disarmament, to prevent the spread of the arms race to new spheres, to eradicate the vestiges of colonialism, to wipe out racism and apartheid, to ensure equal economic security for all States, to strengthen the political and legal bases for a lasting peace and to achieve co-operation on an equal footing.

(Mr. Gurinovich, Byelorussian SSR)

It is also important to strengthen the United Nations itself to ensure that the rights and legitimate interests of any Members of the Organization or any groups of States are not harmed under the pretext of reorganization. The United Nations must become an effective instrument in strengthening peace and developing international co-operation.

We are convinced that your vast knowledge, wealth of experience and tireless dedication to the cause of peace and justice will continue to be devoted to the service of the interests of the United Nations and will promote a constructive solution for all these pressing problems, without which the quality of life of mankind, and indeed its very existence, will be endangered.

I very much value our personal friendship, and I wish good health to you and to your wife who, although she does not have obligations under the United Nations Charter, shows a concern for our joint work that is commensurate with her position.

In conclusion allow me to reiterate the readiness and wish of the States of the socialist community to continue our manifold and fruitful co-operation with you and with all United Nations Member States to achieve victory for the cause of peace, security, justice and progress on earth.

The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of Mexico, who will speak on behalf of the Latin American States.

Mr. MOYA PALENCIA (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): The representatives of the regional groups that have preceded me have expressed to you, Ambassador Javier Perez de Cuellar, their pleasure and congratulations at your election with the unanimous support of Member States for another term as Secretary-General of the United Nations, but that pleasure turns to joy in the case of the Latin American and Caribbean Group, to whose region you rightfully belong.

We who compose continental Latin America and the Caribbean basin, know that in you we have a worthy, intelligent and effective representative of our aspirations,

(Mr. Moya Palencia, Mexico)

concerns and interests with whom we are at one in respect for the purposes and principles of the United Nations set forth in the Charter. Those principles guide the community of nations in maintaining international peace and security; in developing friendly relations among nations based on the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples; in achieving international co-operation in solving problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character, and in promoting human rights; in joining together to settle their common problems in conformity with the rules of international law, with respect for the sovereignty and integrity of all States, while seeking the peaceful settlement of disputes and avoiding the threat or use of force and intervention; and in understanding peace not merely as the absence of war but rather as the broadest range of cultural and material conditions for the complete development of all people without distinction as to creed, race or ideology.

It is a source of genuine pride for us that you, Ambassador Perez de Cuellar, have once again commanded a consensus by the nations represented here to renew their trust in you. This undoubtedly means your status as a universal man is based on your status as a true son of Peru and Latin America. We extend our most sincere congratulations.

But that legitimate pride and profound satisfaction are heightened because the Member States of our Group are convinced, as they stated to you a few days ago in the document that supported your candidature for office, that you have accomplished magnificent work at the head of the Secretariat during the five years of your first term of office, giving eloquent evidence of steadiness, integrity, dedication and prudent and wise management. That has won you a reaffirmation of the unreserved support you had already obtained from the international community.

The skill with which you have dealt with difficult and critical issues, some of them deeply distressing, that the United Nations has been faced with in the past

(Mr. Moya Palencia, Mexico)

five years, and your negotiating skill in achieving consensus, in resolving or reducing conflicts, and in acting as a decisive factor striking a balance between opposing criteria and interests, without ever losing sight of the essential principles of the United Nations but rather affirming and implementing them, have enabled you to give a faultless performance that has won you enthusiastic support for the renewal of your important mandate by acclamation.

As you begin a new stage of management, you are facing, together with the difficult problems on our substantive agenda so vital to the peace, security and economic and social development of the world, a severe financial crisis at the United Nations. You yourself have described it as a political crisis that puts to the test once again the will and good faith of Member States in keeping alive and effective the Organization we established over 40 years ago, which has suffered an unjust and prolonged campaign of discredit instigated by powerful forces that wish to undermine the fulfilment of its purposes or to divert it from its objectives with no thought of its vital importance to all mankind.

Your office is now, as never before, Mr. Secretary-General, neither easy nor comfortable. Rather it is one that requires, in addition to your characteristic sense of balance, your proven management skills in overcoming obstacles and helping the United Nations live up to its responsibilities and rise above its detractors, with their selfish interests.

We have elected you in a process that demonstrates once again that democracy is viable in our Organization and that through it we can arrive at agreed results, and the best way of showing our support for you is for all of us without exception to give firm support to your work in the Secretariat by strengthening the good reputation, the operative and financial capacity, and the efficiency and productivity of the United Nations.

(Mr. Moya Palencia, Mexico)

Your task would be infinitely less complicated and dangerous if the political will of States were to be clearly expressed, if it were understood that international law is the only possible framework for our coexistence, and if multilateralism were recognized as the irreplaceable instrument to save mankind from uncertainty, to settle its disputes and project it towards peaceful development. It is in this spirit that the States members of the Latin American and Caribbean Group now again assure you of our fullest co-operation, based on the lofty principles of the San Francisco Charter and the need for the United Nations to play its essential role with increasing effectiveness.

(Mr. Moya Palencia, Mexico)

In this age of speedy technological progress and of now untenable social and economic contrasts, when all of the world's peoples are genuinely peers, the privileged and the dispossessed, the role of the United Nations as a communicator, and the harmonizing work that Mr. Perez de Cuellar is accomplishing as the head of the Secretariat, will be decisive factors in mankind's choice between concord and conflagration, confrontation and détente, uncertainty and security, poverty and development, the survival of our organized community or global anarchy, between the affirmation of its highest values and the conversion of our culture into radioactive dust.

In this challenging but inspiring task, the Latin American and Caribbean countries join ranks within the United Nations at this time to support the Organization firmly, constructively and institutionally. They join also in supporting you, Mr. Perez de Cuellar, as the newly re-elected Secretary-General of the United Nations as you continue your struggle for freedom and peace, sowing the seeds of unquenchable hope for the peace and development of mankind.

The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States.

Mr. LAUTENSCHLAGER (Federal Republic of Germany): Mr. President, it is a particular pleasure and high honour for me to extend, on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States, through you to the Secretary-General, Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, the most cordial congratulations on his re-election. It gives us great satisfaction that also in future years he will head the world Organization to which he has given so much in recent years and for which he has worked so successfully. We are grateful that we shall be able to rely on him also in future for his advice, his judiciousness, his experience and his prudent

(Mr. Lautenschlager, Federal  
Republic of Germany)

determination, which he has displayed so convincingly in the past five years in the service of the world Organization. Especially at the present difficult juncture it is both comforting and reassuring for us to know that he will continue to hold his office, the dignity and esteem of which he has enhanced in recent years.

The Secretary-General is, I am sure, fully aware of the burden he is about to shoulder once again. His decision to comply with the wish of all Member States that he should continue in office may not have been an easy one. He always held that the office of the Secretary-General should not be a subject of controversial debate and that no one should make promises that were impossible of fulfilment. Rather, Mr. Perez de Cuellar told the Member States what he expected them to do for the Organization in order to make it work. In this noble way he has given us the opportunity to demonstrate today our full and sincere confidence in him. The members of the Group of Western European and other States consider it their duty and their privilege to assist him in the discharge of his tasks to the best of their abilities.

The unanimous election of the Secretary-General today reaffirms the confidence that all Member States place in him. It is our hope that this confidence may ease the burden of his office. At the same time, it will enable him also in his second term of office to assist us all in finding the common path that will lead the United Nations into a secure future.

During the general debate of past weeks, representatives of many countries have voiced their high appreciation of the Secretary-General and his work. This appreciation gives expression to the sentiments we also share today. In a major address which the Secretary-General delivered at Oxford on 13 May 1986, he spoke about the pitfalls of his office; about the Scylla of inflating the role of the Secretary-General and the Charybdis of the desire to avoid controversy.

(Mr. Lautenschlager, Federal  
Republic of Germany)

I think we are all agreed that in the years past the Secretary-General has always shown and taken the right way - a way that has also won him admiration, recognition and confidence.

Mr. Secretary-General, thorny tasks lie ahead of you. Nobody is more fully aware of them than you yourself. We wish to thank you for all you have done for us in the past and we wish you the best of success for your second term of office. We, the members of the Group of Western European and other States, pledge you our unreserved support as you continue to fulfil your responsible tasks of safeguarding peace, of supporting the Member States in co-operating among themselves, of promoting respect for human rights all over the world, of advancing economic and social progress, and of strengthening the United Nations and thus enhancing its ability to meet the challenges of our time. With regard to the United Nations, you once said:

"The United Nations system, while imperfect as any human undertaking must be, offers almost unlimited potential for the creation of a strong and durable foundation for peace and for the well-being of the world's population." May it be granted to you, relying on the confidence and the co-operation of us all, to translate this grand vision into real achievements in the years ahead.

The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of Oman, who will speak on behalf of the Arab States.

Mr. AL-ANSI (Oman) (interpretation from Arabic): On behalf of the members of the Arab Group at the United Nations, it gives me great pleasure to extend our sincere congratulations to Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar on his unanimous re-election today by the Members of the international Organization in both the Security Council and the General Assembly to continue in his important post as Secretary-General of the United Nations for another five-year term.



(Mr. Al-Ansi, Oman)

We are fully satisfied with the way in which Mr. Perez de Cuellar has discharged his duties in the service of the international community and in promoting the principles of the Charter during his five-year tenure. He has with unparalleled devotion and sincerity made important attempts to respond to the urgent needs of the international community through his efforts on various levels to contribute to the maintenance of the prestige, legitimacy and high objectives of this international Organization. He has also sought strenuously to bring closer the points of view of its Members and to participate effectively in the ongoing attempts to settle the numerous regional and internal disputes, especially those in the Middle East and in occupied Palestine and as a consequence of the continuing war between Iran and Iraq. He has done all of this in addition to playing a humanitarian role to mitigate the sufferings in some parts of the world as a result of a flood of refugees and the adverse affects of desertification and drought and to promote a new, just international economic order.

The Arab States collectively are extremely pleased to know that he will be occupying his high position for the next five years. The close historical and cultural links between the Arab States and the States of Latin America, and between the Spanish culture and the Arab culture in general, and the mutual ties between the Arab delegations and Mr. Perez de Cuellar have been and will remain excellent.

On behalf of the Arab delegations to this international Organization we congratulate the Secretary-General on the confidence placed in him by the Member States which have called upon him to assume the burden of international responsibility for another term of office. We also congratulate ourselves on his accepting those onerous functions in good health and firm determination to maintain a sound performance of benefit to all, without exception.

The PRESIDENT: I call upon the representative of the United States of America, the host country.

Mr. WALTERS (United States of America): On behalf of the United States, in its role as host country to the United Nations, I warmly welcome the reappointment of Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar as Secretary-General of the United Nations. During his first term the Secretary-General displayed not only dedication to the ideals of the Charter but also consummate skill in attempting to put those principles into practice. The Secretary-General's willingness to continue his extraordinarily demanding work demonstrates his devotion to this Organization. His unchallengeable personal integrity and his deep devotion to the ideals that this Organization embodies have won for him the acclaim of the whole world and that admiration and respect have been expressed here today by his reelection by acclamation as Secretary-General of the Organization.

His activities in the case of peace and justice for humankind have brought honour to him personally, to Peru, to the Western hemisphere and to the United Nations. We appreciate his efforts, public and private, in the vital area of peacekeeping.

In his capacity as chief administrative officer the Secretary-General has also taken on the immense task of fiscal and administrative reform of the United Nations. His commitment to that reform will enable the Organization to cope more effectively with the political, economic and social challenges of the coming decades.

I congratulate the Secretary-General and extend my warmest wishes for his future success. He enjoys our deepest respect and admiration and he can count upon the co-operation of the Government which I represent.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has concluded its consideration of agenda item 16.

## AGENDA ITEM 38

## REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS

- (a) REPORT OF THE GROUP OF HIGH-LEVEL INTERGOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS TO REVIEW THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS (A/41/49);
- (b) NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/41/663)

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now begin consideration of agenda item 38, "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations".

In this connection the Assembly has before it the report of the Group of High-Level Intergovernmental Experts to review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations (A/41/49) and the Note of the Secretary-General (A/41/663).

I would draw the attention of the Assembly to the decision taken at its third plenary meeting, on 20 September, relating to the organization of its work, to the effect that item 38 will be considered in plenary meetings of the General Assembly and that during the course of that consideration the Fifth Committee will, within the scope of its responsibilities, undertake a factual examination of the report of the Group of High-Level Intergovernmental Experts and submit its findings to a plenary meeting.

Before calling upon the first speaker, I propose that the list of speakers in the debate on this item be closed on Monday, 13 October, at 5.00 p.m.

If a hear no objection, I shall take it that it is so decided.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I request representatives wishing to participate in the debate to inscribe their names as soon as possible.

(The President)

I now call upon the Chairman of the Group of High-Level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations, Mr. Vraalsen of Norway, who will also make a statement as representative of Norway.

Mr. VRAALSEN (Norway), Chairman of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations: Let me first take this opportunity to offer my Government's and my personal congratulations to the Secretary-General upon his reappointment. For almost five years we have had the privilege of having Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar as Secretary-General of our Organization. Throughout that period he has shown leadership and wisdom. With the highest dedication, professional skill and personal integrity, he has guided our efforts to attain the objectives of the United Nations and make this world of ours a better and more secure place for all of us to live in. I am convinced that in the years to come the Secretary-General will vigorously continue his efforts to promote multilateral co-operation and strengthen the United Nations.

Mr. Secretary-General, we particularly need your wisdom, skill and experience at this time, when the United Nations faces serious problems and challenges of an administrative, financial and political nature. I assure you of my Government's and my own fullest co-operation in discharging your duties as Secretary-General.

In my capacity as Chairman of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations, I have the honour to introduce the Group's report (A/41/49).

In its resolution 40/237 of 18 December 1985, by which it established the Group, the General Assembly requested it to conduct, in full accordance with the principles and provisions of the Charter,

"a thorough review of the administrative and financial matters of the United Nations, with a view to identifying measures for further improving the efficiency of its administrative and financial functioning, which would contribute to strengthening its effectiveness in dealing with political, economic and social issues". (resolution 40/237, para. 2 (a))

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In the spirit of that resolution, the members of the Group agreed from the very beginning of their work that they should not deal with the immediate financial crisis of the United Nations, which was the responsibility of the General Assembly, and that their primary objective was to submit recommendations aimed at improving the Organization's medium-term and long-term administrative and financial functioning. The Group also noted that it had been requested to consider only the administrative and financial matters of the United Nations and its subsidiary bodies, and that the relationship between the Organization and the specialized agencies, as well as system-wide co-ordination and co-operation, thus fell outside its mandate.

The Group held four sessions between 25 February and 15 August this year and met for a total of eight weeks. During that period of very hard work it endeavoured to examine all the topics on its agenda thoroughly, giving equal emphasis to all of them. On several occasions the Group had the privilege of hearing the Secretary-General, who offered his full co-operation and gave his views on a number of topics as requested by the Group. The Group also heard the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and a limited number of high-level officials of the Secretariat, who clarified some of the more technical issues before us.

The Group's report contains 71 recommendations under six different topics, dealt with in sections II to VII: "The intergovernmental machinery and its functioning", "Structure of the Secretariat", "Measures regarding personnel", "Monitoring, evaluation and inspection", "Planning and budget procedure" and

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"Implementation of the Group's recommendations". As can be seen from the report and the recommendations it contains, the tasks entrusted to the Group were both comprehensive and in many cases extremely complex. Within the limited time available it was not possible for the Group to examine in depth every aspect of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations. As a result, the Group felt that a distinction should be drawn between:

"(a) Those questions on which it was possible for it to submit precise recommendations that might be taken into consideration by the General Assembly upon the submission of its report"

and

"(b) Those questions that merited and required examination in greater depth and with regard to which it had to be satisfied with defining lines of approach and suggesting methods for subsequent research." (A/41/49, para. 13)

I do not think it would be appropriate for me as Chairman of the Group to make comments in that capacity on the various recommendations now before the General Assembly. May I say, however, that those recommendations are the result of long and thorough deliberations and that, in my opinion, they form a well-balanced text consisting of equally important elements.

Despite the many points of convergence, the Group was unfortunately unable, owing to lack of time, to reach a consensus on the question relating to the planning and budget mechanism. May I, nevertheless, point out that, with the exception of two recommendations on which reservations were made, all the recommendations contained in the report were unanimously approved by the Group.

Mr. Vraalsen, Chairman, Group of  
High-level Intergovernmental Experts to  
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Administrative and Financial Functioning  
of the United Nations

I wish to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation to the members of the Group for their endurance, their spirit of co-operation and their firm determination to bring the Group's work to a successful conclusion.

Let me underline that, as stated in the introduction to the report, the Group performed its work on the basis of full respect for the principles and provisions of the Charter. The Group was convinced that the measures it had recommended would contribute to improve further the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations.

Furthermore, the Group was convinced that it had only begun a reform process. That process must now be carried further by other intergovernmental bodies and by the Secretary-General. The Group considered that it had fully discharged its mandate and concluded its work with the submission of its report.

On behalf of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts, it gives me great pleasure, as Chairman of the Group, to commend its report to the General Assembly.



(Mr. Vraalsen, Norway)

Having introduced the report of the Group of 18, I should like to make a few observations and comments as the Permanent Representative of Norway and as someone who for a year now has been intimately involved in the efforts to improve the administrative and financial situation of our Organization.

The Norwegian Prime Minister, Mrs. Gro Harlem Brundtland, in her statement to the Assembly in this very Hall less than three weeks ago, reaffirmed Norway's deep commitment to multilateralism and to a strong United Nations. In emphasizing the need for reform to restore faith and confidence in the Organization, the Prime Minister said:

"The task of renewing the effectiveness of the United Nations is basically political in nature. It requires that Member States manifest the political will to place the financing of the Organization on a viable basis and provide the Secretary-General with the mandate and the support he needs to carry out the major organizational, staffing and budget changes which will reduce costs, improve effectiveness and restore confidence. At this forty-first session we have a unique opportunity to do exactly that. It is an opportunity we must not miss." (A/41/PV.5, p.57)

It is indeed encouraging to note that the great majority of the political leaders who addressed the General Assembly spoke in the same terms, stressing a reaffirmation of their commitment to multilateralism and the United Nations accompanied by strong support for organizational, financial and administrative reforms. It was also gratifying to note the many favourable comments which were made on the report of the Group of 18 and the agreed recommendations submitted by the Group. I wish in this connection to cite one such statement, that made on 2 October this year by the Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, Mr. Robert Mugabe. He said:

(Mr. Vraalsen, Norway)

"In the same vein, I wish to commend for its good work the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts .... The Group's observations, analyses and recommendations as contained in its report, which is submitted to the Assembly ... are a realistic attempt to find solutions to the problems besetting our Organization, and I sincerely trust that the Assembly will see them in that serious light." (A/41/PV.21, p. 12)

That expression of political support, and many others of a similar character from the highest levels of Government authority from all over the world, should guide us in our consideration of this item in coming days.

At the risk of stating and possibly repeating the obvious, I cannot but stress - and stress again and again - the overriding importance of the subject matter now before us. What we decide upon at the end of our discussion will have a direct bearing upon the future viability of this Organization. This being the case, I trust that all Member States will be guided by the same spirit, by the same desire, as guided the 18 members of the Expert Group: that is, to improve the functioning of the United Nations, to make it into a truly effective forum for global co-operation and to provide the international community with efficient machinery, a place where nations can meet as equals seeking to harmonize their policies and actions in the political, economic and social fields. It is the hope of my delegation that the Assembly's consideration of the report will end with the sending of a strong political message in support of those goals. Such a message would be fully in line with the many statements made by our political leaders.

The matter before us is of direct concern to each and every Member State. It is not an East-West issue. It is not an issue between opposing forces from the North and from the South, between developing and developed countries, between regional groups or between the major contributors to the United Nations system and the rest of the membership. It is a matter of common interest and common concern.

(Mr. Vraalsen, Norway)

Either we succeed together or we fail together. I therefore sincerely hope that we shall have a constructive exchange of views and that each delegation will approach the problem with an open mind, make its own evaluation and pass its own independent judgement on the important questions before us.

During the past months I have sensed that among some delegations there continues to be a lingering feeling of doubt and uneasiness about the reform process, in particular regarding the efforts to develop improved machinery and procedure for planning and programme budgeting. I really hope that during the forthcoming debate we can put those concerns firmly to rest. The authority to decide upon the content and level of the budget of the United Nations is entrusted to the General Assembly and its Fifth Committee. Voting procedures for taking decisions pertaining to budgetary matters are firmly established. I should like to make it very clear that, as far as my delegation is concerned, any new and improved budgetary machinery and procedure will have to be based upon full respect for the principles and provisions of the Charter and the authority of the General Assembly and the Fifth Committee. This has been our firm principled position throughout the process in the Expert Group, and all delegations can rest assured that it will continue to be so.

However, this position does not prevent my delegation from actively seeking and actively supporting budgetary reforms that can improve upon the present budgetary procedure. The present planning and budget procedure is inadequate. It does not give Member States - and here I mean all of us, all Member States - the possibility to exercise the necessary intergovernmental leadership, particularly in setting priorities within the resources likely to be available. Reforms in that area would serve the interest of us all. Nobody will benefit from holding on to a procedure which is clearly deficient.

(Mr. Vraalsen, Norway)

On the question of the budgetary process, I wish to quote two paragraphs from the Secretary-General's note of 1 October 1986:

"The work done by the Group of Experts on the budgetary process is of major importance to the future of the United Nations. While full agreement was not reached, exploration of the subject was extensive and there is evident agreement on several central points, including the need for an improved intergovernmental machinery that can deal more thoroughly with questions related to the budget; the advisability of earlier participation by Member States in the programme and budget process; the importance of co-ordinated programme planning and programme budgeting; and the need for early establishment of guidance by the General Assembly on the level of resources within which expenditures during a biennium would be accommodated.

(Mr. Vraalsen, Norway)

"This measure of congruence, especially when seen in the context of the vital interests of the organizations that are involved, would suggest that with a further effort by the General Assembly agreement on this subject can yet be reached. The authority of the Assembly to determine the size of the budget, the establishment of priorities and the apportionment of expenses as provided for in the Charter should, of course, be preserved. I believe improved intergovernmental machinery, with adequate time, continuity and expertise to give comprehensive consideration to programmes, priorities and resources, could be of much assistance to the Assembly and its Fifth Committee in reaching timely budgetary decisions - decisions that would enjoy the broad support that the health of the Organization requires. There is need for a practical procedure that can facilitate and encourage broad agreement on the budget notwithstanding political differences on substantive issues that may persist among Member States." (A/41/663, paras. 6 and 7)

By quoting the Secretary-General as extensively as I have done on this point, I wish to convey to all representatives the following with a strong sense of urgency: that we must during this session of the General Assembly develop a practical procedure that can facilitate and encourage broad agreement on the budget; that the report of the Group of 18 provides a good basis for shaping such a procedure; and that we must start working on this question now. We have no time to lose on this.

Before concluding, allow me to put forward one other very important point. We have been talking about restoring the financial soundness and viability of our Organization, and about reforms to this end. Let us be very clear about this: whatever measures of reform we undertake, the financial viability of the United Nations can be fully restored and secured only if all Member States pay their

(Mr. Vraalsen, Norway)

assessed contributions in full and on time. Anything short of that is a violation of their obligations under the Charter. Anything short of that makes orderly management of the Organization virtually impossible. Withholdings at the level which we are experiencing at present, if allowed to continue, will threaten the very existence of the Organization.

I urge those Members which are behind in their payments to settle their accounts. Such action on their part would convey a much desired and much needed message of support for the United Nations and for the efforts now under way to make the Organization leaner, more focused and more effective.

Finally, I express my sincere hope that the Assembly will endorse the agreed recommendations of the Group of High-level Experts and will reach agreement on a new planning and budgetary procedure. By doing so the Assembly would take an important political step - a step which would be extremely significant for the future of the Organization. The Assembly would thus make a beginning on a reform process - a process which will be painful, which will be gradual, and which will make great demands of the leadership of the Member States and the Secretary-General. Once again a clear sense of direction is emerging here and an honest attempt is being made by the Assembly to turn things around to the benefit of all. At this critical juncture the United Nations deserves and needs the full support of all Member States. With all its admitted limitations, the Organization - the United Nations - still remains our finest, our indispensable, forum for global co-operation.

I can assure you, Mr. President, Mr. Secretary-General, and all my fellow representatives in this hall that my delegation will spare no effort in trying to contribute to a successful conclusion of the consideration of the item now before us.

Mr. MACIEL (Brazil): First, allow me to join preceding speakers in congratulating the Secretary-General on his reappointment for a second term. I congratulate Mr. Javier Perez de Cuéllar but, having studied carefully the report of the Group of 18 high-level experts, I do not envy him. All I can say is that I promise him my most enthusiastic support, and the firm support of my delegation and my Government.

The item before us today has undeniably come under the central spotlight of the forty-first session of the General Assembly. And appropriately so, since it relates directly not only to the efficient administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations, as its title indicates, but also to its survival as an integral, universal and democratic Organization.

The Group of 18 did not have a mandate to deal with the Organization's immediate financial crisis, as the Group itself points out in paragraph 8 of its report; however, we are all very much aware of the degree to which this question has permeated all others. This is very much the case with the report of the Group of 18. Our deliberations on this item, therefore, besides being crucial to the Organization's structure and modus operandi in the medium and long term will also have a direct bearing on the outcome of the present financial crisis. We all hope that it will have a positive bearing, and we are convinced that this goal can be achieved if we reach a consensus agreement - or at least a broad-based agreement.

(Mr. Maciel, Brazil)

With this in mind, my delegation engages in these deliberations with flexibility and a constructive approach. We may even be prepared to sacrifice some of our objectives for the benefit of such an agreement. We are convinced that this approach is not naive, for we believe that many delegations share our sentiments and that flexibility shown by some will be reciprocated by others.

We also believe that Member States have already given a clear demonstration of the importance they attach to these issues. We cannot, of course, anticipate at this point the final conclusions we shall reach at the end of our deliberations, but if we maintain a flexible and constructive approach to the end we shall also be demonstrating collective responsibility and avoiding an impasse or the imposition of the views of some upon all others.

That propitious climate would be further enhanced if Member States that are withholding their assessed contributions and therefore not complying with their financial obligations to the Organization in accordance with the Charter would follow the examples of others and fulfil their obligations, so as to give the United Nations some breathing space and to dissipate some of the grave uncertainties we are at present experiencing.

I now wish to say a few words relating to the scope and procedure of our deliberations. There are two essential documents to be considered: the report of the Group of 18 itself (A/41/49), and the note by the Secretary-General (A/41/663). Any subject not discussed in either of those documents should not, in my view, be considered under this item, for, although there may be other related areas of interest, the item is complex and comprehensive enough as it is. Recommendations that are not the object of profound controversy should be adopted without lengthy debate.

After careful consideration of the report of the Group of 18, my Government has come to the conclusion - which I am sure is shared by most others represented



(Mr. Maciel, Brazil)

here - that the Group has performed a very difficult task and that, even if that task was not complete, we are all indebted to the experts who made up the Group. In general, my Government is prepared to accept most of the recommendations proposed, with any technical adjustments that may prove necessary.

On the other hand, there are clearly different levels of accuracy, appropriateness and validity in the proposed recommendations. Some, such as recommendations 20 and 30, are extremely vague or only restate previous recommendations. Others are either excessively specific or excessively rigid - recommendation 3 (e) is an example. Still others are poorly elaborated or based on insufficient information or inadequate premises, such as recommendation 25 (2), in regard to which I have serious reservations. Despite these shortcomings, however, the general lay-out of the report and the bases underlying its work are sound and consistent.

The note by the Secretary-General, although of a general nature, contains some thoughtful observations which deserve our special attention. In particular, his analysis of the work done by the Group in regard to the budgetary process of the Organization coincides with our own assessment to the extent that, despite the lack of final agreement, there was a wide convergence of views. I do not wish to enter into details at this stage, but two examples of this fact merit immediate attention: first, the need to ensure the participation of Member States at an early stage of the budgetary process, with due respect for the responsibilities of the Secretary-General; and secondly, the introduction of the concept of a budgetary envelope that would encase, with some adjustments to the current definition of add-ons, the totality of resources available for a biennium.

This latter concept still requires some refinement, specifically in relation to the procedure for the determination of the envelope and the related contingency

(Mr. Maciel, Brazil)

fund, but the basic agreement is already there. My delegation does not deem it appropriate, however, that we should limit ourselves to the three choices presented by the Group of 18 when considering this item. We would prefer a broader discussion, that would not necessarily impose the selection of one of three choices, which the Group of 18 itself could not make. One possibility, for instance, would be to combine some elements from the first and second choices, with specific provisos for the clear and appropriate division of responsibilities between the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and with the maintenance of current rules pertaining to the decision-making process.

I shall refrain from making remarks concerning specific recommendations as I believe we shall have the opportunity to do so at a later stage, either in the Fifth Committee or when the plenary meeting considers this item again. I should like, however, to indicate two areas dealt with by the Group which we feel should be examined very closely in order to dispel some concerns, which I am sure are shared by other delegations.

The first relates to the recommendations directed to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other, similar organizations subsidiary to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. Owing to the specific characteristics of those organizations, some recommendations directed primarily at the United Nations proper but applicable to them as well should be agreed upon only after careful consultations have been carried out with all directly interested parties.

This is also true of those recommendations concerning the absorption by those organizations of activities at present undertaken by others. UNDP has already prepared an informal document containing the Administrator's comments to the

(Mr. Maciel, Brazil)

Secretary-General, and I am sure these will be very helpful to us in our deliberations.

The second area that we feel should be closely examined is that of personnel. The Group of 18, appropriately, devoted a great deal of attention to this issue and has formulated 22 recommendations in the relevant chapter of its report. In addition, one further recommendation - number 15, is in the chapter devoted to the structure of the Secretariat, but nevertheless has a direct bearing upon personnel.

(Mr. Maciel, Brazil)

The Group of 18 concurred as to the need to ensure that more equitable and selective methods of recruitment be applied to improve the standards of efficiency, competence, independence and integrity of the Secretariat. The Group also agreed that reduction of the number of staff members would be desirable and could be attained without hampering the current level of programme activities of the United Nations. These two sets of recommendations, although distinct, have the same objective, namely, more efficiency, agility and responsiveness in the Secretariat.

My delegation fully shares these objectives and believes that the recommendations, with the necessary adjustments, should be accepted and implemented. There is, however, a pervasive objective sought by some, which is sometimes clearly spelt out, sometimes disguised behind other goals. I refer to the idea of indiscriminate reduction of expenditures. We are concerned at the level of the United Nations budget, and my own country's assessed contribution is not paid without some sacrifice. But we cannot accept the idea that this concern should be the determinant factor in undertaking alterations or restructuring. We therefore agree with the Secretary-General's observation in his note when he states:

"To seek to solve the Organization's financial difficulties at the expense of staff entitlements would be extremely short-sighted and counter-productive and would have adverse implications for the common system." (A/41/663, para. 9)

For that reason, we have severe reservations with regard to the present formulation of recommendation 61.

In conclusion, I would like to say that my delegation believes that the report of the Group of 18 should be considered an initial and important first step in the reforms we have to undertake in seeking to strengthen the United Nations and give it a more compact structure and more adequate basis for its every-day operations.

(Mr. Maciel, Brazil)

The General Assembly must now take a second, crucial step. It must reach an agreement that will allow for the transformation of recommendations into mandates. Thereafter, the third step and subsequent steps should be the implementation of all the decisions taken and the elaboration of the several reviews, studies and reports that will be necessary. The task will require the constant attention of the General Assembly in the next few years and will represent a heavy load for the Secretary-General. We are confident, however, that, with his devotion and the support of Member States, reinforced today by his new mandate, he will be able to continue to carry it out with renewed energy, in the best interests of the Organization. In spite of any agreement we might reach and all the efforts of the Secretary-General, we shall have made no progress if Member States do not feel bound to the Charter and to the financial commitments deriving from the Charter.

Mr. PETROVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I should like first of all, on behalf of the delegation of the Soviet Union, to congratulate Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar most warmly on his unanimous election to a second term as Secretary-General of the United Nations. We express the hope and our confidence that, in carrying out his responsible tasks under the Charter, Mr. Perez de Cuellar will continue to make comprehensive efforts to enhance the role and effectiveness of the Organization in performing its principle roles of maintaining international peace and security, saving mankind from the scourge of war and improving social progress and the standards of life of the people of our planet.

Given the present at once contradictory and interdependent structure of international relations on all levels, the United Nations is the important integral element without which the direction of vastly different processes into one common channel and the uniting of the various efforts of the different States to preserve

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peace on Earth for present and future generations would be unthinkable. In spite of all its shortcomings and weaknesses, the United Nations has in the past demonstrated that it can make a tangible contribution to the cause of preventing nuclear war, curbing the arms race and promoting the development of inter-State co-operation in various fields.

The role and significance of the United Nations are therefore all the more important in today's nuclear space age, when the very existence of civilization on Earth is at stake. This is a crucial period for mankind, in which there is an ever greater awareness of the need for new ways of thinking in order to take fully into account the realities of the present-day world and to view peace as man's highest value. The essence of this new political thinking is the realization, while recognizing the diversity and interdependence of today's world, in which all States and peoples share a common destiny, that there is a need for firm and responsible action to ensure the triumph of reason and realism, to reaffirm the democratic foundations of international relations and to create a system that will ensure a just and safe life on our planet.

The process of restructuring political thinking should be based on concrete, positive events now occurring. The unilateral Soviet moratorium on nuclear explosions has been in effect for more than a year and this has created conditions favourable to the initiation of a process of practical limitations on the means of waging war. A serious impetus towards progress on such important issues as the limitation and cessation of the arms race, first and foremost the nuclear arms race, must result from the imminent meeting in Reykjavik between the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Sergevich Gorbachev, President Ronald Reagan of the United States.

(Mr. Petrovsky, USSR)

The successful conclusion of the Stockholm Conference, the signing in Vienna of conventions laying down the basis for an international régime for the safe development of nuclear energy, and progress in banning chemical weapons, the fruitful consideration at the Geneva Conference on the Convention banning bacteriological warfare - all attest to the extremely positive role multilateral diplomacy plays in the reaffirmation of new political thinking. Not replacing but rather reinforcing bilateral diplomacy, multilateral forums are irreplaceable instruments for the interaction of States on a collective basis.

In this regard a special role belongs to the United Nations, which represents not merely the sum total of the States that comprise its membership, but a qualitatively new phenomenon in the system of international relations. It represents a unique centre for agreement among States on their actions for the sake of shared universal objectives. This Organization has a special place in the formation of the collective reasoning and will of the international community. Therefore we have the greatest respect for the United Nations and we see the objective not only as its preservation but - and I should like to emphasize this; it is the most important element - its comprehensive strengthening and development.

In the present situation the United Nations sees ahead of it new and favourable opportunities to use its collective authority to make the world a juster and safer place for all peoples. In fact much has been said here on this topic in the general debate, which concluded today. The concrete consideration of numerous pressing problems at this session will require all States to manifest goodwill and reason so that declarations and words may be turned into practical actions. It is the duty of the United Nations to assist in overcoming the negative confrontational tendencies that have been growing in recent years; to facilitate the curbing of the nuclear arms race on earth; to prevent a nuclear arms race in space; and to bring about a general reduction of the danger of war and establish confidence as an inalienable component of relations among States.

(Mr. Petrovsky, USSR)

The United Nations has an even greater responsibility in connection with the objective of creating a comprehensive system of international peace and security encompassing the military, economic and humanitarian fields. We are convinced that the creation of such a system would be in keeping with the interests of all States. The bases proposed for security for all are in keeping with the principles of the United Nations Charter and must promote the implementation of those principles in regard to the specific nuclear and space conditions of our time. The United Nations will have to play a constructive role not only as the chief architect of a comprehensive system of security but also as the major guarantor of its functioning in a future non-nuclear world. It is necessary to realize that there is only one alternative to the activities of the United Nations: chaos in international relations, the helplessness of States in the face of the arbitrary expression of will, and the anarchy of force.

The Soviet Union, like all countries that are dedicated to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, is seriously concerned regarding the recent attempts to diminish the significance of the United Nations on the part of those who, instead of having universal goals, are guided by their own strictly selfish interests, their own egoistic interests, those who would replace a multilateral approach to the resolution of acute international problems with unilateral attempts to dictate their will to sovereign States, using economic and military power to that end.

Indeed, instead of ensuring that, in accordance with existing international agreements, necessary conditions are provided for the work of the United Nations, they create obstacles to the normal functioning of representatives of States accredited to this Organization; they undertake illegal steps to limit the privileges and immunities of representatives of United Nations Member States; and they put forward illegal demands regarding the reduction of the number of personnel of the missions of those countries. They do not shrink from financial manipulations



(Mr. Petrovsky, USSR)

to channel the activities of the United Nations into a direction useful to them. It seems to us that that is the only way in which to describe the unilateral attempts being made to determine the size of their contributions to the United Nations budget.

However, it is obvious that attempts to take over the United Nations, to force Member States obediently to follow the policies imposed on them, are doomed to failure.

The majority of delegations that spoke during the general debate pointed out that the present financial crisis of the United Nations is political in nature. They called for the strengthening of the authority of the Organization and enhancement of its effectiveness.

In that connection, significant attention was also paid to the problem of putting in order the administrative and financial activities of the United Nations. The Soviet Union has an attitude of great responsibility towards the issues of enhancing the effectiveness of United Nations activity, inter alia in the administrative and budgetary sphere, based on its principled assessment of its role in world affairs. In his response to the recent message of the United Nations Secretary-General, the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Mikhail S. Gorbachev, pointed out that:

"The Soviet Union unswervingly attaches great significance to the United Nations as an important instrument in the struggle for peace and international security. Moreover, in so doing it believes that the critical problems facing the United Nations can be solved only through strict compliance with the United Nations Charter and ensuring a healthy budgetary and administrative basis for the Organization.

"At the same time, the Soviet Union rejects any attempt to use the financial difficulties of the United Nations to exert political pressure on it or to hinder the activities of the Organization."

(Mr. Petrovsky, USSR)

The Soviet Union is in fact demonstrating its readiness to participate in the constructive search for a solution of those difficulties now being experienced by the United Nations. In answer to the request of the United Nations Secretary-General in connection with the present financial crisis of the Organization, the USSR has accelerated the payment of its contributions, and it has fully paid its contributions to the regular budget for 1986 and for the financing of the United Nations forces. It has also made a voluntary contribution amounting to \$10 million to the special account created to overcome the financial difficulties of the United Nations.

Since it favours enhancement of the effectiveness and economical management of the United Nations and the limitation of unproductive expenditures, at the fortieth session of the United Nations General Assembly the USSR supported the proposal regarding the establishment of the Group of High-Level Intergovernmental Experts to review the efficiency of the administrative and financial activity of the United Nations, and it took an active part in its work.

(Mr. Petrovsky, USSR)

In our view, on the whole the results of the activities of the Group can be assessed positively. The majority of its recommendations can serve as a basis for effective practical measures to rationalize the work of the United Nations, enhance its efficiency and ensure economical management. The recommendations concerning limiting the number and length of meetings of United Nations bodies and reducing the volume of the documentation, and so on, seem useful. Nor can there be any doubts regarding the recommendation on a study of the structure of the Secretariat in order to simplify and streamline it and improve co-ordination among various subdivisions, in particular in the social and economic sphere. The recommendation on reducing the number of United Nations personnel by 15 per cent and the number of higher-level employees by 25 per cent is also of great significance.

Of course, steps must be taken to ensure that these recommendations are put into effect under the strict control of the General Assembly and that the United Nations activities in the fundamental areas laid down by its Charter are not harmed.

At the same time, it should be noted that some of the problems considered by the Group were not resolved and a number of questions were simply beyond its scope. Thus, for example, the Group was not able to reach agreement on the extremely important problem of reorganization of the planning and make-up of the United Nations budget in such a way as to ensure the maximum effective use of means available to the Organization and prevent unjustified growth of the Organization's expenditures.

It should also be noted that the report of the Group of 18 contains a number of recommendations on which agreement was not reached, which in our view is totally unacceptable. For example, one recommendation which was not agreed upon in the Group, but was included in the report, states that not less than 50 per cent of

(Mr. Petrovsky, USSR)

the nationals of any State working in the Secretariat should have permanent contracts. This can only be described as a cynical recommendation aimed at strengthening the over-representation in the Secretariat of one group of States and even further aggravating the under-representation of another group. We are profoundly convinced that such an approach runs counter to the objectives and purposes of the United Nations. It is understandable that we firmly reject this kind of recommendation. There are other recommendations on personnel issues which impede the implementation of the principle of just geographical distribution in staffing the Secretariat. In the view of the Soviet delegation, recommendations on personnel matters should be referred to the International Civil Service Commission for further study.

On the whole, however, the Soviet delegation is ready to support the majority of the recommendations of the Group after appropriate clarification and explanations in the Fifth Committee.

In conclusion, the delegation of the USSR wishes to emphasize that the work of the Group of 18 represents an important stage in the activities designed to improve the functioning of intergovernmental machinery and the executive apparatus of the United Nations. This important objective is one towards which the Secretary-General has personally been working for the past five years, as noted in his memorandum of 1 October 1986.

In his statement during the general debate, a member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Soviet Union, Edward Shevardnadze, pointed out that

"The United Nations is on the verge of serious changes. It is impossible to restructure relations among States without taking into account altered realities." (A/41/PV.6, p. 62)

(Mr. Petrovsky, USSR)

A great many unresolved questions have accumulated concerning the activities of the Organization. It would seem to us that, in connection with many of these problems in the daily activities of the United Nations, it would be worth holding a special discussion, with the participation of all interested parties. As we see it, the point of such a discussion would be to strengthen the Organization and create the necessary conditions for the resolution of the complex international problems of our times. It is time to put into effect all the machinery available to the United Nations and to make use of all its powers in the interests of strengthening the peace and security of all States. The delegation of the Soviet Union is ready to co-operate constructively with all interested parties in establishing an appropriate dialogue.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.