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President: Mr. Rüdiger von WECHMAR
(Federal Republic of Germany)

AGENDA ITEM 1

Opening of the session by the Chairman of the delegation of the United Republic of Tanzania

1. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: I declare open the thirty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly.

AGENDA ITEM 2

Minute of silent prayer or meditation

2. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: I invite representatives to stand and observe one minute of silent prayer or meditation.

The representatives stood in silence.

Address by Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim, Temporary President, Chairman of the delegation of the United Republic of Tanzania

3. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: As we meet for the opening of the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly, I

wish, in keeping with established tradition, to reflect with you on the experiences we have accumulated and the lessons we have learned since the last regular session of the General Assembly and on their relevance to the future agenda of the United Nations.

4. The last 12 months have been a very busy and challenging period for the United Nations. I might even characterize the year as turbulent and difficult, both politically and economically. The General Assembly had to meet twice at the sixth and seventh emergency special sessions—devoted respectively to the question of Afghanistan and to the question of Palestine—in addition to the scheduled eleventh special session on international economic co-operation.

5. When we met last year we had a very long agenda before us. Most of the problems on that agenda are still with us and new ones have been added. The path to a just and equitable solution to major outstanding problems still eludes us. In some cases the positions on issues have hardened, making it more difficult to search for negotiated solutions. Furthermore, in addition to the old crises, new ones have emerged.

6. There has been, for example, the dramatic deterioration of relations between the United States and Iran and the folding of the American diplomatic personnel. It is, indeed, a source of deep disappointment and anxiety that there has been no improvement in these relations during the year and that American diplomatic personnel have continued to be held as hostages for 10 months now.

7. The developments concerning Afghanistan have also led to further deterioration of the international situation. The sixth emergency special session of the General Assembly was specifically convened to deal with this question.

8. On the whole, the year has witnessed a dangerous escalation of international tension, engendering a climate of deep distrust and mutual suspicions, particularly among the great Powers, and, in the process, undermining, if not seriously threatening, the spirit and letter of détente. There is no doubt that the present international situation is very disquieting, and, unless its further deterioration is arrested, it poses ominous consequences for world peace and security.

9. This is therefore not an occasion for joy or self-congratulation. The problems we face call for even greater effort, imagination and wisdom; they call for courage and resilience; they call for dedication and sacrifice. Above all, they call for restraint among the most powerful nations.

10. During the past year there has been a strong reaffirmation of the importance of the General Assembly as a vital forum in which serious attempts can be made to resolve global problems. The fact that sometimes we do not agree,

or come up immediately with solutions, should not obscure the importance of the General Assembly and the significance of the efforts of the United Nations.

11. The strength of the United Nations is in the principles for which it stands. These principles underlie our vision of the future as well as the foundations for harmonious interaction among nations. We all subscribe to the principle of the equality of independent sovereign States; we all subscribe to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; we all subscribe to the principle of the equality and dignity of all human beings, irrespective of race, colour, creed or sex; we are opposed to racial discrimination under any form or pretext; we are committed to the advancement of the quality of life for all people; and, by our very membership in the United Nations, we are committed to conciliation, negotiation, peaceful coexistence and the preservation of international peace and security. These, and more, constitute the purpose of and the need for the United Nations.

12. These are not goals to be achieved at once. These are goals and objectives for which every generation has to strive. They constitute a permanent agenda and challenge for humanity. We cannot be naïve or simplistic and expect that we can achieve them in one year, in a decade or in a single generation. What is needed is a clear vision of where we are going and the ability to create and to capitalize on every opportunity which will bring us closer to our goals. Our greatest challenge is the provision of visionary and resourceful leadership capable of promoting and willing to promote the principles of our Charter.

13. This century has been blessed with that kind of leadership. Those who drafted the Charter of the United Nations had a vision which enabled them to see beyond narrow and limited interests. Likewise, 25 years ago, visionary leaders met at Bandung¹ and saw the needs and future roles of countries which until then had found themselves hopeless pawns in the rivalries of other nations. There the ground was laid for the eventual formal birth of the non-aligned movement, which today exercises tremendous influence in world affairs.

14. Our task is to translate their vision into reality through practical programmes. Each time we make observable strides in this direction should be a cause for joy, a source of hope and a reinforcement of our commitment to even greater achievements.

15. Thus it was a great moment for all of us, on 25 August last, at the opening of the eleventh special session, to welcome among us the independent Republic of Zimbabwe. The independence of Zimbabwe has a special place in the evolution of the international community. Year after year, the question of Southern Rhodesia remained on the agendas of the General Assembly and the Security Council. General Assembly resolutions were sometimes ridiculed as meaningless and hollow. This notwithstanding, the General Assembly consistently upheld the principles of the Charter and in the end was vindicated thanks to the resilience, courage and dedication of the gallant people of Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe is a prized birthday present for the twentieth anniversary of

the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

16. The independence of Zimbabwe is also a lesson for all of us. It has demonstrated that with a resourceful and committed leadership—in this case the leaders of the people of Zimbabwe—no problem is insurmountable. The liberation of Zimbabwe also had another significance for us all. It showed us that, with perseverance, determination and goodwill, the negotiating process can triumph even in the most complex of circumstances. In a way, the victory in Zimbabwe, like the recent important breakthrough in the negotiations at the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, eloquently reaffirms the conviction that, with vision, dedication and political will, the most monumental of problems are not beyond solution. The General Assembly must continue to uphold its principles and give encouragement to those who try to give meaning to the Charter's vision.

17. Only yesterday, the General Assembly concluded its eleventh special session, which was devoted to a review and appraisal of progress in development and international economic co-operation. That session was convened to deal with one of the most difficult yet crucial issues of our time. For some time we have witnessed a deterioration of the world economic situation as some of the pillars of the old world order have collapsed and others face imminent collapse unless urgent corrective measures are taken. The interdependence of nations is no longer wishful thinking, and the reality and pervasiveness of that interdependence can no longer be ignored. Indeed, it is this perception of interdependence which encouraged us in the 1970s to define in broad terms the parameters of the new world economic order. The need for such an order, which implies major changes in power relations, is gradually gaining acceptance. And yet the translation of the principles of the New International Economic Order into practical programmes to realize the new order remains disturbingly distant.

18. The world is not lacking in analytical studies of the present economic situation. We have the reports of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation,² the Brandt Commission,³ the Conference on International Economic Co-operation,⁴ several studies by UNCTAD and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and many more. What is missing is the political will and a spirit of genuine co-operation among nations. Without these, declarations or development strategies are worth no more than the paper on which they are printed; without them, global negotiations—indeed any negotiations—cannot succeed. And where the will to negotiate is demonstrated, experience has shown that a way can be found to agree on otherwise intractable problems. The experience of the just concluded eleventh special session of the General Assembly is in this case very relevant. Given the political will, it was possible to arrive at a consensus on the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations development decade⁵, which this Assembly

Document A/S-11/5 and Corr.1, annex.

¹ *North-South: A program for survival*; report of the Independent Commission on International Development Issues under the chairmanship of Willy Brandt (Cambridge, Massachusetts, the MIT Press, 1980).

² Held in Paris from 30 May to 2 June 1977.

³ A/S-11/AC.1/L.2 and Add.1-3. Subsequently published as document A/35/464.

¹ Asian-African Conference, held at Bandung from 18 to 24 April 1955.

will be formally launching. Yet, at the same time, the lack of the required political will made it impossible for the special session to achieve the expected positive results on the launching of the global negotiations.

19. The need for political will and a spirit of genuine co-operation is perhaps most relevant as we search for solutions to the major political problems of the post-war era. In the Middle East, in Lebanon, in Cyprus, in Korea, in South-East Asia, to mention some of the crisis points, peace will continue to elude us unless there is a genuine desire—as well as the necessary political will—to achieve peace. And there cannot be peace unless we respect and abide by the principles of the Charter.

20. Where there is a deliberate, consistent and determined effort on the part of any Government to violate the fundamental tenets which bind us together, where such behaviour threatens the well-being of us all, appropriate measures should be taken by the international community in the interest of humanity. To do otherwise, or to do nothing, is to ridicule the whole purpose of the Organization and to undermine its usefulness.

21. The United Nations should never compromise its basic principles. There is no basis for compromise on the inhuman policies of *apartheid* in South Africa. Similarly there can be no compromise on foreign occupation and domination. Nor can there be compromise on the flagrant violation of human rights. In the Middle East we cannot continue to ignore the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. In this respect, the seventh emergency special session of the General Assembly, devoted to the question of Palestine, represented the culmination of the joint efforts of the membership to respond positively to the long-frustrated aspirations of the Palestinian people for the exercise of their inalienable right to self-determination and to achieve the sovereign nationhood they so desire.

22. In Namibia, South Africa should not be allowed to continue its illegal occupation in total defiance of our Organization and international law. We must therefore vigorously pursue the objective of the implementation without delay of the United Nations plan for Namibia.

23. In my opening statement at the eleventh special session⁶ I remarked that the complex economic problems confronting the world today are further compounded by the intensified pace of militarization. The arms race continues unabated. Military expenditures are at present conservatively estimated at \$500 billion per annum and this represents a staggering figure, particularly when set against the background of rampant poverty in the greater part of the world.

24. To compound this trend and the psychosis of suspicion and distrust which it produces, the danger from the ever-increasing proliferation of nuclear weapons has become even more acute.

25. It cannot be denied that our world is now at a critical crossroads and that we must choose between the road which will lead mankind to its own fatal destruction and the road

towards mutual understanding, peaceful coexistence, progress and prosperity.

26. These are some of the challenges which we pass on to the next session. They are not easy problems. And yet there is no room for discouragement or despair. We have to continue untiringly to search for solutions. We should not be discouraged even if in the process we reveal new challenges. Let us continue to build on the foundations which we have; let us resurrect and expand on the spirit of détente; let us respect and abide by the rules and norms of diplomatic intercourse to which we all subscribe; and let us dedicate and commit ourselves to work for peace, progress and prosperity for all people.

27. During the past year, I had the singular honour and privilege of being invited, in my capacity as President of the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly, to visit countries in all corners of the world. Those visits afforded me a unique opportunity to receive the wisdom and guidance of many a head of State or Government and of other high government officials on matters affecting world affairs, which are our common preoccupation. I derived from them enormous encouragement and inspiration, which have been of great help to me in discharging the enormous task of presiding over this important organ of the world Organization.

28. I should like to place on record my deep appreciation of the opportunities thus afforded me and of the warm, cordial and generous reception accorded me by all those Governments without exception. My only regret is that, owing to the constraints of time, it was not possible for me to accept all the invitations so kindly extended to me. To those Governments, I wish to express my warm thanks for their kindness, understanding and consideration.

29. I wish also to express my appreciation and gratitude for the help and support which I received from the staff of the Secretariat in the course of my duties. You, Mr. Secretary-General, were most generous with your time and advice. I wish to thank you most sincerely for your co-operation and for your friendship. To Under-Secretary-General Bill Bullfinch I owe a particular debt of gratitude for his unflinching co-operation, assistance and friendship. My sincere thanks also go to the dedicated men and women of the Division of General Assembly Affairs, the speakers' table and the Department of Conference Services for the exemplary discharge of their responsibilities. Above all, whatever we have accomplished has been possible only with the support and co-operation of all delegations. I wish to thank you all for your co-operation and support.

30. I wish also to express my profound gratitude to you once again for the honour you bestowed upon me, upon my country and upon my continent in electing me to the presidency of the thirty-fourth session, as well as of the three special sessions of the General Assembly held during the year.

31. I am confident that the work of the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly will contribute towards the realization of the noble objectives of the Charter. May we hope that it will also help to create a climate conducive to genuine efforts towards peace and prosperity.

⁶ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Eleventh Special Session, Plenary Meetings*, 1st meeting, paras. 11-34.

AGENDA ITEM 97

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations: report of the Committee on Contributions

32. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: Before turning to the next item on our agenda, I should like, in keeping with the established practice, to invite the attention of the General Assembly to document A/35/456, which contains a letter addressed to me by the Secretary-General in which he informs the Assembly that two Member States are in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the United Nations within the terms of Article 19 of the Charter.

33. In this connexion, I also wish to draw the Assembly's attention to the letter annexed to document A/35/456, in which the Government of Chad has requested that its voting rights be maintained, because its present failure to pay its arrears is due to circumstances beyond its control.

34. In the light of the second sentence of Article 19 of the Charter, whereby the General Assembly may permit a Member to vote if it is satisfied that the failure to pay is due to conditions beyond the control of the Member, may I take it that the General Assembly agrees to the request of Chad and authorizes it to participate in the vote?

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 3

Credentials of representatives to the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly:

(a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee

35. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: Rule 28 of the rules of procedure provides that the General Assembly at the beginning of each session shall appoint, on the proposal of the President, a Credentials Committee consisting of nine members. Accordingly, it is proposed that for the thirty-fifth session, the Credentials Committee should consist of the following Member States: Angola, China, Costa Rica, Haiti, Kenya, Singapore, Spain, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and United States of America. May I take it that the countries I have mentioned are hereby appointed members of the Credentials Committee?

It was so decided (decision 35/301).

AGENDA ITEM 4

Election of the President of the General Assembly

36. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: I now invite the members of the General Assembly to proceed to the election of the President of the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

37. I have been informed by the Chairman of the group of Western European and other States that his group has endorsed the candidacy of His Excellency Baron Rüdiger von Wechmar of the Federal Republic of Germany for the presidency of the General Assembly.

38. Taking into account the provisions of paragraph 16 of General Assembly decision 34/401, I therefore declare His Excellency Baron Rüdiger von Wechmar of the Federal Republic of Germany elected President of the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly by acclamation.

Mr. von Wechmar (Federal Republic of Germany) was elected by acclamation President of the General Assembly (decision 35/302).

39. I extend my profound and sincere congratulations to Baron von Wechmar and I invite him to assume the Presidency.

40. The PRESIDENT: Let me begin by saying how deeply honoured I feel that the General Assembly has seen fit to endow me with the presidency of its thirty-fifth session. The distinction and trust you have thus accorded me extend well beyond my person; they are an honour bestowed upon my country and its people.

41. I shall endeavour to do my utmost to serve the Assembly in the spirit of the Charter and in accordance with the high example which has been set by those who have preceded me on this rostrum.

42. In assuming my new office, I am privileged to pay homage to my predecessor, Ambassador Salim, for so admirably discharging his duties during four sessions of the General Assembly. His outstanding competence and expertise and—not least—his rare sense of timing have set a standard which will be hard for me to emulate.

43. Considering the magnitude of the responsibilities of the President, I shall gratefully and confidently rely on the wise and experienced counsel of the Secretary-General, whose judgement I have come to value so greatly over the years.

44. I shall also count on the co-operation and support of all delegations and on the assistance and advice particularly of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly and the Chairmen of the Main Committees.

45. This Assembly convenes at a time when the world has entered a difficult decade. Dangers and crises abound. Few, if any, international conflicts lend themselves to easy solutions. None of the problems confronting us can be treated in isolation. Therefore, only our common and sustained endeavours will yield results. Here is a challenge to this Assembly; here is a challenge to the political will of representatives, Governments and groups.

46. We must ask ourselves at the beginning of this session: have we all really done our best in the past? Have we always exhausted every possible means of achieving mutually acceptable compromises? Have we done everything to reach consensus? Have we not often been hiding behind instructions from capitals instead of guiding our own Governments towards agreement with negotiating partners here?

47. The need to create a new, more just and balanced international economic order, for example, is much too urgent to permit any substantial further delay. For millions, it could literally mean the difference between life and death.

48. The beginning of sincere and concrete global negotiations must therefore not be allowed to hinge upon the next conference of oil-exporting countries, yet another national election or another meeting of IMF and the World Bank.

49. Let us show compassion for those who still live in want and poverty. Let us help them to overcome their plight. Every day, week or month lost may result in tragedy for additional hundreds of thousands of human beings. I find it appalling that some countries in a position to do so, irrespective of their economic and social systems, still have not reached the 0.7 per cent official development assistance goal. Some have made substantial progress during recent years; others are still far behind. The untold sufferings of millions of people will not be terminated by yet another round of well-intentioned but sometimes bland debates in this Assembly. We are called upon to act and to act now.

50. Some of the problems on our agenda are so vast, so complex and so profound that one might be tempted to give in to feelings of helplessness and despair. So let us face them together realistically and with determination, understanding and shared concern.

51. The United Nations has become a mirror of the harsh realities of the world. Our Organization reflects deep political, economic, national and ideological differences. It reflects the anguish of those who live in poverty and the desperation of those with no education, those without employment, without food and without hope.

52. And yet our peoples remain determined

“to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and

“to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and

“to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and

“to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom”.

53. Those are words from the Preamble to our Charter, which goes on to commit all of us

“to practise tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours, and

“to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and

“to ensure . . . that armed force shall not be used . . . and

“to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples”.

54. Those are solemn commitments into which our peoples and their Governments have entered upon joining the United Nations.

55. I hope that at the close of this thirty-fifth session the General Assembly will be able to take pride in having

contributed its share towards a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East based on Security Council resolution 242 (1967)—a just, secure and lasting peace between Israel and its Arab neighbours, including the Palestinians.

56. I trust that at the end of our work we shall register further substantial steps towards an independent, sovereign Namibia through free and United Nations supervised elections as well as towards the abolition of all forms of racial discrimination, including, in particular, the *apartheid* system practised in South Africa.

57. I hope that by December we shall have taken determined action to promote security and disarmament. This should include a reaffirmation of earlier support for the SALT II agreement⁷ as well as renewed and serious efforts to halt the arms race. In particular, I trust that the Assembly will continue to contribute to the policy of *détente*. In this connexion I appeal to Governments to use the presence of their Foreign Ministers during our debates here to resume direct talks and prepare the ground for fruitful negotiations.

58. I sincerely hope that, with both patience and perseverance, substantial progress will be made, through global negotiations, towards the establishment of a new and more equitable international economic order. That requires compassion, imagination, creativity and, above everything else, the genuine political will of all concerned. I am convinced that the time has now come for meetings soon at ministerial or even summit level to generate this political will, which is so badly needed.

59. The list of problems on our agenda is too long to allow me to refer to every one of them. The task is huge, our time limited. Let us therefore devote our energies and experience to achieving our common goal. Your President will endeavour to serve you to the best of his abilities, fairly and impartially.

60. In conclusion, I wish to identify myself with a commitment which a recipient of the Nobel prize, the late Ralph J. Bunche, made here at the United Nations:

“I have a number of very strong biases. I have a deep-seated bias against hate and intolerance; I have a bias against racial and religious bigotry; I have bias against war, a bias for peace; I have a bias which leads me to believe in the essential goodness of my fellow man, which leads me to believe that no problem of human relations is ever insoluble. I have a strong bias in favour of the United Nations and its ability to maintain a peaceful world.”

AGENDA ITEM 19

Admission of new Members to the United Nations

61. The PRESIDENT: In accordance with the procedure followed in the past, I should now like to invite the General Assembly to consider the positive recommendation by the Security Council for the admission to membership in the United Nations of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

⁷Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, signed at Vienna on 18 June 1979.

[A/35/107]. This special procedure has been applied previously in order to give States recommended by the Security Council for membership in our Organization the opportunity, if the General Assembly acts favourably on their requests, to participate from the outset in the work of the session. If there is no objection, we shall proceed accordingly.

It was so decided.

62. The PRESIDENT: The Security Council has recommended, as stated in document A/35/107, the admission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to membership in the United Nations. In this connexion, a draft resolution has been submitted in document A/35/L.1 and Add.1. May I take it that the General Assembly accepts the recommendation of the Security Council and adopts the draft resolution by acclamation?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 35/1).

63. The PRESIDENT: I therefore declare Saint Vincent and the Grenadines admitted to membership in the United Nations.

The delegation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was escorted to its place in the General Assembly hall.

64. The PRESIDENT: It gives me great pleasure to extend—as a first official act in my new capacity as President of the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly—a warm welcome to our new Member State, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Its accession to this family of nations, which has now increased to 154 Members, marks a further step in the process towards universality, thus underlining an historical and irreversible evolution.

65. With the admission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, a State has joined our Organization which belongs to a region that takes pride in its ancient civilization and diversity of cultural tradition and which has a great potential for development. The United Nations has become stronger and richer through the accession of this new Member which will join in our endeavours to implement the principles embodied in the Charter, to consolidate peace and security and to strengthen co-operation and understanding between nations.

66. I should like to congratulate the new Member State, and in particular its Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Mr. Robert Milton Cato, and its Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for External Affairs and Tourism, Mr. Hudson K. Tannis, on the unanimity with which the application of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for membership has been approved by the international community [A/35/89-S/13784]. I welcome its delegation to the United Nations and assure it of our friendship and co-operation.

67. Several representatives have expressed a desire to speak at this juncture. I call first on the representative of Brazil, who will speak on behalf of the group of Latin American States.

68. Mr. CORRÊA DA COSTA (Brazil): I should like, on behalf of the group of Latin American States, to offer out

felicitations to you, Sir, upon your election to the presidency of this session of the General Assembly. At a later stage, the Foreign Ministers of Latin America will have the opportunity to convey their separate congratulations to you in a more formal manner, and to express the feeling of confidence that your assumption of this most important post inspires in the Governments of our respective countries.

69. We should like to extend a very warm welcome to the United Nations to the one hundred and fifty-fourth Member of the Organization, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, a sister nation of Latin America, which we are certain will enhance the contribution of our geographical region to the work of the United Nations. We in Latin America have always enthusiastically supported the principle of the universality of the United Nations and we are now proud to note that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has joined the ranks of the independent nations, bringing the goal of universality closer to its final consummation.

70. The delegation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines may rest assured that it will have the whole-hearted friendship and co-operation of its fellow Latin American delegations.

71. Sir Anthony PARSONS (United Kingdom): Mr. President, first I offer you my warmest congratulations on your accession to the presidency of the General Assembly. It is a great pleasure to have a personal friend as well as the representative of a country so closely linked with mine in that important post.

72. By the same token, my warmest thanks and congratulations go to Ambassador Salim of Tanzania, another good friend and colleague from a country with very close ties with the United Kingdom. We have admired him, respected him and, indeed, sympathized with him throughout a year which must at times have seemed to him to be without end.

73. Six months ago I had the pleasure of taking part in the Security Council proceedings^a that led to the unanimous recommendation that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines should be admitted to membership in the United Nations. This is an equally happy occasion. We welcome Saint Vincent as the one hundred and fifty-fourth Member of our Organization.

74. My delegation takes special pleasure in greeting Saint Vincent as the thirty-eighth of our Commonwealth partners to come to New York to assume United Nations membership. The United Kingdom and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines have a long history of friendship going back to the early seventeenth century. In the second half of this century it was wholly appropriate that the nature of that relationship should change with the times. At the end of the 1960s Saint Vincent took a long step towards independence by becoming an Associated State. That left only the conduct of its foreign affairs and defence policy in our hands as administering Power. Then, exactly 10 years later, its people decided that it should become a fully independent State within the Commonwealth. A conference on the Saint Vincent constitution was held in London from 18 to 21 September 1978.

^a See *Official Records of the Security Council, Thirty-fifth Year, 2197th and 2198th meetings.*

That led to the achievement of full independence on 27 October 1979.

75. My Government naturally welcomed that evolution. We were particularly happy to see Saint Vincent forging its links with the Commonwealth. We now look forward to developing new forms of partnership to complement our long-standing ties of friendship and co-operation.

76. I should like to extend the warmest possible welcome to Mr. Milton Cato, the Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, who has come to New York for this occasion with his Minister for External Affairs, Mr. Hudson Tannis, whom we met in February. Mr. Cato's Government has quickly earned the respect of the international community since steering Saint Vincent to independence. We much look forward to seeing his representatives taking part in our deliberations here.

77. I do not have to emphasize the impact that island States have made at the United Nations. The size of a country's economy or its population have rarely been the determining factor in its influence on United Nations affairs. We are sure that Saint Vincent will be a valuable Member of the United Nations family and that the international community will benefit from its membership.

78. Saint Vincent has a long and lively democratic tradition which I am sure will equip its representatives well for the tasks which lie ahead of us all in New York. I wish every good fortune to our old friends in Saint Vincent for the future happiness and prosperity of their beautiful country.

79. The PRESIDENT: I now call upon the representative of Sierra Leone, who will speak on behalf of the group of African States.

80. Mr. GELAGA-KING (Sierra Leone): Mr. President, allow me on behalf of the African group of States at the United Nations to congratulate you on your unanimous election to the presidency of the thirty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly. We have no doubt that, with your profound experience you will carry out your duties successfully.

81. We wish also to take this opportunity of congratulating our dear friend and brother, Ambassador Salim A. Salim of the United Republic of Tanzania, on the excellent way in which he conducted the affairs of the General Assembly. We all remember quite well the indefatigable way in which he conducted our work, and the fact that he brought this year's work to a successful conclusion gives cause for joy to all of us who come from Africa.

82. As the current Chairman of the group of African States at the United Nations, I have great pleasure in welcoming Saint Vincent and the Grenadines as the one hundred and fifty-fourth Member of the United Nations.

83. The African group of States always has a feeling of triumph and satisfaction when newly independent States are admitted to this world body. We feel victorious and jubilant not only because we ourselves are, comparatively speaking, newly independent, but, *a fortiori*, because such admission is

visible proof that an administering Power has once again fulfilled its obligations and its sacred trust under the United Nations Charter by ensuring that the peoples in its care exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and freedom.

84. In line with this, my country, Sierra Leone, was one of the sponsors of draft resolution A/35/L.1, admitting Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations. We congratulate the newest Member and wish it well. The African group of States is convinced that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is a peace-loving State which has accepted the obligations contained in the United Nations Charter, and we have every confidence in its ability and willingness to carry out those obligations.

85. Finally, our congratulations must also go to the erstwhile administering Power, the United Kingdom. Indeed, having regard to the fact that the ties between this newly independent Member and the United Kingdom go back as far as the seventeenth century, we can understand it if the change in status of the former is accompanied by some emotion on the part of either State.

86. Be that as it may, this is a joyous occasion for us all. We are sure that, in accordance with the principle of the sovereign equality of all States embodied in the United Nations Charter, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines will play an active role in the deliberations of this Organization.

87. I want to take this opportunity also of welcoming to the United Nations the Prime Minister, the Minister for External Affairs and the entire delegation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

88. The PRESIDENT: The next speaker on my list is the representative of Bangladesh, who will speak on behalf of the Asian group of States.

89. Mr. KAISER (Bangladesh): Mr. President, on behalf of the Asian group of States, I extend to you our warmest congratulations on your assumption of the high office of the President of the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly. Committed as you are to the purposes and principles of the United Nations, your election to the presidency of this august body is a fitting tribute to your personal qualities as an outstanding diplomat and a man of peace and wisdom, and to your great country for the effective role that it has played in the United Nations ever since it became a Member of the world body.

90. On behalf of the Asian group of States, we pay our warmest tribute to the President of the previous session of the General Assembly, Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim, the Permanent Representative of non-aligned Tanzania, a country which we respect. It was under his wise guidance and leadership that some momentous decisions of far-reaching significance found acceptance. President Salim did us proud and brought a new dedication to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations for universal peace and the progress of mankind.

91. It is with a great sense of satisfaction that we extend our heartiest greetings to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines on its admission to the United Nations as its one hundred

and fifty-fourth Member. The admission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines as the newest Member and as a sovereign equal in the world community of nations constitutes another vital step forward in vindicating the inalienable rights of all peoples to self-determination and independence.

92. Speaking on behalf of the Asian group of States, I should like to emphasize that we in Asia have been in the vanguard of action to remove the remnants of colonialism and in support of the right to self-determination. In pursuit of the goal of universality, Asia has been among the first to extend firm support to any State seeking admission to membership of the United Nations, irrespective of its size, ideology or political, economic or social conditions. Saint Vincent, I am sure, will from the first day of its admission contribute effectively and meaningfully to the deliberations of this Assembly on the matters of universal importance.

93. The Asian group of States also takes this opportunity to warmly congratulate the administering Power, the United Kingdom, on this joyous and happy occasion.

94. May I again, on behalf of the Asian group of States, convey our heartfelt congratulations to the Government and people of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and our best wishes for the continued prosperity, peace and happiness of its people.

95. **The PRESIDENT:** The next speaker is the representative of Norway, who will speak on behalf of the group of Western European and other States.

96. **Mr. ÅLGÅRD (Norway):** Mr. President, the members of the group which has unanimously nominated you for the high office of President of the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly will certainly offer their individual warm congratulations at the appropriate time. Permit me now however, as a colleague and an old friend, to extend to you my most heartfelt personal congratulations.

97. In my capacity as Chairman of the group of Western European and other States, it is a great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in the United Nations.

98. It is always a most important occasion when new Members join our Organization. The group of States for which I am speaking welcomed the application for membership by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Today we should like to express our satisfaction that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has declared itself ready to accept and undertake the obligations in the Charter of the United Nations.

99. Although Saint Vincent and the Grenadines will be one of the smaller Members of our world Organization, I am confident that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines will fully discharge all responsibilities connected with membership of the United Nations. I am furthermore convinced that, as the one hundred and fifty-fourth Member of the United Nations, it will make a valuable contribution to our activities.

100. On behalf of the group of Western European and other States, I take this opportunity to congratulate the Government and people of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines on attaining their independence on 27 October 1979.

We look forward to working in close co-operation with the members of their delegation to the United Nations in the years to come.

101. **The PRESIDENT:** The next speaker is the representative of Bulgaria, who will address the Assembly on behalf of the group of Eastern European States.

102. **Mr. TSVETKOV (Bulgaria) (interpretation from French):** Mr. President, may I at the outset, on behalf of the delegations of the Eastern European States, extend to you our most cordial congratulations on your election to the high office of President of the General Assembly and wish you complete success in the discharge of your important mission.

103. I am certain that when the head of my delegation, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, addresses this Assembly next week, it will be his pleasure to express to you the sentiments of the Bulgarian delegation, as well as our fullest appreciation to your eminent predecessor.

104. As Chairman, during the month of September, of the group of Eastern European States, I have the honour and the great pleasure of warmly welcoming the representatives of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines on the admission of their country to the United Nations. At the same time, I should like to express to them our most cordial wishes for the prosperity, well-being and happiness of their people and country.

105. The entry into the United Nations family of a new Member is in itself a felicitous political event, because it represents yet another victory of the world Organization in implementing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, adopted by the General Assembly [resolution 1514 (XV)].

106. Furthermore, this event is all the more significant since it coincides with the twentieth anniversary of the adoption by the General Assembly of that historic Declaration, which has played and continues to play an extremely important role in abolishing the colonial yoke and promoting access to freedom and independence for all colonial countries and peoples, as well as in the evolution of the world in general. No one can doubt that the proclamation of national independence by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is an expression of the historical changes that have occurred in the contemporary world and is yet new proof of the will of peoples to put an end to the last vestiges of the colonial system, as well as to all the practices of exploitation, pressure, racial discrimination and injustice which accompany it.

107. The countries of Eastern Europe, which have from the outset worked tirelessly for the full realization of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, are desirous of establishing close and friendly co-operation with the delegation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for the attainment of the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

108. The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, who will address the Assembly on behalf of the group of Arab States.

109. Mr. MANSOURI (Syrian Arab Republic) (*interpretation from Arabic*): Mr. President, permit me to convey to you on behalf of the Arab group of States our sincere congratulations on your unanimous election to the presidency of this thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

110. The heads of delegations of our countries will soon be able to offer their congratulations to you in an appropriate fashion on behalf of our Governments. However, we should like to express our pleasure and to say that your long experience in international affairs and your skill in conducting proceedings in this Organization make us confident that you will conduct the proceedings of this session in such a way as to ensure the success to which this Organization aspires.

111. We are also sure that you will devote your efforts to the implementation of the objectives and principles of the Charter of this international Organization. We should like to assure you here that the Arab group of States is ready to co-operate with you in the attainment of these objectives.

112. Your country, the Federal Republic of Germany, plays a very important and positive role in relations with the world's countries in general, and with the Arab countries in particular. We have no doubt that this role will promote the success of this session and will succeed in strengthening the links of solidarity and co-operation among the various countries.

113. I take this opportunity also to greet, on behalf of the Arab group of States, the State of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines on its admission to the international family. We should also like to repeat that we are ready to co-operate in all fields with that State. The admission of an increasing number of independent States which have fought against colonialism and racism will no doubt strengthen the role of the United Nations in the service of the causes of justice and international peace.

114. In conclusion, I should like to hail the tireless and intense efforts and the energetic actions undertaken by your predecessor, Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim, to ensure the success of the work of the thirty-fourth session as well as of the seventh emergency special session and the eleventh special session.

115. The PRESIDENT: I call next on the representative of Saint Lucia, who will speak as the Chairman of the West Indies Associated States.

116. Mr. AUGUSTE (Saint Lucia): Mr. President, may I take this first occasion to congratulate you on your election as President of the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly. I am certain that you will occupy the chair with the characteristic ability and experience that you have displayed over many years in this and other forums.

117. One year ago my country was admitted and acclaimed as the youngest Member State of this august body. Today Saint Vincent and the Grenadines assumes this

mantle and joins us in the corridors of this most reputable Organization. We extend a brotherly welcome not only because Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is an island State like ours, but more so because it is the last of the Windward group of island States to achieve independence and membership of the United Nations.

118. On behalf of my country in its capacity as Chairman of the Committee of Foreign Ministers of the Caribbean Community [CARICOM] and also, more especially, as Chairman of the West Indies Associated States, constituting both the Windward and Leeward groups of islands, I extend a very special welcome. The Windward group is the forerunner of the small island Caribbean States in achieving independence and United Nations membership, and we are looking forward to the earliest materialization of a similar status and achievement for the Leeward group of islands.

119. Like our sister island States in the Pacific and Indian Oceans, we add a new and important dimension to the social, economic and political thrust of the third world. There are now some 24 island Member States and more are to follow. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is the latest addition. This is an important consideration that the United Nations must accommodate in its calculations and projections and to which it must give adequate and full significance in its deliberations.

120. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, in common with all our other sister States, represents a unique and peculiar manifestation of the nation State. But its problems are no less demanding and its demands no less pertinent than is recorded in the general third world movement to elicit a reasonable and more acceptable standard of living for our peoples. Size in area or population does not warrant any apology within this forum. The State exists and the international community must at every juncture live with, contend with and embody it, mindful of the exclusive system of co-operation and co-ordination that is harboured therein.

121. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, like ourselves and small island States that came before us, is expected to live up to the same obligations and responsibilities that are applicable to larger States. It is expected to represent its interests and objectives in this forum and to play an effective and effectual role in the preservation and maintenance of peace. There is no doubt that, like its sister States, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines will have the opportunity to fulfil its role, whatever the price; for it is a burden that it agreed to accept and whose existence it acknowledged must exist, when it elected to seek independence and to be accepted into the ranks of this esteemed gathering.

122. The only salvation for a small island State is to be part of an entity whose major objective is to preserve peace in this world. It is only the community of interests that will represent and maintain the base from which the peoples of a small island State can hope to achieve their goals and objectives. Every input to that cause, directly or indirectly, is a step in the proper direction.

123. In welcoming Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, we are proud to acknowledge that the end of the Windward Islands constitutional and international endeavour has arrived. We note, *en passant*, that the beginning of the

Leeward Islands objective is at hand. The saga of colonialism in our area has been sung.

124. We are assured that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines will bring its own particular contribution to interplay with the forces already at work in this forum, and will ably support the concerted movement towards the realization of those developmental provisions which must be achieved before a small island State can obtain economic liberation for its peoples.

125. To the State of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and to its Prime Minister, may I suggest that their vision be never blurred by the untimeliness of events, and that they pursue their people's path, encouraged and fortified by the Shakespearian metaphor "Ripeness is all".

126. The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of the United States, who will speak as the representative of the host country.

127. Mr. McHENRY (United States of America): Sir, on behalf of the United States, the host country, I wish to express our warmest congratulations on your election to the presidency of the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations. You have, Mr. President, the disadvantage and the challenge of following Ambassador Salim of the United Republic of Tanzania in the office of the presidency. We are, however, confident that you will meet the challenge so ably put before you and us by Ambassador Salim—a challenge, I might add, that you have ably demonstrated your ability to meet in the past.

128. As Permanent Representative of the host country, I take pleasure in welcoming Saint Vincent and the Grenadines as the one hundred and fifty-fourth Member of the United Nations. The people of the United States extend congratulations to the Government and people of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines as they join our efforts to establish international peace, justice and prosperity.

129. In February of this year, when the Security Council considered Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' application for membership in the United Nations, the United States representative expressed confidence that the people and Government of the newly independent nation would support the basic principles of the United Nations Charter. We expect that these principles will guide Saint Vincent and the Grenadines as it assumes an active role in international affairs, both within the Caribbean region and in the United Nations.

130. The United States looks forward to a continuation of the friendly relations that we have enjoyed with Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. We have in the past provided them with economic and development assistance through multi-lateral agencies, and we maintain a Peace Corps programme there. The United States was also pleased to lend assistance to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines last year in the wake of the tragic volcanic eruption.

131. We wish to assure the representatives of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines of the full co-operation of the United States in our future endeavours. We extend to them our warm greetings and best wishes on this happy occasion.

132. The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of the United States for his good wishes and for reminding me of the special challenge of this office. The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Mr. R. Milton Cato. I take pleasure in inviting him to address the General Assembly.

133. Mr. CATO (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines): Mr. President, on behalf of the Government and people of the nation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, my delegation would like to extend to you personally and to the country you represent our very sincere congratulations on your appointment to the very high office you now hold in this august body.

134. We have observed with great interest the record of your country over the last three decades in bringing about the tremendous reconstruction which has placed you in the forefront of today's developed countries. We know only too well that the progress of your country has been made possible not only by whatever natural resources you may have at your disposal but principally by the hard work and dedication of your people; and it is in this respect that my own country can gather encouragement and have hope for its own future in spite of its own extremely limited resources.

135. I should like, if I may, to express my delegation's thanks to all those countries represented here today who have made our presence and our membership possible; and in this respect I speak for those Vincentians in this country who have given my delegation encouragement during our periods of difficulty. Some of them have found it possible to be here to lend us further moral support. We know that there are thousands of citizens in our own home today who have great expectations; and I trust that with God's help they will have no reason to regret the democratic mandate which they placed in our hands when, on the fifth day of December last, they renewed and extended the authority of the Saint Vincent Labour Party to manage the affairs of our small island State.

136. The application of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to become a Member of the United Nations, having received unanimous approval in our own House of Assembly, was dispatched to the Secretary-General on 8 January 1980 and came up for consideration before the Security Council on 19 February 1980.

137. I should like to express my thanks to all the members of the Security Council for giving such ready and easy passage to the resolution and for the very kind sentiments and good wishes which were then expressed by delegations in recommending my country's membership to this distinguished Assembly.

138. I should particularly like to refer to the contributions made by the representatives of Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago, who requested to be invited to participate in the Security Council's discussion of the application and who also expressed very complimentary and encouraging words about my country. Our particular countries are bound not only by ties of geography, situated as we are practically within a stone's throw of each other in the same Caribbean

basin, but also by our common historical development, since we have travelled in the same direction along the colonial road to an unfortunately short-lived Federation and to eventual independence.

139. It was most fitting and appropriate that our sponsor should have been the United Kingdom. We were under their tutelage for some 300 years and should we demonstrate any evidence of unpreparedness for our new role, then the part played by our erstwhile colonial masters might very properly be brought into question.

140. As we have been reminded, the association between the United Kingdom and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has been a long one, dating back to the early seventeenth century. We have travelled together over stormy and perilous waters; we have had our long periods of dispute and controversy and we have progressed along the constitutional road, sometimes impatiently and sometimes without any obvious signs of benefit to our long-suffering and frustrated people who were so anxious to attain a reasonable standard of living under conditions over which they had no control.

141. Happily, time, which has been said to be the healer of all ills, marched on; and on 27 October 1969 we entered into an Association with the United Kingdom under the terms of which we were to manage all our internal affairs, while the United Kingdom Government continued to retain responsibility for our external affairs and defence.

142. In the course of the negotiations which resulted in that Association it was made clear that this was only an interim measure leading to full independence for our State. At the final conference—Constitutional Conference, held in London from 23 to 27 June 1969—I spoke on behalf of the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and announced that my Government and the people of our State were fully committed to independence, as well as the political and economic integration of all the Caribbean peoples, and that, if this dream should prove illusory, then we would proceed together with any of those States that were so disposed and, in any event, would seek to proceed to independence.

143. In the circumstances which ensued we were destined to become a member of the Caribbean Free Trade Association and later the East Caribbean Common Market, economic groupings which were aimed at helping us withstand some of the pressures of the international and multinational economic systems. Even within this grouping, the East Caribbean Common Market was established to give further protection to some of what have become known as the less developed countries. At the present time, the East Caribbean countries work for regional co-operation under the umbrella of the Council of Ministers of the West Indies Associate States, embracing the independent States as well as some States which are still in association with the United Kingdom Government and one State which for the time being has elected to remain a British colony. We still hope that in this manner we will give strength to the less developed countries.

144. Our own constitutional association with the United Kingdom was to last a matter of some 10 years and it was not until 27 October 1979, less than a year ago, that our own flag was unfurled in the State of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Vincentians throughout the Caribbean, in the United Kingdom, in the United States, in Canada and elsewhere celebrated the historic day of our coming of age. And so, history has recorded the end of a most colourful era, during which time there were skirmishes between the Caribs and the original settlers, followed by alternate periods of rule by the French and British, and eventually a long and varied colonial relationship between my own country and the United Kingdom. I am confident that I speak for that country as well as my own in saying that, as we turn over this new page and embark on this new relationship, the warmth of our present friendship will be strengthened, as we work together with other countries in our mutual endeavours to find solutions to common problems with greater success, one would hope, than we have had in former years.

145. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was put through severe tests during the year 1979, shortly after we had settled the time-table for our move to independence. In April of that year we were reminded in no uncertain manner that we lived at the foot of a volcano, for La Soufrière made its presence felt by a series of eruptions which compelled us to embark on an instantaneous evacuation programme involving some 20,000 people, completely disrupting the lives of our entire population of some 110,000 and bringing the economic progress which we had been making to a temporary standstill.

146. We had hardly cleared the debris and renewed our forward march when we got the aftermath of hurricane "David", which reminded us of our vulnerability from the sea as well as from the land, when rough seas and heavy winds practically destroyed two villages and did considerable damage to our roads and vegetable crops.

147. It was during this period that our faith in humanity was strengthened. Our friends rallied round us from all quarters. We received immediate assistance to help us with rehabilitation from a number of countries, agencies, groups and individuals, in the forefront of which was this Organization, in which we have today attained formal membership.

148. It was in these circumstances that our people demonstrated their spirit of determination to work together as a united people, and so we proceeded with our rehabilitation programme and did not alter our schedule for proceeding to independence. The morale of our people was high, their dedication was unquestionable, and our economy once again began to gather momentum. Many representatives here can bear testimony to the spirit of determination which was in evidence during our independence celebration, by which time we had restored conditions to normalcy.

149. Within a period of two months we invited the electorate to renew our mandate if they so wished, and the Labour Party of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was returned to office by an overwhelming majority, at general elections which took place on 5 December 1979.

150. We were well on the way to recovery by August last when the elements struck again in the shape of hurricane "Allen". On this occasion, the force of the hurricane was far greater than that of the previous year and the damage done far exceeded the ravages of the volcanic eruptions. We were to have our principal agricultural crop—which accounts for over 60 per cent of our export trade—95 per cent destroyed, besides sustaining considerable damage to our vegetable crops, our roads, our only deep water wharf, our sewerage system and a considerable number of houses, particularly those in the low-cost areas. The halt to our weekly shipment of bananas means in effect that we face considerable unemployment well into the next year.

151. The question now is where do we go from here? How do we fulfil our obligations to the people of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and live up to their expectations? How do we perform our obligations to the United Nations and carry out the pledges we have made to identify with the international community? My Government has made a declaration to the United Nations Secretary-General that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines considers itself bound by the treaties formally entered into on its behalf for a limited period during which the texts of the treaties will be studied and a final decision reached whether to accept each treaty or to terminate it. Several countries have adopted this method of acceptance of treaty rights and obligations on the attainment of independence.

152. My Government has given deliberate consideration to our own foreign policy and to diplomatic representation, and my delegation will be making our main statement on foreign policy in the course of this session. There are, however, certain brief matters of concern to us which I should like to stress at this stage and at this particular point in time.

153. We shall endeavour to maintain the contacts which we have established over the years with our traditional friends, and we look forward to their co-operation in all matters pertaining to our external affairs. We shall, of course, maintain our friendly relations with other Caribbean nations and strengthen existing ties with other countries where it is in our interest to do so. We intend to remain members of, and actively participate in, the several regional institutions to which we now belong.

154. At the last meeting of the West Indian States Association Council of Ministers, it was agreed to establish an Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, the object being to achieve the fullest possible co-ordination of foreign policies within the respective competences of member States, to seek to adopt, as far as possible, common positions on all international issues and to establish and maintain joint missions and representations in pursuit of their international relations with other States and international organizations. The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines feels that security and peace in the world is of paramount importance and should not involve one nation arming itself against another or imposing its superior force on another nation.

155. We subscribe to the principle that all nations should work together in a spirit of good neighbourliness based on mutual respect for each other's equality, irrespective of numerical strength, size or financial resources.

156. We are completely opposed to the arms race and to the proliferation of nuclear weapons which we see as two of the major areas of expenditure which could be diverted to giving assistance to the less developed and the underdeveloped regions of the world, which are so badly in need of assistance for their economic and social development. We condemn in the strongest possible terms any situation in which one nation should have to live in fear because of the superior strength of a neighbouring State. We condemn any attempt by external forces to seek to impose ideologies or systems of government upon other countries or to subvert or overthrow the constitutional Governments of other States.

157. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines adheres to the principles enunciated and enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

158. We condemn in the strongest possible terms the racist policies practised in South Africa and elsewhere and endorse the Declaration on race and racial prejudice adopted on 27 November 1978 by the General Conference of UNESCO⁹ at its twentieth session on 27 November 1978.

159. We shall give our complete support to the people of Namibia in their struggle for freedom from a defiant and oppressive régime and will support to the fullest extent possible the efforts being made to bring about free and fair elections under the supervision of the United Nations leading to independence for that country at the earliest possible time.

160. We shall give full support to the efforts being made to bring about and ensure the complete independence of Belize and we shall continue to observe the procedures which are being adopted to bring about a just settlement in that dispute.

161. It is quite clear to my delegation that the many laudable resolutions which have been adopted by this Assembly from time to time can never be implemented unless the major Powers and the developed countries, notwithstanding their own domestic problems, are prepared to make substantial sacrifices in order to correct the imbalance between the rich and the poor countries of the world.

162. The small island States of the Caribbean have identified two major constraints on the economic development of our countries. First there is the lack of adequate finance and it had been hoped that the establishment of certain financial institutions within the region would have provided a solution. Indeed, the Caribbean Development Bank has provided a partial but often frustrating solution. It is not unusual for a project to take up to two years from the filing of an application to approval and disbursement. This is not usually due to any cumbersome or bureaucratic procedures on the part of the Bank, but occurs because the donor countries will only provide funds for specific purposes and on specific terms and conditions of their own choosing, which the Bank itself describes as being unnecessarily restrictive.

⁹ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Twentieth Session*, vol. 1, *Resolutions*, p. 61.

163. In some cases, the less developed countries are expected to provide counterpart funds and to expend on feasibility studies considerable sums that it is beyond the capacity of the small island States to provide.

164. In some cases, the procurement regulations applicable to the disbursement of funds by the Bank are so stringent and complex that the Bank itself has described them as a nightmare.

165. The second constraint to which I refer is related to the lack of technology within the small States. Immigration restrictions and lack of training facilities make it extremely difficult for small island States to provide the trained labour force needed by underdeveloped countries if they are to find a niche in this very competitive world, whether it be in agriculture or in industry.

166. We would welcome a review of their position on these matters by the countries donors to the Caribbean Development Bank as well as to other financial institutions.

167. My delegation would not like to give the impression that we are setting out cap in hand, so to speak, seeking aid wherever we can get it.

168. We firmly believe that, given the opportunity, our people can learn the skills necessary to develop our country.

We firmly believe that financing on more realistic and easier terms for the less developed countries would put us in the position to pull ourselves up by our own bootstraps. We subscribe to the theory of John Donne that "No man is an Island, entire of itself", and we in our chain of small islands—now Saint Vincent and the Grenadines—have discovered this to our cost.

169. We recognize that even as independent countries we continue to live in a state of interdependence.

170. We seek the opportunity to make our contribution to the efforts being made by the United Nations to implement its Charter. We believe that the United Nations will be an effective instrument only when nations put the interests of the international community before their own, and that there is a compelling duty for all countries, including our own, to subordinate our national interests to global policies taken in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

171. We firmly believe that these principles should form the corner-stone of the structure which we shall co-operate in building as we proudly take our place as the one hundred fifty-fourth Member of this family of nations. I pledge to you, Mr. President, the co-operation of the new State and Member, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m.