



General Assembly

UN LIBRARY

PROVISIONAL

A/42/PV.97

14 December 1987

ENGLISH

Forty-second session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 11 December 1987, at 3 p.m.

President:

Mr. FLORIN

(German Democratic Republic)

- Election to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs [16] (continued)
 - (a) Election of twenty members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme
- Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments [17] (continued)
 - (a) Appointment of members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: report of the Fifth Committee
 - (b) Appointment of members of the Committee on Contributions: report of the Fifth Committee
 - (c) Appointment of a member of the Board of Auditors: report of the Fifth Committee
 - (d) Confirmation of the appointment of members of the Investments Committee: report of the Fifth Committee

/...

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the Official Records of the General Assembly.

Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, within one week, to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Department of Conference Services, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

- (e) Appointment of members of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal:
report of the Fifth Committee
- (g) Appointment of members of the International Civil Service Commission:
report of the Fifth Committee
- Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board
of Auditors: report of the Fifth Committee [113]
- Pattern of conferences: report of the Fifth Committee [120]
- Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United
Nations: report of the Fifth Committee [121] (continued)
- The situation in the Middle East [39] (continued)
 - (a) Reports of the Secretary General
 - (b) Draft resolutions

The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 16 (continued)

ELECTIONS TO FILL VACANCIES IN SUBSIDIARY ORGANS

(a) ELECTION OF TWENTY MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): This morning the General Assembly adopted a resolution entitled "Biennial cycle of sessions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme".

By that resolution the General Assembly has, inter alia, decided there should be no regular session of the Governing Council in 1988 and that, beginning in 1989, the regular sessions of the Council will be held only in odd-numbered years, and requested the Secretary-General to conduct consultations with Governments to establish the necessary transitional arrangements for a change in the term of office of members of the Governing Council from three years to four, with one half of the membership being elected every two years.

With a view to ensuring a smooth transition in the process of changing the terms of office of members of the Governing Council, I have held consultations with the Chairmen of the regional groups and requested them to ascertain the views of Member States on the draft decision that has been circulated under this item in document A/42/L.45.

May I take it that it is the wish of it is the Assembly to adopt this draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): The Assembly has concluded its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 16.

AGENDA ITEMS 17 (continued), 113, 120, AND 121 (continued)

APPOINTMENTS TO FILL VACANCIES IN SUBSIDIARY ORGANS AND OTHER APPOINTMENTS

- (a) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/42/864 AND Add.1)
- (b) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/42/865)
- (c) APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF AUDITORS: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/42/866)
- (d) CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE INVESTMENTS COMMITTEE: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/42/867)
- (e) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/42/868)
- (g) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/42/869)

FINANCIAL REPORTS AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, AND REPORTS OF THE BOARD OF AUDITORS: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/42/697)

PATTERN OF CONFERENCES: REPORTS OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/42/764, A/42/873)

SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT OF THE EXPENSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/42/852)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): I call upon

Mr. Felix Aboly-Bi-Kouassi, Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee, to introduce the reports of the Fifth Committee on agenda items 17, 113, 120 and 121.

Mr. ABOLY-BI-KOUASSI (Côte d'Ivoire) (Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee) (interpretation from French): I have the honour of presenting to the General Assembly for its consideration four reports of the Fifth Committee. The first, under agenda item 17, "Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments". In paragraph 4 of documents A/42/864 and Add.1 on agenda item 17 (a), "Appointment of members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions," the Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly should appoint the following persons as members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: for a three-year term of office beginning

(Mr. Aboly-Bi-Kouassi, Rapporteur,
Fifth Committee)

on 1 January 1988: Mr. Bagbeni Adeito Nzengeya, of Zaire; Mr. Even Fontaine-Ortiz, of Cuba; Mr. Richard Nygard, of the United States of America; Mr. Tjaco T. van den Hout, of the Netherlands; and Mr. Viktor A. Vislykh, of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. For a term of office beginning on 11 December 1987 and ending on 31 December 1988 the Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly should appoint Mr. Ferguson O. Iheme, of Nigeria, and, for a term of office beginning on 1 February 1988 and ending on 31 December 1989, Mr. Tadanori Inomata, of Japan.

(Mr. Aboly-Bi-Kouassi, Rapporteur,
Fifth Committee)

Under agenda item 17 (b), entitled "Appointment of members of the Committee on Contributions", the Fifth Committee recommends in paragraph 4 of its report (A/42/865) that the General Assembly appoint the following persons as members of the Committee on Contributions: for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 January 1988, Mr. Amjad Ali of Pakistan, Mr. Ernesto Battisti of Italy, Mr. Alain Catta of France, Mr. Yuri Chulkov of the Soviet Union, Mr. Mauro Sergio da Fonseca Costa Couto of Brazil and Mr. Wang Liansheng of China; for a two-year term of office beginning on 1 January 1988, Mr. Peter Gregg of Australia; and, for a one-year term of office beginning on 1 January 1988, Mr. Kenshiroh Akimoto of Japan.

Under agenda item 17 (c), entitled "Appointment of a member of the Board of Auditors", the Fifth Committee recommends in paragraph 4 of its report (A/42/866) that the General Assembly appoint the Auditor-General of Ghana as a member of the United Nations Board of Auditors for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 July 1988.

Under agenda item 17 (d), entitled "Confirmation of the appointment of members of the Investments Committee", the Fifth Committee recommends in paragraph 4 of its report (A/42/867) that the General Assembly confirm the appointment by the Secretary-General of the following persons as members of the Investments Committee for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 January 1988: Mr. Jean Guyot, Mr. George Johnston and Mr. Michiya Matsukawa.

Under agenda item 17 (e), entitled "Appointment of members of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal", the Fifth Committee recommends in paragraph 5 of its report (A/42/868) that the General Assembly appoint the following persons as members of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal for a three-year term of

(Mr. Aboly-Bi-Kouassi, Rapporteur,
Fifth Committee)

office beginning on 1 January 1988: Mr. Francisco Forteza of Uruguay and Mr. Ioan Voicu of Romania.

Here it should be pointed out that the representative of Denmark, speaking on behalf of the members of the European Community, the representative of New Zealand, speaking also on behalf of Australia and Canada, the representative of the United States, the representative of Norway, speaking also on behalf of Iceland and Sweden, and the representative of Japan spoke to explain why they did not associate themselves with the recommendation to appoint Mr. Ioan Voicu of Rumania.

Finally, under agenda item 17 (g), entitled "Appointment of members of the International Civil Service Commission", the Fifth Committee recommends in paragraph 4 of its report (A/42/869) that the General Assembly appoint the following persons as members of the International Civil Service Commission for a two-year term of office beginning on 1 January 1988: Mr. Michel Jean Bardoux of France and Mr. Ku Tashiro of Japan.

I now turn to the report (A/42/697) of the Fifth Committee concerning agenda item 113, entitled "Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors". The reports referred to relate to the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities. At its 16th meeting the Fifth Committee adopted a draft resolution concerning those reports. In paragraph 8 of its report (A/42/697) the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution in which it would, inter alia, recommend that all future reports of the Board of Auditors continue to include separate sections that summarize recommendations for

(Mr. Aboly-Bi-Kouassi, Rapporteur
Fifth Committee)

corrective action to be taken by the organizations and programmes concerned, with an indication of relative urgency, and that report on specific measures taken by the Secretary-General and executive heads of these organizations and programmes to implement previous recommendations of the Board and comment on the efficacy of such measures and the extent to which problems recur, giving particular attention to recurrent problems related to over-expenditures, incorrect use of funds, control procedures relating to payments of allowances and benefits and other instances of non-compliance with financial and budgetary regulations and rules. The Fifth Committee adopted that draft resolution without a vote.

The next report (A/42/764) of the Fifth Committee concerns agenda item 120, entitled "Pattern of conferences". At its 29th meeting the Fifth Committee adopted, without a vote, draft resolutions A, B and C, concerning this agenda item. In paragraph 8 of its report the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of these three draft resolutions.

Under draft resolution A the General Assembly would decide to extend the current mandate and status of the Committee on Conferences for a further year from 1 January to 31 December 1988 and would request the President of the General Assembly to maintain the present composition of the Committee for that period, without this constituting a precedent. Under draft resolution B it would approve the draft calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for the biennium 1988-1989 and would authorize the Committee on Conferences to make any adjustments in that calendar that may become necessary as a result of actions and decisions taken by the General Assembly as its forty-second session. In draft resolution C attention is drawn to the increasing difficulties in the provision of conference services, which are reflected particularly in delays in the distribution of documents and unequal treatment of some official languages. For this reason,

(Mr. Aboly-Bi-Kouassi, Rapporteur,
Fifth Committee)

under this draft resolution, the Secretary-General would be requested to take the necessary measures to ensure the provision of conference services to the United Nations with adequate personnel, with due respect for the equal treatment of all official languages of the Organization.

I should like now to turn to the fourth and last report of the Fifth Committee for this afternoon's meeting, that is, the one contained in document A/42/852, concerning agenda item 121, entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations". At its 51st meeting the Fifth Committee adopted, without a vote, a draft resolution concerning the scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations. In paragraph 6 of its report the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of this draft resolution, under which, inter alia, the Committee on Contributions would be requested to recommend to the General Assembly at its forty-third session a scale of assessments for the period 1989-1991 prepared on the basis of the methodology and criteria used to prepare the current scale and, in this connection, to review the limits in the scheme to avoid excessive variations of individual rates of assessment between successive scales.

The reports I have had the honour of presenting concern the agenda items before the General Assembly this afternoon relating to the Fifth Committee's work. On behalf of that Committee, it is my pleasure to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of these draft resolutions.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the reports of the Fifth Committee which are before the Assembly today.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): Statements will, therefore, be limited to explanations of vote. The positions of delegations regarding the various recommendations of the Fifth Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records.

(The President)

May I remind members that, under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that:

"When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee."

The Assembly will now consider the reports of the Fifth Committee on sub-items (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (g) of agenda item 17.

First, I invite members to turn their attention to the report of the Fifth Committee (A/42/864 and Add.1) on agenda item 17 (a), entitled "Appointment of members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions".

In paragraph 4 (a) of its report (A/42/864), the Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly should appoint the following persons as members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 January 1988: Mr. Bagbeni Adeito Nzengeya; Mr. Even Fontaine-Ortiz; Mr. Richard Nygard; Mr. Tjaco T. van den Hout; and Mr. Viktor A. Vislykh.

In paragraph 4 (b), the Fifth Committee also recommends that the General Assembly should appoint Mr. Ferguson O. Iheme as a member of the Advisory Committee for a term of office beginning today, 11 December 1987, and ending on 31 December 1988.

Furthermore, in paragraph 3 of document A/42/864/Add.1, the Fifth Committee recommends that the Assembly should appoint Mr. Tadanori Inomata for a term of office beginning on 1 February 1988 and ending on 31 December 1989.

(The President)

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to appoint those persons?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): We come next to the report of the Fifth Committee (A/42/865) on agenda item 17 (b), entitled "Appointment of members of the Committee on Contributions".

In paragraph 4 (a) of its report, the Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly should appoint the following persons for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 January 1988: Mr. Amjad Ali; Mr. Ernesto Battisti; Mr. Alain Catta; Mr. Yuri A. Chulkov; Mr. Mauro Sergio da Fonseca Costa Couto; and Mr. Wang Liansheng.

In paragraph 4 (b), the Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly should appoint Mr. Peter Gregg for a two-year term of office beginning on 1 January 1988.

In paragraph 4 (c), the Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly should appoint Mr. Kenshiro Akimoto for a one-year term of office beginning on 1 January 1988.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to appoint the persons recommended above?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): I invite members to turn their attention to the report of the Fifth Committee (A/42/866) on agenda item 17 (c), entitled "Appointment of a member of the Board of Auditors".

In paragraph 4 of that report, the Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly should appoint the Auditor-General of Ghana as a member of the United Nations Board of Auditors for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 July 1988.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to approve that appointment?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): I invite members to turn their attention to the report of the Fifth Committee (A/42/867) on agenda item 17 (d), entitled "Confirmation of the appointment of members of the Investments Committee".

In paragraph 4 of its report, the Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly should confirm the appointment by the Secretary-General of the following persons as members of the Investments Committee for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1988: Mr. Jean Guyot; Mr. George Johnston; and Mr. Michiya Matsukawa.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to confirm those appointments?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): We come next to the report of the Fifth Committee (A/42/868) on agenda item 17 (e), entitled "Appointment of members of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal".

In the last paragraph of its report, the Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly should appoint the following persons as members of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 January 1988: Mr. Francisco Forteza and Mr. Ioan Voicu.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to appoint those persons?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): We turn now to the report of the Fifth Committee (A/42/869) on agenda item 17 (g), entitled "Appointment of members of the International Civil Service Commission".

In paragraph 4 of its report, the Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly should appoint the following persons as members of the International Civil Service Commission for a two-year term of office beginning on 1 January 1988: Mr. Michel Jean Bardoux and Mr. Ku Tashiro.

(The President)

May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to appoint those persons?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): That concludes our consideration of sub-items (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (g) of agenda item 17.

(The President)

The Assembly will now consider the report of the Fifth Committee (A/42/697) on agenda item 113, entitled "Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors".

The Assembly will now take a decision on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee contained in paragraph 8 of its report. The Committee adopted the draft resolution, entitled "Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors", without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 42/206).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): The Assembly has concluded its consideration of agenda item 113.

The General Assembly will now consider the report of the Fifth Committee (A/42/764) on agenda item 120, relating to the pattern of conferences.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the three draft resolutions recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 8 of its report. Draft resolution A was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. The report of the Fifth Committee on the programme budget implications of that draft resolution is contained in document A/42/873. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt that draft resolution?

Draft resolution A was adopted (resolution 42/207).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): Draft resolution B was also adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Committee wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution B was adopted (resolution 42/208).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): We now come to draft resolution C, which the Fifth Committee also adopted without vote. The report of the Fifth Committee on the programme budget implications of that draft resolution

(The President)

is contained in document A/42/873. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt that draft resolution?

Draft resolution C was adopted (resolution 42/209).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): The Assembly has concluded its consideration of agenda item 120.

We now turn to agenda item 121, entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations" (A/42/852).

The Assembly will now take a decision on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee contained in paragraph 6 of its report. The Fifth Committee adopted this draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 42/210).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): The General Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 121.

AGENDA ITEM 39 (continued)

THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST:

- (a) REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/42/277, A/42/465 and Add.1, A/42/714);
- (b) DRAFT RESOLUTIONS (A/42/L.41/Rev.1, A/42/L.42 to L.44)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): May I remind representatives that the debate on this item was concluded at the 89th plenary meeting, on Wednesday, 2 December.

I call on the representative of Jordan, who wishes to introduce draft resolution A/42/L.41/Rev.1.

Mr. SALAH (Jordan) (interpretation from Arabic): Before introducing draft resolution A/42/L.41/Rev.1, I should like to introduce the following oral revision on behalf of its sponsors. The following words should be added at the end of the fifth preambular paragraph: "on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the International Peace Conference on the Middle East".

(Mr. Salah, Jordan)

Consequently, the fifth preambular paragraph would read:

"Taking note with appreciation of the resolutions of the Extraordinary Arab Summit Conference, held in Amman from 8 to 11 November 1987, on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the International Peace Conference on the Middle East".

I now have the privilege of introducing draft resolution A/42/L.41/Rev.1, as amended, sponsored by the following Arab countries: Bahrain, Djibouti, Iraq, Kuwait, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, the Sudan, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and my own country, Jordan.

The draft resolution deals with the holding of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East. As everyone is aware, the question of Palestine is an international problem because of the parties involved and the issues at stake. The Palestinian tragedy began 70 years ago owing to the intermingling of many international questions and continued with the intervention of two international organizations - the League of Nations and, later, the United Nations - which have from the very beginning been seized of the problem and followed its development. The major Powers came to play a role in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

We the Arabs did not wish the internationalization of the Palestinian problem and the Arab-Israeli conflict, but we have had no choice.

We are debating an urgent problem, which, in our opinion, can be resolved only in an international context. I am sure all will agree that the draft resolution puts forward a realistic, practical and businesslike approach towards a just and honourable settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the question of Palestine, which is the core of that conflict.

(Mr. Salah, Jordan)

In that spirit Jordan, with its Arab brothers and friendly countries, has worked for the holding of an international conference, under United Nations auspices, in keeping with international law and United Nations resolutions, in order to bring about peace between the Arab countries and Israel, the recovery of all occupied Arab lands, the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, the achievement of security and recognition for all the parties concerned.

The holding of an international conference is essentially a practical and useful approach. That is why we have sought to obtain the broadest possible support. Although a consensus of sorts has emerged on the question, some parties are still hesitant and certain countries that support the idea in principle do not support the resolutions on the subject because, in their view, that would prejudge the modalities and the results of the conference. We insist on the need to establish the appropriate framework for the conference, which is international law and the United Nations resolutions, especially the mandatory resolutions on the return of the occupied Arab lands and the guaranteeing of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

In view of this situation, which has led to near international unanimity on an international conference, and of the hesitancy of some over the mandate for the conference with regard to participation, objectives and working methods that has emerged during the vote on 25 November on draft resolution A/42/L.40 on the same subject, in Jordan we have tried at the highest level to overcome these obstacles and make it possible for all parties to support the idea of an international conference without compromising the essential principles and the inalienable rights of the Arab nation which no one challenges.

(Mr. Salah, Jordan)

On that basis we introduced a draft resolution, which we alone sponsored, in the interest of making progress in that direction. Consultations on the subject led to a revised version, draft resolution A/42/L.41/Rev.1, as recently amended. We believe that it is a further step forward, which contradicts neither stated positions nor past resolutions. On the contrary, we feel that it represents positive, satisfactory progress. Indeed, it reflects the unanimity on the international conference that emerged among the Arab leaders at the highest level who met in the Extraordinary Arab Summit Conference held in Amman from 8 to 11 November this year. This draft resolution reflects Arab consensus at the highest level, which is based on international law and our unshakeable dedication to Arab rights, including the return of all occupied Arab lands and the guaranteeing of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people within the framework of a just, comprehensive settlement taking into account the just and legitimate demands of all the parties involved.

That is why the second preambular paragraph recalls the relevant General Assembly resolutions on the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people, which have consistently been reaffirmed because of Israel's continuing occupation of Arab lands.

The third preambular paragraph recalls the relevant Security Council resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict. As we know, the binding resolutions of the Security Council cover the territorial aspect of the question of Palestine, reaffirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force and demanding immediate withdrawal from occupied Arab lands - the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights.

(Mr. Salah, Jordan)

These resolutions also contain working machinery, on which is based the idea of holding an international conference, such as the Geneva Conference on the Middle East, which was held under the presidency of the two super-Powers in December 1973, and the appointment by the Secretary-General of a Special Representative, as in the case of Mr. Gunnar Jarring, who served between 1968 and 1971.

The fifth preambular paragraph takes note of the resolutions of the Extraordinary Arab Summit Conference, held at Amman from 8 to 11 November 1987, on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the International Peace Conference on the Middle East. The resolutions of the Summit Conference dealt with problems of international peace and security in general and also in a regional context. That approach is advocated by the Charter, notably in Chapter VIII. The resolutions denounced and condemned the policies of apartheid and racial discrimination of the Government of South Africa, and terrorism in all its forms, regardless of origin, and called for a peaceful and honourable settlement of the war between Iran and Iraq.

The resolutions also called for a solution of the problem of Lebanon guaranteeing the unity, independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon. The resolutions, furthermore, called for a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict within the framework of the International Peace Conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, in keeping with the recommendations of the Secretary-General and the provisions of operative paragraph 1.

Operative paragraph 2 calls on all States that have not done so to lend their support to the convening of the International Conference and overcome their hesitancy.

(Mr. Salah, Jordan)

Finally, operative paragraph 3 requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Security Council - which is responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security - to continue his efforts with a view to convening the Conference and to apprise the General Assembly on the results of his consultations no later than September 1988.

Jordanian envoys representing King Hussein, President of the Conference, have transmitted messages from the King to a number of Heads of State and various international and regional groups, reviewing these resolutions and the positive results of the Conference which are of an international nature and concern the entire family of nations. For all those reasons, and because the draft resolution is a positive approach and a noble undertaking aimed at enhancing prospects for peace and security in the Middle East - which, if achieved, would inevitably have a positive effect on international peace - the sponsors of the draft resolution earnestly hope that Member States will support it and give it their necessary attention.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): I now call on the representative of Zimbabwe to introduce draft resolutions A/42/L.42, A/42/L.43 and A/42/L.44.

Mr. ZENENGA (Zimbabwe): On behalf of the sponsoring Member States, my delegation has the honour to introduce draft resolutions A/42/L.42, A/42/L.43 and A/42/L.44, all of which relate to agenda item 39, entitled "The situation in the Middle East".

The draft resolutions have been prepared along the lines of previous resolutions adopted by the Assembly on the same item and all three reflect the views expressed by the vast majority of speakers in the debate on agenda item 39 and on the question of Palestine. In this regard, the common theme in all three

(Mr. Zenenga, Zimbabwe)

draft resolutions relates to the continued aggressive and expansionist policies of Israel, particularly the continuing Israeli occupation of Palestine and other Arab territories, and Israel's stubborn denial of the exercise by the Palestinian people of their legitimate and inalienable rights, which is the root cause of the conflicts and contradictions in the region.

Draft resolution A/42/L.42, which is sponsored by Bahrain, Cuba, Djibouti, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, the Sudan, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe, is of an omnibus nature and provides an overview of the crisis in the Middle East, covering all aspects of the many conflicts which continue to threaten to rend the region apart. The draft is basically similar in wording and content to resolution 41/162, adopted by the Assembly last year on the same agenda item. The draft resolution reaffirms that the question of Palestine is the core of the conflict in the Middle East and once again declares that peace in that region must be based on a comprehensive, just and lasting solution under the auspices of the United Nations and on the basis of its relevant resolutions. Such a solution should also ensure the complete and unconditional withdrawal of Israel from the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, and enable the Palestinian people, under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), to exercise its inalienable rights, including the right to self-determination, national independence and the establishment of its independent sovereign State in Palestine, in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations relating to the question of Palestine. In this regard, in operative

(Mr. Zenenga, Zimbabwe)

paragraph 13, the draft resolution reaffirms the call for the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East and, in operative paragraph 14, endorses the call for the establishment of a preparatory committee to take the necessary action to convene the Conference.

Draft resolutions A/42/L.43 and A/42/L.44, relating to the implications of Israel's continued occupation and annexation of the Syrian Golan Heights, and to Israel's occupation of the Holy City of Jerusalem, respectively, are identical to the two resolutions adopted by this Assembly last year on those two subjects. Draft resolution A/42/L.43, which is sponsored by Algeria, Bahrain, Cuba, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Kuwait, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam, Yemen and Zimbabwe, reaffirms the principle of the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by force, as well as the applicability to the Palestinian and other occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, of the Geneva Convention relating to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War.

(Mr. Zenenga, Zimbabwe)

It also, inter alia, determines once more that Israel's record and policies confirm that it is not a peace-loving State, that it has persistently violated the principles contained in the United Nations Charter, and that it has carried out neither its obligations under the Charter nor its commitments under the relevant resolutions of this Assembly.

Draft resolution A/42/L.44 - co-sponsored by Algeria, Bahrain, Cuba, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Kuwait, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe - determines once more that Israel's decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the Holy City of Jerusalem is illegal and null and void, and, in this regard, deplores the transfer by some States of their diplomatic missions to Jerusalem in violation of Security Council resolution 478 (1980). Under operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution, the Assembly would call upon those States to abide by the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, in conformity with the Charter.

The content of the three draft resolutions before us is a sad reflection of the lack of progress in the search for a solution to the problems that have plagued the Middle East for four decades now. Despite the fact that each year these resolutions have been adopted by large majorities, the situation in the region has continued to deteriorate owing to the intransigence of the Tel Aviv authorities. The sponsors of the present draft resolutions wish, therefore, to urge Member States to register their concern once again at the deterioration of the already explosive situation in the Middle East and to continue to identify correctly the main causes thereof by rendering their full support to these draft resolutions.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): I shall now call on those representatives who wish to explain their votes before the voting on any or all of the four draft resolutions. Representatives will also have an opportunity to explain their votes after all the votes have been taken.

I should like to remind the Assembly that under rule 88 of the rules of procedure

"The President shall not permit the proposer of a proposal or of an amendment to explain his vote on his own proposal or amendment".

May I also remind members that, in accordance with decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. BIERRING (Denmark): The 12 States members of the European Community on whose behalf I am speaking, have considered most carefully our position on draft resolution A/42/L.41/Rev.1. Our views on the principles which need to be applied to secure peace in the Middle East are well known and were again set out in our statement on this item on 1 December 1987.

We strongly support all moves likely to improve the prospects for the early convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East. On 5 December this year, the Heads of State and Government of the Twelve, assembled in Copenhagen, welcomed the endorsement given to such a conference by the Arab League summit in Amman, under the chairmanship of King Hussein of Jordan, and called for renewed efforts by all concerned to reach agreement on arrangements for the Conference to be held as soon as possible. We urge all the parties concerned to reach agreement on the way in which this could be done.

(Mr. Bierring, Denmark)

While we welcome the clear intention of the authors of this draft resolution to facilitate the convening of the Conference, we are unable, in the absence of agreement by all of the parties concerned, fully to endorse the terms of draft resolution A/42/L. 41/Rev.1.

Regarding draft resolutions A/42/L. 42, L. 43 and L. 44, which remain largely unchanged from the relevant resolutions adopted last year, the Twelve have previously made their position known.

Mr. FERM (Sweden): Sweden will abstain in the voting on draft resolution A/42/L. 42. As in previous years, my Government has decided to refrain from casting a negative vote on this draft resolution. We did so only after considerable hesitation. The text suffers from a severe lack of balance. We have especially strong reservations on operative paragraphs 10 and 11.

As has been the case with similar resolutions in the past, we shall be compelled to cast a negative vote on draft resolution A/42/L. 43, despite our full support for its central theme. We have strong objections to a number of paragraphs in the draft resolution - in particular, operative paragraphs 12 to 16. Our objections to these paragraphs relate to their substantive content as well as to the fact that they cannot be reconciled with the division of responsibilities between the General Assembly and the Security Council envisaged by the Charter.

As for draft resolution A/42/L. 41/Rev.1, I wish to register my delegation's surprise at the proposal that the Assembly should adopt yet another resolution on the subject of an international peace conference on the Middle East. One such resolution was adopted only a few days ago. All the same, we shall, with some hesitation, vote in favour of the draft resolution because of our support for the idea of an international peace conference. Our affirmative vote, however, does not mean that we subscribe to every element in the text. Specifically, we are not in a

(Mr. Ferm, Sweden)

position to support the fifth preambular paragraph, for the simple reason that we have not had an opportunity of studying an authoritative text of all the resolutions adopted at the Amman summit. As for operative paragraph 1, it is my Government's position that the Palestinian people must take part in negotiations on the question of Palestine, through representatives who enjoy their confidence. In our view, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) enjoys such confidence. It is with that understanding that we read operative paragraph 1.

Mr. SVOBODA (Canada): My delegation will abstain on the draft resolution contained in document A/42/L.41/Rev.1.

The Government of Canada is heartened by the undertakings of those leaders in the Middle East who have demonstrated a readiness to take risks for peace. We fully support their efforts to convene an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations, with the participation of the permanent members of the Security Council and of all the parties directly involved in the Middle East dispute. Earlier this fall, Canada joined fellow member States of both la Francophonie and the Commonwealth in backing an international conference. We therefore welcomed the call for such a conference made by the Arab States at their recent extraordinary summit meeting in Amman.

(Mr. Svoboda, Canada)

The global community has a major stake in a peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli dispute, with its Palestinian dimension. Since endorsement of an International Conference, under United Nations auspices, would provide impetus to, and be a tangible demonstration of the legitimacy of the peace process, we view such an endorsement as a positive development.

With careful preparation and organization, an International Conference could facilitate direct negotiations between the parties. Such direct negotiations remain essential to a resolution of the conflict and international support for such negotiations is a prerequisite to their taking place. We should like to emphasize that Canada continues to view the principle of the exchange of land for peace, embodied in Security Council resolution 242 (1967), as the necessary basis of any successful negotiation.

My delegation had been well disposed to support the original version of the draft resolution. We therefore regret that the draft resolution has been modified in recent days to include language which, in our view, prejudices the organization and outcome of the proposed Conference and, accordingly, prevents us from voting in favour. Canada's position on the substance of the other draft resolutions which are before us today is well known, and we shall vote accordingly.

Mr. NEZERETIS (Greece): During the debate on agenda item 39, the Permanent Representative of Denmark expressed the views of the 12 member States of the European Community on the situation in the Middle East, to which my delegation fully subscribes.

My Government's position on this question is well known and it was again reiterated by the Foreign Minister of Greece, Mr. Karolos Papoulias in his intervention during the general debate. In conformity with this position, Greece will vote in favour of draft resolutions A/42/L.41/Rev.1, as orally revised, L.42,

(Mr. Nezeritis, Greece)

L.43 and L.44. However, as in the past, my delegation is unable to go along with some paragraphs of draft resolutions A/42/L.42 and L.43. More specifically, while, as I said, we support and shall vote in favour of those draft resolutions, my delegation has strong reservations and disassociates itself from the contents of operative paragraph 12 of A/42/L.42 and operative paragraphs 8, 13 (c) and (d) and 14 of A/42/L.43. We will also vote against operative paragraph 10 of draft resolution A/42/L.42.

Mrs. REBONG (Philippines): The Philippines maintains the view that a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Middle East conflict should be achieved on the basis of fundamental principles that we have repeatedly stressed under these and related items.

My delegation believes that draft resolutions on very important and complex international issues, such as the Middle East conflict, should be presented in a balanced manner. It is essential that the sovereign right of States to conduct their own international affairs, in accordance with the Charter, should be upheld.

In view of the foregoing, my delegation will abstain on draft resolution A/42/L.43. My delegation will vote in favour of draft resolution A/42/L.42. However, for the same reason we have mentioned, we wish to state that we have reservations on the formulation of some of its provisions.

Mr. TARUI (Japan): The Japanese delegation will vote in favour of draft resolution A/42/L.41/Rev.1, as orally revised, because we believe that an international framework of some kind is needed in order to resolve the Middle East problem.

The Japanese delegation has, on a number of occasions, made its views clear about the Middle East peace problem. Japan firmly believes that peace in the Middle East must be just, lasting and comprehensive. We further believe that such

(Mr. Tarui, Japan)

a peace should be achieved through the early and complete implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), and through the recognition of and respect for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination under the United Nations Charter. Each and every path towards the realization of such a peace must be explored with careful consideration given to the legitimate security requirements of the countries in the region and to the aspirations of all of the peoples in the region, which, of course, includes the Palestinian people.

Japan is of the view that the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) represents the Palestinian people. Thus, in order to advance the cause of peace in the Middle East, Japan believes that it is essential that Israel and the PLO recognize each other's position and that the PLO participate in the peace process.

Japan will be voting in favour of the draft resolution because of the great importance it attaches to the maintenance and continuation of the peace process in securing stability in the Middle East and the belief that the draft resolution will help provide an international framework of some kind and contribute to the solution of the Middle East problem, although the views expressed in the draft resolution do not necessarily coincide with the Japanese views that I have just mentioned.

Mr. ORTIZ GANDARILLAS (Bolivia) (interpretation from Spanish): The delegation of Bolivia would once again like to repeat the profound desire of its Government that the delicate situation in the Middle East be resolved as soon as possible in such a way as to ensure a just and lasting peace in the region. That solution should be within the framework of the purpose and principles of the Charter of our Organization and it should be based on respect for the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by the use of force.

(Mr. Ortiz Gandarillas, Bolivia)

In keeping with this principle, my Government, like the international community, believes that the measures adopted by Israel regarding the occupied Arab territories are null and void, especially those which apply to the Golan Heights, the legitimate territory of Syria, and the Arab Palestinian territories. At the same time, we appeal for the withdrawal of the occupying forces from Lebanon and the occupied territories on the West Bank and Gaza.

The delegation of Bolivia once again reiterates its support for the actions of the Secretary-General to promote the convening of an International Peace Conference on the Middle East with the purpose of achieving a just and peaceful settlement which would allow all States in the region to live in peace, within their respective secure and guaranteed boundaries.

For this reason, my delegation will support draft resolutions A/42/L.41/Rev.1, as orally revised, L.42 and L.44, because we consider that they contribute to the attainment of the objective and principles just mentioned. Nevertheless, my delegation will abstain on draft resolutions A/42/L.42 and L.43 because of the approach taken in certain paragraphs which is not in keeping with the position of my country.

Mr. DELPECH (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): In spite of the constant efforts being made by the United Nations for more than four decades in the search for a satisfactory solution to the complex problems of the Middle East, today, like yesterday, the problem before us is a constant source of tension.

The Republic of Argentina, in keeping with its devotion to peace and justice, believes that a comprehensive settlement of the situation in the Middle East must not in any way preclude the satisfaction of the legitimate aspirations, yearnings and real interests of the people of the region.

(Mr. Delpech, Argentina)

The delegation of Argentina will vote in favour of draft resolutions A/42/L.41/Rev.1, as orally revised, L.42 and L.44, because these draft resolutions contain principles which are supported by the Republic of Argentina.

As regards draft resolution A/42/L.43, my delegation will abstain once again on this draft resolution because it contains certain ideas, particularly in operative paragraphs 2, 9, 12, 13 and 14, which, as has been stated on earlier occasions, are incompatible with the guiding principles of the foreign policy of Argentina.

(Mr. Delpech, Argentina)

However, my delegation would like to make it perfectly clear here that the Government of Argentina does not recognize Israel's occupation of the Syrian territory of the Golan Heights, which is in direct violation of Security Council resolution 497 (1981) and other relevant resolutions. The Government of Argentina does not recognize that Israel, the occupying Power, can impose laws and administration on occupied Syrian territory.

I should like to conclude by reiterating the full support of my delegation for the just return of the Golan Heights to the Syrian Arab Republic, so that that country may once again exercise full sovereignty over its entire territory.

Mr. BORG OLIVIER (Malta): The delegation of Malta wishes to explain its vote on the draft resolutions before the General Assembly under agenda item 39, "The situation in the Middle East".

Malta firmly and actively supports the principle of the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East, under United Nations auspices, with the participation of all parties directly concerned, and we welcome the endorsement given by the Extraordinary Arab Summit Conference, recently held in Amman, Jordan, to the principle of convening such an international conference. My delegation will therefore vote in favour of draft resolution A/42/L.41/Rev.1, as orally revised.

As to draft resolution A/42/L.42, my delegation regrets that it is not in a position to lend its support to certain provisions contained in the resolution and in particular operative paragraphs 10 and 12. If those two paragraphs were to be put to a separate vote, Malta would have no alternative but to vote against the retention of those paragraphs. Malta will abstain on the draft resolution as a whole.

With regard to draft resolution A/42/L.43, the delegation of Malta regrets that the draft resolution is formulated in strong condemnatory language and in

(Mr. Borg Olivier, Malta)

terms which are potentially very far-reaching in their legal implications. We sincerely believe that a draft resolution formulated in this manner is not at all conducive to progress in the search for a comprehensive peaceful settlement of the Middle East situation and conflict.

In these circumstances, Malta cannot lend its support to the draft resolution and we would find it necessary to vote against the proposed text in draft resolution A/42/L.43.

Finally, my delegation will vote in favour of the draft resolution in document A/42/L.44.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): We have heard the last speaker in explanation of vote before the voting.

I have been asked to inform the Assembly that Algeria has become a co-sponsor of draft resolution A/42/L.41/Rev.1, as orally revised.

We shall now turn to draft resolution A/42/L.41/Rev.1, as orally revised. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan,

Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Honduras, Israel, United States of America

Abstaining: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, France, Germany, Grenada, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Draft resolution A/42/L.41/Rev.1, as orally revised, was adopted by 124 votes to 3, with 22 abstentions (resolution 42/209 A).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): We turn next to draft resolution A/42/L.42. There is a request for a separate vote on operative paragraph 10 of that draft resolution. Is there any objection to that request?

There is none.

I shall therefore first put to the vote operative paragraph 10 of draft resolution A/42/L.42. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Ethiopia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Cameroon, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway,

Portugal, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Spain, Sweden, Togo, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Zaire

Abstaining: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Chad, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Liberia, Malawi, Mexico, Nepal, Niger, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uruguay, Venezuela

Operative paragraph 10 of resolution A/42/L.42 was adopted by 64 votes to 33, with 41 abstentions.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): The Assembly will now vote on draft resolution A/42/L.42 as a whole. A recorded has been requested.

A recorded was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cape Verde, Chad, China, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark, El Salvador, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Antigua and Barbuda, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Burma, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Finland, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Japan, Liberia, Malawi, Malta, Panama, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Spain, Sweden, Togo, Uruguay, Zaire

Draft resolution A/42/L.42 as a whole was adopted by 99 votes to 19, with 33 abstentions (resolution 42/209 B).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): The Assembly will now take

a decision on draft resolution A/42/L.43. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cape Verde, Chad, China, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Poland, Qatar, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Cameroon, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Grenada, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Liberia, Malawi, Nepal, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Spain, Swaziland, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zaire

Draft resolution A/42/L.43 was adopted by 82 votes to 23, with 43 abstentions

(resolution 42/209 C).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): The Assembly will turn now to draft resolution A/42/L.44. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Israel

Abstaining: Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Haiti, Honduras, Liberia, Malawi, United States of America

Draft resolution A/42/L.44 was adopted by 140 votes to 3, with 7 abstentions
(resolution 42/209 D).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): I call now on representatives who wish to explain their votes.

Mr. IRTEMCELİK (Turkey): Turkey's position on the Arab-Israeli conflict and on the question of Palestine, which we consider to be the core of this multifaceted problem, has been consistent all along, and has been stated in no uncertain terms on every relevant occasion, in the United Nations and elsewhere.

It was in conformity with that well known and unambiguous stand that the Turkish delegation voted in favour of the four draft resolutions on the situation in the Middle East just adopted by the General Assembly. However, we should like to place on record certain reservations as regards some elements in those resolutions.

First, Turkey abstained in the vote on paragraph 10 of draft resolution A/42/L.42. We have consistently indicated that the singling out of third parties either by name or by designation, using accusatory language, is inappropriate and unhelpful. Our reservation remains even in cases such as this, where Turkey pursues policies different from those of the third country to which reference is made.

Secondly, Turkey would have abstained had there been a separate vote on operative paragraph 8 of draft resolution A/42/L.43. We are not of the view that the General Assembly or any other organ of the United Nations should pass value judgements on votes cast by Member States.

Thirdly, likewise it would not have been possible for the Turkish delegation to cast affirmative votes had there been separate votes on operative paragraphs 13 and 14 of the same draft resolution. Those paragraphs are, in our opinion, difficult to reconcile with efforts deployed with a view to initiating in an appropriate framework the long-overdue negotiating process aimed at working out mutually acceptable solutions to the problems in question with the participation of all the parties concerned. In this context, I should like to note that my delegation also has certain hesitations as regards operative paragraph 12.

Mr. BADAWI (Egypt) (interpretation from Arabic): Egypt clearly stated its position concerning the situation in the Middle East and the question of Palestine during the debates on those items. We have set out unambiguously the elements that should define any just and lasting settlement of the Middle East conflict, first and foremost the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force. We have also affirmed that the Fourth Geneva Convention should be applied to the occupied Arab territories, including the West Bank, Gaza, Al Quds Al Sharif and the Syrian Golan Heights.

It is the firm position of Egypt that the Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan Heights is illegal. All Israel's actions in that occupied territory, including the imposition of its laws and jurisdiction, are illegal, and thus null and void.*

It was therefore only natural that Egypt should have voted in favour of three of the draft resolutions just adopted by the General Assembly. Moreover, while appreciating certain positive elements in draft resolution A/42/L.43, Egypt was unable to support it because it includes several elements that we find it difficult to endorse and lacks elements that would encourage the continuance of peace efforts.

Mr. FREUDENSCHUSS (Austria): Austria had the opportunity to explain its position on the situation in the Middle East during the recent debate on that item. Our position is well known and has been consistent over the years. We share the basic concerns expressed in the draft resolutions on which the Assembly has just taken action and agree with many, but not all, of the elements in them. In particular, my delegation cannot support those elements which would not only aggravate the existing situation but also impede the search for peace.

* Mr. Legwaila (Botswana), Vice-President, took the Chair.

(Mr. Freudenschuss, Austria)

Austria does not believe that measures aimed at breaking relations with Israel, thus leading to its isolation, can bring us any closer to a solution of the Middle East problem. Such attempts do not take account of the need of all parties to seek the negotiated solutions which are the very condition of peace in that troubled region. We cannot support any formulation which could be interpreted as impinging on the principle of universality of membership in the United Nations, a principle that Austria has consistently upheld.

Therefore, Austria, while supporting draft resolution A/42/L.44, felt compelled to abstain in the votes on draft resolutions A/42/L.42 and L.43. Owing to its long-standing commitment to the early convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East, Austria voted in favour of draft resolution A/42/L.41/Rev.1, as orally revised.

Mr. DANUS (Chile) (interpretation from Spanish): My delegation voted in favour of draft resolution A/42/L.41/Rev.1, because we consider that the convening of an international peace conference would be an appropriate way of achieving a solution to the conflict in the Middle East. Nevertheless my delegation wishes to make it clear that it has certain reservations regarding the wording of the first operative paragraph of the draft resolution.

Ms. RASI (Finland): My delegation voted in favour of the draft resolution A/42/L.41/Rev.1 in order to give our support to the important idea of convening a Middle East peace conference as a means of reaching a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement in the area. However, we wish to put on record our reservation on certain formulations in operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution, which unduly prejudices the composition of and participation in the prospective peace conference. We also wish to express doubts concerning the formulation of the fifth preambular paragraph of the resolution.

Mr. ARMSTRONG (New Zealand): New Zealand holds that the basis for a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East is set out in Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973). We do not recognize the validity of Israel's annexation of East Jerusalem, the extension to the Golan Heights of Israeli law, jurisdiction and administration, or the establishment of settlements in the occupied territories.

In New Zealand's view, any settlement must take account of the rights and aspirations of the Arab people of Palestine. Their rights include the right to self-determination. New Zealand also recognizes and supports Israel's right as a sovereign State to exist in peace within recognized and secure borders, free from threats or acts of force. The reluctance of Israel's neighbours and the Palestine Liberation Organization to accept unequivocally that Israel has that right will have to be overcome if there is to be a durable settlement.

(Mr. Armstrong, New Zealand)

New Zealand sees merit in the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations. We can support the participation in such conference of all parties directly concerned and all others, including the permanent members of the Security Council, who have a contribution to make the successful outcome of the negotiations. We regret the refusal of Israel to give its clear endorsement to the convening of an international peace conference, since there appears to be no other way that shows promise of carrying forward the peace process. However, we also regret the inclusion of certain elements in the first revision of the original draft resolution A/42/L.41, in particular the revised first operative paragraph, which has prevented us from supporting the draft resolution. Accordingly, we have abstained in the voting on the draft resolution A/42/L.41/Rev.1.

A successful solution to the Middle East situation can occur only once the parties have demonstrated willingness to resolve this long-standing and complex dispute by peaceful means as well as the flexibility and compromise that is necessary if the rights of all parties are to be respected.

We are ready to support resolutions which reflect both the principles embodied in the Security Council resolutions and the measured approach necessary for a just and lasting solution. Those elements are absent from draft resolutions A/42/L.42 and L.43. Consequently we have voted against them.

Mr. SILJANDER (United States of America): The United States Government considers that the summit meeting of Arab leaders held in Amman last month to be a step in the direction of a peaceful, negotiated settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The United States welcomes the Arab leaders' call for a peaceful settlement of the conflict and implicit acceptance of negotiations with Israel when they call for an international conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, to settle the conflict in a peaceful manner. Draft resolution

(Mr. Siljander, United States)

A/42/L.41/Rev.1 has the merit of emphasizing the Arab leaders' step towards a conference and negotiations rather than reiterating the unbalanced set of guidelines in General Assembly resolution 38/58 C, which will never be the basis for bringing all sides to the table.

Recently there have been significant and far-reaching changes in attitudes and policies among the parties to the Middle East conflict. More people and their leaders have renounced violence, terrorism and empty rhetoric in favour of pragmatic, concrete and creative approaches to resolving the conflict. The United States, a steady and active partner for decades in the search for peace, not only welcomes those changes but also has contributed actively to shaping the means and the opportunities for the parties to reach the negotiating table.

For more than two years the United States has worked with the regional parties to try and structure an international conference which would meet the needs of all parties and lead to meaningful negotiation. Indeed, in contrast to the empty rhetoric and unfounded accusations we have heard during this entire debate we and the parties have been directly and actively engaged in exploring the path to peace. Those efforts have made progress.

The goal is peace. Negotiations must be conducted to achieve peace and an international conference must lead immediately to direct negotiations. A conference will not be permitted to impose a settlement or overturn agreements reached among the parties. Negotiations will be held in bilateral, geographic committees. Palestinians must be represented in order to help realize their legitimate rights, and Palestinians should be included in a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. All participants will be expected to accept United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), to renounce violence and terrorism.

The United States voted against draft resolution A/42/L.41/Rev.1 because that draft resolution did not address the criteria necessary to make concrete progress

(Mr. Siljander, United States)

towards peace, or the issues which the parties have already addressed. That draft resolution makes no mention of bilateral or direct negotiations. It subsumes the universally accepted basis of negotiations - Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) - under an ambiguous umbrella formulation.

If the motivation behind this resolution is to contribute to the peace-making process in the Middle East, a process to which I am proud to say the United States had contributed mightily in the past decades, this body should commend and support the work of the parties to structure a workable means of bringing about negotiations. The United States will look forward to supporting fully such a realistic attitude on the part of this body.

While draft resolution A/42/L.41/Rev.1 has the merit of being a new resolution, recognizing a new step in the direction of accommodation and negotiation, draft resolutions A/42/L.42 and L.43, on the Middle East and the Golan Heights, are old and tired. The United States continues to view them as one-sided resolutions which do not contribute to efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement.

My delegation will oppose draft resolution A/42/L.42 because it is polemical and condemnatory in tone with regard to United States relations with other Member States. My Government will continue to try to maintain close relations with Israel and with the Arab States. We value those relationships for their own sake and because such relationships are instrumental to the pursuit of peace.

My Government supported Security Council resolution 497 (1981) on the Golan Heights, which was balanced and helpful. The language of draft resolution A/42/L.43, however, is unbalanced and harmful, and the United States opposes it.

My delegation will - as it has done on similar resolutions in the past - abstain in the voting on draft resolution A/42/L.43, because we believe that the

(Mr. Siljander, United States)

status of Jerusalem should be determined by means of negotiations among the parties concerned and as part of an overall peaceful settlement.

In Amman, Arab leaders took a step towards negotiations and peaceful settlement, rather than just repeating old slogans and formulas. Many more steps will be needed on all sides before the goal is reached. The United States hopes that the coming year will see more such steps and less stale slogans and condemnations, such as those which are to be found in draft resolutions A/42/L.42 and L.43, which take the parties not one step closer to a settlement.

Mr. MOYA PALENCIA (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): The delegation of Mexico voted in favour of draft resolutions A/42/L.41/Rev.1 as orally revised, L.42, L.43 and L.44. We have thus reaffirmed our support for the resolutions of the United Nations on the Middle East.

The peaceful negotiated settlement of the conflict in the Middle East must be sought on the basis of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council. A just and final settlement must respect the interests of all the parties involved and must adequately meet the national aspirations of the Palestinian people. This is the core of the conflict.

The resolutions of the Security Council and of the General Assembly offer a framework for the settlement of the conflict in the Middle East. They appeal for recognition of, and respect for, the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all the States in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries. The draft resolutions also reaffirm the right of the peoples of the region to self-determination without foreign interference and, in particular, respect for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian peoples.

The problem of the Middle East is one of the greatest challenges to the international community. We must encourage the parties involved in the conflict to accept the possibility of negotiating an agreement under international auspices. In the past, inflexibility has given rise to use of force, making even more remote the chances of a diplomatic settlement.

We repeat our conviction that a just and lasting peace in the Middle East will be possible only if all the parties adopt constructive positions demonstrating a genuine desire to negotiate.

(Mr. Moya Palencia, Mexico)

Hence, we abstained in the separate vote on operative paragraph 10 of draft resolution A/42/L.42 for we consider that the judgments contained therein undermining the jurisdiction of the General Assembly. Also, we would reiterate our serious reservations on operative paragraph 6 of draft resolution L.42. The partial agreements reached thus far, though far from a final solution to the problem of the Middle East, do none the less constitute an important step in that direction.

Finally, my delegation would have abstained, had there been separate votes on operative paragraphs 12, 13 and 14 of draft resolution A/42/L.43, which refer to measures which fall within the jurisdiction of the Security Council.

Mr. ZARIF (Islamic Republic of Iran): Although my delegation voted in favour of draft resolutions A/42/L.42, L.43 and L.44, I should like to reiterate the reservations of my delegation on all terms contained in those draft resolutions that imply any recognition of the Zionist base of terror occupying Palestine.

As we have stated on various occasions, the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the Zionist forces must withdraw unconditionally from all Palestinian territories, including those occupied prior to 1967.

Regarding the reference to an international peace conference contained in draft resolution A/42/L.41/Rev.1, as orally revised, it is necessary to mention that we do not wish to see the inalienable rights of our Palestinian brothers and sisters become the subject of negotiations with the Zionist usurpers. Since the so-called peace conference was the sole substance of this draft resolution, we did not participate in the vote.

Mr. FARTAS (Libyan Arab Jamahariya) (interpretation from Arabic): My delegation voted in favour of draft resolution A/42/L.42 on the situation in the Middle East, for we believe in the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people.

(Mr. Fartas, Libyan Arab
Jamahariya)

However, consistent with my country's position on the occupation of Palestinian and other Arab territories, we should like to express reservations on some of the paragraphs of the aforementioned draft resolution which lend themselves to interpretation and could be taken to mean, directly or indirectly, that violations of some of those rights may be possible.

My delegation also has reservations regarding any paragraphs which, directly or indirectly, would imply that my country recognizes the de facto situation in occupied Palestinian lands. In our opinion, this situation is a flagrant violation of the national rights of the Palestinian people.

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded our consideration of agenda item 39.

The next plenary meeting of the Assembly will be announced in the Journal.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.