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PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 102nd MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on 6 May 1993, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. GANEV (Bulgaria)

- Tribute to the memory of the late President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, The Honourable Ranasinghe Premadasa
- Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections [16] (continued)
  - (a) Election of twelve members of the World Food Council
- Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations; programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993: report of the Fifth Committee (Part II) [103] (continued)
- Programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993: report of the Fifth Committee (Part II) [104] (continued)
- Programme of work

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The meeting was called to order at 10.55 a.m.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF THE LATE PRESIDENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST  
REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA, THE HONOURABLE RANASINGHE PREMADASA

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will first pay a tribute to the memory of the late President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, His Excellency The Honourable Ranasinghe Premadasa.

On behalf of the General Assembly, I should like to convey our heartfelt condolences to the Government and the people of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, and to the bereaved family.

I invite representatives to stand and observe a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of the late President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

The members of the General Assembly observed a minute of silence.

The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of Senegal, Mr. Kéba Birane Cissé, who will speak on behalf of the Group of African States.

Mr. CISSE (Senegal) (interpretation from French): It is with deep regret and sorrow that the international community learned of the assassination of President Premadasa of Sri Lanka following an attack that also took the lives of many other people. This tragic death of a great figure who was an outstanding political leader in his country is indeed a great loss for Sri Lanka and for the international community. He not only greatly contributed to Sri Lanka's international standing but also throughout his life demonstrated wisdom, open-mindedness and a commitment to international peace and security.

On behalf of the members of the Group of African States and on my own personal behalf, I should like to extend to the Government, the people and the family of the late President Premadasa our deepest condolences and sympathy.

(Mr. Cissé, Senegal)

As the representative of Senegal, which has excellent relations with Sri Lanka, I should like to add that I personally greatly appreciated the sound policies followed by President Premadasa in ensuring close relations between the two countries. I trust that what he has done will continue to guide the people of Sri Lanka, as well as many other peoples, so that the torch of peace will remain aloft.

The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of China, Mr. Chen Jian, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Asian States.

Mr. CHEN Jian (China): It is with profound sorrow that we heard of this tragic event. On behalf of the Group of Asian States and on my own personal behalf, allow me to express our deepest condolences on the most unfortunate passing of His Excellency Ranasinghe Premadasa, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

President Premadasa was a leader whose vision and deep commitment were not limited to his own people and nation. He was also an eminent statesman dedicated to promoting amity, cooperation and welfare regionally and internationally.

At the national level, he worked tirelessly to secure socio-economic development for his own people through bold and liberal economic policies. His pioneering efforts in combining liberal economic policies with programmes such as poverty alleviation are well known to all.

At the regional and international levels, he strove to foster cooperation and conciliation, which are fundamental tenets of the Charter of the United Nations. We can still recall his presence here at the United Nations in 1980, when he presented his proposals on the International Year of Shelter for the

(Mr. Chen Jian, China)

Homeless. His proposal was later embraced by the international community and evolved into the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 under the aegis of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements.

(Mr. Chen Jian, China)

In his own region the late President achieved notable successes in promoting regional cooperation during his chairmanship of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

It is now up to us to ensure that His Excellency Mr. Ranasinghe Premadasa's vision of a peaceful and prosperous world for all will not be lost, and that the cause for which he worked so hard will be carried on. Its realization will be the best possible service we can ever render in his memory.

The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of Latvia, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States.

Mr. BAUMANIS (Latvia): On behalf of the States of the Eastern European Group, which I have the honour to represent today, I should like to express our condolences on the tragic death of His Excellency Mr. Ranasinghe Premadasa, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. We express our deep sorrow to the Government and the people of Sri Lanka, and to the bereaved family.

The deceased was active in promoting the objective of assisting countries and regions in solving human-settlement problems and advocated greater international cooperation in that sector. We express the hope that those who follow President Premadasa will continue his important work. In these sad circumstances we stand with the people of Sri Lanka and wish them all the best for the future.

The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of Bolivia, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

Mr. SERRATE CUELLAR (Bolivia) (interpretation from Spanish): On behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group, I wish to express profound sorrow on the tragic death of His Excellency Mr. Ranasinghe Premadasa, President of the Republic of Sri Lanka, which occurred on 1 May 1993. We believe that the people of Sri Lanka and the international community as a whole have suffered a great loss through the death of one of their leaders.

Throughout his intensely active public life, President Premadasa always identified with the most vulnerable, the poor of his town, his city, his country and the world. He promoted concrete actions aimed at caring for the neediest at all levels - local, national and international alike. His work included notable statements in this lofty Assembly on behalf of the dispossessed, and he attained major accomplishments in the field of housing and human settlements.

His unexpected passing brought even greater pain and consternation by dint of his being yet another victim of the criminal scourge of terrorism. In many countries of Latin America and the Caribbean we are acquainted with the ruthless, blind and unjust nature of such acts of violence, which in this case took the life of President Ranasinghe Premadasa, a highly valued personage of international magnitude.

We believe that international cooperation is fundamental for the prevention and elimination of terrorism, and that such cooperation must come about at the world-wide, regional, subregional and bilateral levels so that all Governments will have at their disposal the tools necessary to face up to that criminal scourge.

(Mr. Serrate Cuéllar, Bolivia)

In this regard, Latin America and the Caribbean, while hoping that peace, the rule of law and justice will be the best response to the sacrificed lives of the President of Sri Lanka and of others, wish to convey to the people and the Government of Sri Lanka their deep sorrow and full solidarity in this difficult hour of grief and anguish.

Allow us also to convey, through our friends and colleagues of the delegation of Sri Lanka, our deepest condolences to the families of President Premadasa and the other victims of this tragic event. May peace be with all.

The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of Italy, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States.

Mr. FULCI (Italy): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States.

It is with deep sorrow that I wish to pay tribute to the memory of the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, His Excellency Mr. Ranasinghe Premadasa. We deeply deplore the loss of his life and the lives of those who were with him when he was killed, and we strongly condemn the cowardly act of terrorism which brought it about.

He was a man universally known for his moderation and ideals of equality and justice, ideals for which he struggled unceasingly and for which, I dare say, he ultimately gave his life.

As a member of his country's constituent assembly, President Premadasa contributed significantly to the drafting of the State constitution in 1972 and 1977, to the point that he can rightly be considered one of the fathers of the Republic of Sri Lanka's present constitutional system.

(Mr. Fulci, Italy)

Having his roots in the peasantry and having thus experienced poverty first-hand, President Premadasa fought relentlessly to improve the standard of living of the less fortunate people of his country. He succeeded in providing medical care, education, better housing and better living conditions for his people. President Premadasa's very deep-rooted feelings on poverty led him to address the General Assembly in 1980, at its thirty-fifth session, presenting his historic proposal of declaring an International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. This noble idea became a reality in October 1987, when President Premadasa himself addressed a special meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in New York and formally declared 1987 the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

Allow me once again to extend my deepest condolences to the delegation, the Government and the people of Sri Lanka on this most tragic loss and express the sincere hope that they will rapidly overcome the present situation.

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



Mr. HICKS (United States of America): The United States deplores the brutal act of terrorism that led to the assassination of President Ranasinghe Premadasa of Sri Lanka.

President Premadasa was noted for his efforts to alleviate poverty, provide employment and build housing for the people of Sri Lanka. His efforts to improve the standard of living in his country should serve as an example to the leaders of all nations of the world.

Sri Lanka has been a democracy since its independence in 1948. We in the United States are proud of our shared democratic traditions and the close relations we have maintained with Sri Lanka for more than 40 years.

We extend our sympathy to the people of Sri Lanka and stand with them in friendship during this tragic time. We extend our sympathy also to the families of the other victims of this tragic event.

The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of Sri Lanka.

Mr. KALPAGE (Sri Lanka): On behalf of the Sri Lankan delegation and on behalf of the people and Government of Sri Lanka, I should like to express our sincere appreciation for the warm tributes just paid to the memory of our late President, His Excellency Mr. Ranasinghe Premadasa, on this occasion of grief and anguish for our country and for our region.

My delegation was moved by the sentiments of condolence and solidarity expressed by you, Mr. President, by the chairmen of the regional groups and by the representative of the host country on the passing away of President Premadasa of Sri Lanka.

President Premadasa addressed the General Assembly on three occasions. He was a strong supporter of the noble purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. He advocated a foreign policy in which the United Nations was given a central role in the international decision-making process.

(Mr. Kalpagé, Sri Lanka)

President Premadasa believed that example was better than precept. He lived an exemplary life of marked simplicity. He subjected himself to spartan discipline. He was firmly committed to the service of his people. He gave voice to sentiments of peace and harmony, equity and justice for all.

To his responsibilities as the elected leader of Sri Lanka, President Premadasa brought to bear his own unrivalled experience gathered through long years of public life. His manifesto at the presidential election of 1988, entitled "A New Vision, a New Deal", presented his own clear vision of a better future for Sri Lanka, with hope for the common man.

He was specially concerned with the poor and needy. His poverty-alleviation concept, Janasaviya - the people's strength - was pragmatic and unique in its innovativeness. His annual "Gam Udawa" - or village reawakening projects in impoverished areas - stirred the imagination of the people and brought them hitherto unrealized common benefits.

The late President earned the people's admiration and gratitude for his widely known housing programme. He shared his experience with the world community. It was Mr. Premadasa's initiative which resulted in the General Assembly's declaring 1987 the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. As a result of that proposal, the General Assembly formulated the Global Strategy of Shelter to the Year 2000.

President Premadasa gave regional cooperation in South Asia a new dimension, a fresh momentum. His stewardship as Chairman of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation was widely acclaimed to have been both dynamic and productive. The tangible results of regional cooperation in poverty alleviation; preferential regional trade; scientific, technological and educational exchange; improved communications; and action against terrorism are already evident.

(Mr. Kalpagé, Sri Lanka)

President Premadasa stood for a united and integrated Sri Lanka in which a pluralistic society living in harmony would be engaged in peaceful discourse and development. He firmly believed in the process of consultation, compromise and consensus - the very spirit that should be the basis of relations within and among nations in these challenging times.

A life of distinguished service has ended. An eloquent and inspiring voice has been stilled. A man of peace has been struck down by a wanton act of terrorism, even as he was tirelessly working towards democratic political solutions to the underlying problems that can give rise to terrorism. This tragedy will no doubt bring into sharper focus the need for the strengthening of international cooperation to overcome the scourge of terrorism.

Although President Premadasa is no more, the memories of a great leader will remain forever in the hearts and minds of a grateful people whose cause he so effectively espoused and tirelessly worked for.

Sri Lanka must, and will, get over this dark chapter in its long history. Despite this tragic event, the strong and lasting democratic institutions of Sri Lanka have ensured the continuity of governance in accordance with our Constitution and within the framework of parliamentary democracy - a tradition Sri Lanka has uninterruptedly adhered to for over four decades.

Let me conclude, Mr. President, by assuring you and the Member States that my delegation will convey your kind sentiments of sympathy and sorrow to the members of the bereaved family and to the Government of Sri Lanka.

AGENDA ITEM 16 (continued)

ELECTIONS TO FILL VACANCIES IN SUBSIDIARY ORGANS AND OTHER ELECTIONS

(a) ELECTION OF TWELVE MEMBERS OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (A/47/401/Add.1)

The PRESIDENT: The General Assembly will now consider sub-item (a) of agenda item 16 in order to fill the one remaining vacancy in the World Food Council.

Members will recall that the Assembly, at its 44th plenary meeting, held on 24 October 1992, on the basis of the nominations by the Economic and Social Council and in accordance with paragraph 8 of resolution 3348 (XXIX), adopted on 17 December 1974, elected 11 members of the World Food Council - namely, three African States for three vacancies: Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria and Tunisia; two Asian States for three vacancies: the Islamic Republic of Iran and Japan; one Eastern European State for one vacancy: Hungary; two Latin American and Caribbean States for two vacancies: Ecuador and Peru; three Western European and other States for three vacancies: France, Italy and Norway.

(The President)

Regarding the remaining vacancy from among the Asian States, the General Assembly has before it document A/47/401/Add.1 which contains the nomination by the Economic and Social Council of a Member State from that region.

The Economic and Social Council has nominated India for election to the World Food Council by the General Assembly for a term of office beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1995.

In accordance with paragraph 16 of decision 34/401, the Assembly may dispense with balloting when the number of States nominated from among the regions is equal to the number of seats to be filled.

May I take it that the General Assembly, on the basis of the nomination by the Economic and Social Council, and in accordance with paragraph 8 of its resolution 3348 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974, wishes to declare India elected a member of the World Food Council for a term of office beginning today, 6 May 1993, and expiring on 31 December 1995?

It was so decided.

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

AGENDA ITEMS 103 AND 104 (continued)

REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS; PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (PART II) (A/47/932)

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (PART II) (A/47/835/Add.1)

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now consider the reports of the Fifth Committee on agenda items 103 and 104.

I call on the Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee, Mr. Jorge Osella of Argentina, who will introduce the reports of the Fifth Committee in one intervention.

Mr. OSELLA (Argentina), Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee

(interpretation from Spanish): It is my honour to introduce to the General Assembly Part II of the report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 103, "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations", and agenda item 104, "Programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993", in connection with the Committee's consideration of the restructuring of the Secretariat. Part II of the Fifth Committee's report on the subject is contained in document A/47/932.

As indicated in paragraph 2 of the report, the Committee considered these items at its 59th to 62nd, and 66th meetings. At its 66th meeting, the Vice-Chairman, following informal consultations, introduced, on behalf of the Chairman of the Committee, an orally revised draft resolution, contained in document A/C.5/47/L.36.

At the same meeting, the Vice-Chairman submitted a draft decision under agenda item 103, "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations", which had been drafted following informal consultations.

The draft resolution and the draft decision were adopted by the Committee without a vote.

As indicated in paragraphs 10 and 11 of the report, the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution and the draft decision.

In connection with agenda item 104, "Programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993", as indicated in paragraph 2 of Part II of the Fifth Committee's report contained in document A/47/835/Add.1, the Committee considered the item at its 58th, 63rd and 66th meetings. In the course of those meetings, the

(Mr. Osella, Rapporteur,  
Fifth Committee)

Fifth Committee considered and took decisions on four special subjects under agenda item 104. The Fifth Committee's recommendations are contained in paragraphs 14 and 15 of the report.

The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution contained in paragraph 14 and the draft decisions contained in paragraph 15.

The PRESIDENT: 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: Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote.

The positions of delegations regarding the recommendations of the Fifth Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records.

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."

May I remind delegations that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes.

(The President)

Before we begin to take action on the recommendations contained in the reports of the Fifth Committee, I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take decisions in the same manner as was done in the Fifth Committee.

The Assembly will now turn to Part II of the report (A/47/932) of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 103, "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations", and on agenda item 104, "Programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993", which concerns the restructuring of the Secretariat.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 10 of Part II of the report (A/47/932) and on the draft decision recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 11 of Part II of the same report.

We turn first to the draft resolution recommended in paragraph 10 of Part II of the report.

With regard to the title of the draft resolution, I should like to point out that in the English text the word "and" should be added after the words "United Nations" so that the title of the draft resolution will read as follows: "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations and programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993".

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 47/212 B).



The PRESIDENT: We shall now turn to the draft decision contained in paragraph 11 of Part II of the report.

The draft decision, entitled "Conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials", was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda items 103 and 104.

(The President)

We turn now to Part II of the report (A/47/835/Add.1) of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 104 concerning the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. The Assembly will consider the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 14 of Part II of its report (A/47/835/Add.1) and the two draft decisions recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 15 of the same document.

We shall first take a decision on the draft resolution. The draft resolution is entitled "Other questions relating to the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993: Revised estimates under section 37 (Department of Political Affairs)".

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 47/230).

The PRESIDENT: We shall now turn to the two draft decisions.

Draft decision I, which concerns deferral of items, was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft decision I was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: Draft decision II, entitled "Revised estimates under section 31 (Public Information): establishment and operation of seven United Nations interim offices", was also adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft decision II was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 104.

## PROGRAMME OF WORK

The PRESIDENT: I should like to remind representatives that the General Assembly will be meeting on Monday, 10 May, at 10 a.m., concurrently with the Security Council, to elect a member of the International Court of Justice. The meeting of the General Assembly will take place in Conference Room 3.

I should like to draw the Assembly's attention to the relevant documentation. First, document A/47/931, dated 23 April 1993, sets out the composition of the Court and the procedure for the election in the General Assembly and in the Security Council. Secondly, document A/47/940, dated 5 May 1993, contains the list of candidates submitted within the required time for submission. Thirdly, the document containing the curricula vitae of the candidates will be issued tomorrow under the following symbol: A/47/941.

I should like to seek the cooperation of representatives by asking them to be in their seats punctually at 10 a.m. on Monday.

The meeting rose at 11.35 a.m.