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TWENTY-NINTH YEAR

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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

Documents of the Security Council (symbol S/. . .) are normally published in quarterly *Supplements of the Official Records of the Security Council*. The date of the document indicates the supplement in which it appears or in which information about it is given.

The resolutions of the Security Council, numbered in accordance with a system adopted in 1964, are published in yearly volumes of *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council*. The new system, which has been applied retroactively to resolutions adopted before 1 January 1965, became fully operative on that date.

SEVENTEEN HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FIRST MEETING

Held in New York on Thursday, 17 January 1974, at 10.30 a.m.

President: Mr. Gonzalo J. FACIO (Costa Rica).

Present: The representatives of the following States: Australia, Austria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, Costa Rica, France, Indonesia, Iraq, Kenya, Mauritania, Peru, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon and United States of America.

Provisional agenda (S/Agenda/1761)

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Inclusion of Chinese among the working languages of the Security Council:
 - (a) Letter dated 10 January 1974 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/11187);
 - (b) Letter dated 11 January 1974 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/11190).

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

Statement by the President

1. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): At the beginning of 1974 Costa Rica began its tenure as an elected member of the Security Council. At the same time it assumed the presidency of this main executive organ of the United Nations. Thus a twofold honour and a double responsibility have been placed on our shoulders, a responsibility which we accept with humility and promise to carry out with dedication.
2. Presiding today over this first meeting of the Council in 1974, I am happy to welcome the other new members, the Byelorussian SSR, the United Republic of Cameroon, Iraq and Mauritania, and I am sure that I shall be interpreting the general feeling when I congratulate the representatives of the outgoing members, Guinea, India, Panama, the Sudan and Yugoslavia, for the contribution they made to the efforts of the Council to maintain international peace and achieve international justice.
3. In the course of the month of December 1973 the Council was very wisely presided over by Ambassador Huang Hua, the representative of the People's Republic of China. I have sought his advice and I have tried and will continue to try to follow his example, so that in the course of this month I shall successfully be able to preside over the

work of this highest of the executive organs of the United Nations.

4. I wish to express my best wishes to the Secretary-General and to his staff, as well as to the representatives of the nations that continue to be members of this Council, in the hope that this year that is now beginning will be fruitful in the achievement of solutions to the problems and tasks put to us.

5. I should like to pay a tribute of admiration and esteem to the representative of Panama, whom I am replacing, Ambassador Boyd. His outstanding contribution and example we in my delegation will endeavour to follow.

6. Article 23 of the Charter indicates to the General Assembly the requirements for the election of a Member of the United Nations to the Security Council. First and foremost, the General Assembly must pay due regard to the contribution of Members of the United Nations to the maintenance of international peace and security and to the other purposes of the Organization, and also to equitable geographical distribution.

7. Costa Rica is sure that when it was elected to occupy this high post the General Assembly did in fact duly assess its qualifications. My country believes that in its domestic conduct and its international activities it has contributed to the maintenance of peace, to the reaffirmation of fundamental human rights, to economic, social and cultural co-operation among nations, to respect for the legal equality of States and the self-determination of peoples. Costa Rica has never failed to comply with the primary international obligation that has been raised to a fundamental tenet of the Charter, namely, to solve disputes by peaceful means and not to resort to force to threaten the independence or territorial integrity of any other State.

8. In Costa Rica all human beings enjoy fundamental freedoms without any distinction for reasons of race, sex, language or religion. Our country has unilaterally carried out general and complete disarmament. In 1948 Costa Rica abolished the army as a standing institution. Only in order to fulfil international obligations or to defend ourselves against aggression could a temporary military force be organized, and in any case it would still be subject to the civic authorities under article 12 of the Constitution in force in my country now.

9. Thus, for more than 25 years we have lived without armed forces and have invested in education and public health what at one time was invested in instruments of war.

We have required that our national defence respect international law, the suitable functioning of the regional arrangements of the new world, and primarily, the activities of this Security Council, of which today, with such pride, we form a part.

10. With regard to equitable geographical representation, again we believe that Costa Rica is duly qualified. Our candidacy for this post was unanimously put forward by the Latin American Group. Therefore, today, together with Peru, we are honoured to represent the desire for international peace and security felt by all nations of Latin America.

11. The present Government of Costa Rica began in 1970 a policy of universalizing our diplomatic relations, abandoning the dogmatism of the cold war and of determined support for peaceful coexistence and contributing to relieving international tension. We believe that these new aspects of our foreign policy, added to the traditional international conduct of Costa Rica, are good grounds that make our country able to carry out constructive work in this peace-making organ of the United Nations.

12. It is known, but not always publicly avowed, that the Charter of San Francisco is based upon one essential political hypothesis and that is harmony and co-operation among the great Powers. And since the maintenance of peace is the primary objective of the United Nations, its peace-making machinery is based on the theory of joint action by the five great Powers. It is for that reason that they were given permanent seats in the Security Council. It is for that reason that the veto was created, as a guarantee that the Security Council would not use its wide powers without the agreement of the most powerful nations.

13. For some, this concentration of power in the hands of the permanent members bespeaks an effort to establish a world government of the great Powers, which might subject the other nations of the world to domination by an international oligarchy.

14. For others, the paramountcy of the major Powers is the just price that the medium-sized and smaller nations have to pay to obtain the co-operation of the more powerful in the international Organization of States, and the veto is the safety valve to ensure that the United Nations shall not over-extend itself by adopting commitments that are unreal or beyond its powers to fulfil.

15. Regardless of the goals set as an ideal, the fact of the matter is that the United Nations was so conceived as to ensure that the maintenance of international peace and security can be achieved only through the agreement of the great Powers. To change such a situation not only would a new organization have to be created, but also it would be indispensable for the mind and spirit of the main protagonists on the international arena also to be transformed. But this goal is not within reach at the moment, nor can we be sure that it might be the most suitable. It would be better to base ourselves on what we can reasonably expect of the foreign policy of States. Otherwise, we run the risk of preparing catalogues of what is desirable instead of building on what is possible.

16. When an understanding was lacking among the super-Powers, the Security Council lost its peace-making efficiency, and that is the logical corollary of its very structure. However, this should not lead us into disillusion nor even to think of dissolving the United Nations. To perfect the organ by taking into account the real form of its constitution is a challenge that we must take up, because were the United Nations to disappear the most probable alternative would be not another more effective body but the rule of international anarchy.

17. Since the end of the Second World War more than 100 armed conflicts have broken out in which the great Powers were not in direct confrontation. This proves to us that small nations can also provoke local wars. It is only the great Powers that can unleash world wars. Obviously, therefore, we must ensure that localized conflicts do not take place. But our major concern must be to avoid the outbreak of a world conflagration that might lead to the use by the super-Powers of their nuclear arsenals. The Security Council must act efficiently to put an end to local conflicts, but, furthermore, its members must also endeavour to avoid those conflicts among the small nations leading into or escalating to a world war where nuclear weapons would eradicate our very civilization.

18. If we wish this Council truly to guarantee international peace and security, we must work indefatigably for the supposed basis of its structure to become effective—namely, harmony among the great Powers. Therefore, the members of the Security Council and the Members of the United Nations in general have no more important task than that of wiping out the last vestiges of the cold war and creating an atmosphere of international détente.

19. Peaceful coexistence is difficult in a world in which social systems as opposed as are those of the great Powers confront one another, but just because it is difficult does not mean that it is impossible. Let us not forget that the alternative is the nuclear holocaust of mankind.

20. The relaxation of international tensions that has occurred in the last few years proves that negotiation can replace confrontation.

21. Dialogue must continue for States to solve peacefully their differences, and to manage to create a new structure of peace that will guarantee justice for all. But it is not only the great Powers which should participate in that dialogue. For such a dialogue to be effective the voice of the small and medium-sized nations must also be heard, because, as has been the case, the smaller nations can contribute very valuably to creating an appropriate atmosphere for détente.

22. The dogmatic intransigence adopted by the fanatics of capitalism and socialism in the face of peaceful coexistence must be set aside and must be defined as social psychosis.

23. Those who speak of the immorality of negotiating or coexisting with those who believe in ideologies other than one's own have to be reminded that the problems of war and peace involve the highest of moral values: the right to live. Therefore, much more immoral than negotiating with an ideological adversary is closing the door to dialogue

itself. For when it implies a mass and indiscriminate destruction of lives, war is itself the greatest of immoralities.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Inclusion of Chinese among the working languages of the Security Council:

- (a) Letter dated 10 January 1974 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/11187);
- (b) Letter dated 11 January 1974 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/11190)

24. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): The Security Council has just included in its agenda the question concerning the inclusion of Chinese among the working languages of the Security Council. This question was drawn to the attention of the Security Council in the letter dated 10 January 1974 [S/11187], by which the Secretary-General transmitted to the Council the text of General Assembly resolution 3189 (XXVIII), in which the Assembly, *inter alia*, considered it desirable to include Chinese among the working languages of the Security Council.

25. I should like to note that when it adopted that resolution on 18 December 1973 the General Assembly had before it a report of the Fifth Committee¹ recommending the adoption of the draft resolution and informing the Assembly of the budgetary requirements it would entail. This report of the Fifth Committee, in turn, was based on the relevant information provided to it by the Secretary-General in the note² submitted in accordance with rule 155 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

26. Following receipt of the Secretary-General's letter transmitting the Assembly's decision and of a formal request from the representative of China that a meeting be held to consider this question [S/11190], I engaged in consultations with all the members of the Security Council, in the course of which a draft resolution [S/11192] has been worked out that appears to meet with general agreement. It is designed to give effect to the wishes expressed by the General Assembly through the appropriate amendments to the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council. The draft resolution and the annex containing the revised draft rules of procedure have been circulated prior to this meeting.

27. Mr. HUANG Hua (China) (*translation from Chinese*): As is known to all, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish are the five official languages of the United Nations. The Charter of the United Nations provides in explicit terms that the texts in the five languages are equally authentic. At the beginning, only English and French were the working languages. Later, the General Assembly successively adopted resolutions to include

Spanish and Russian among the working languages of the General Assembly, and subsequently Spanish and Russian were also included by the Security Council among its working languages.

28. At the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly, in 1973, the Chinese delegation put forward the proposal to include Chinese among the working languages of the General Assembly and the Security Council. On 18 December 1973, the General Assembly unanimously adopted resolutions 3189 (XXVIII) and 3191 (XXVIII) to include Chinese among the working languages of the General Assembly and accordingly to amend the relevant provisions of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. Resolution 3189 (XXVIII) also states that the General Assembly considers it desirable to include Chinese among the working languages of the Security Council.

29. In pursuance of the General Assembly decision, the Secretary-General transmitted on 10 January resolution 3189 (XXVIII) to the President of the Security Council. On 15 January the Security Council, presided over by the President of the Council, held consultations on the inclusion of Chinese among the working languages of the Security Council and amendment of the relevant provisions of the provisional rules of procedure of the Council. We are very pleased that all our colleagues of the Council are holding a formal meeting today which will adopt measures with regard to the relevant draft resolution. The Chinese delegation wishes to express its appreciation to the President of the Security Council and all the Council members. We should also like to express our thanks to the Secretariat departments concerned for helping to draft the resolution and the amendment to the provisional rules of procedure.

30. Mr. FAKIH (Kenya): Permit me first, Mr. President, to offer my congratulations on the election of your country, Costa Rica, to the Council and on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for the month of January. With your well-known skills, and since you come from a country whose tradition of justice and respect for human rights is well known, I am confident that your delegation will discharge the duties of your high office with excellence. I assure you that my delegation will co-operate with you fully not only during this month but also in the future in the search for solutions to the problems that will come time and again before the Council. Naturally, African questions loom large in my delegation's mind, and on these we look forward to the support of your delegation.

31. May I take this opportunity also to congratulate the sister Republics of Cameroon and Mauritania on their election to the Security Council. We are looking forward to working very closely with them on all matters during their term of office. Our congratulations go also to the friendly delegations of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and Iraq, the latter a country with which we enjoy beneficial diplomatic relations. We look forward to working in full co-operation with them in the Council.

32. My delegation expresses its thanks to the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China for the exemplary manner in which he conducted the business of the Council during the month of December.

¹ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth Session, Annexes, agenda items 79 and 100, document A/9307.

² A/C.5/1528.

33. It is my pleasant task to thank our former non-aligned colleagues in the Council and to wish them well—namely, the delegations of Guinea, India, Panama, the Sudan and Yugoslavia. My delegation worked harmoniously with them during the past year. We greatly gained from their experience and expertise on the work of the Council. We view their retiring with a tremendous sense of loss. We shall follow their good example and, like them, work to advance constructive solutions to issues and problems before the Council.

34. My delegation will vote in favour of the draft resolution before us on the inclusion of Chinese as a working language of the Council and the subsequent amendments to the provisional rules of procedure. To us this is a sequence of events which we think we should follow since the other four official languages are already working languages of the Council. In doing this we respond to the wish of the General Assembly, a democratic organ of our Organization.

35. Chinese is, of course, an ancient language spoken by over 800 million people and our vote today is an index of our appreciation of this fact. We trust that United Nations documents will now find their way throughout China.

36. And for us from Africa, it has not been lost on us that while the languages of all continents are heard in this chamber, ours is the only continent whose tongues have yet to be officially accepted at the United Nations. My delegation is not putting forward any concrete proposals now, but Africa cannot remain for ever the only continent without a language at the United Nations.

37. Mr. MALIK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (*translation from Russian*): Today, at this first meeting of the Security Council in the new year, the USSR delegation would like to begin by wishing the members of the Council and the Secretary-General of the United Nations a Happy New Year, good health in the new year, personal happiness, and success in their joint efforts to ensure that the Security Council discharges the main responsibility entrusted to it—the maintenance of international peace and security.

38. I should also like to extend a welcome to you, Mr. President, as a distinguished representative of the Latin American continent, with the majority of whose countries, including your own, the Soviet Union maintains and is developing relations of mutual understanding, co-operation and friendship. The members of the Security Council remember you for the outstanding statement which you made at the Council's meetings in Panama. The USSR delegation wishes you success in the responsible office of President of the Council, and we for our part shall make every effort to co-operate with you.

39. We also take great satisfaction in welcoming all the other new members of the Security Council—the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, in the person of its Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Smirnov; Iraq, in the person of the Deputy Permanent Representative, Ambassador Zahawie; United Republic of Cameroon, represented here by Ambassador Booh Booh, and Mauritania, in the person of Counsellor Ould Mouloud.

40. It is with a feeling of great satisfaction that the USSR delegation declares its readiness to co-operate with the new members of the Security Council and to maintain continuous, business-like contacts with them for the purpose of enhancing the role of the Council in actively promoting further consolidation of international détente and in strengthening peace and security.

41. At this first meeting of the Council in the new year, we must also express our very sincere appreciation to the distinguished representatives of those five countries whose period of membership in the Council expired on 31 December 1973. I am referring to the representatives of Yugoslavia, Ambassador Mojsov; of India, Ambassador Sen; of Guinea, Mrs. Cissé; of the Sudan, Ambassador Abdulla; and of Panama, Ambassador Boyd.

42. We shall recall with appreciation our work with them in the Council, their active and enterprising proposals aimed at strengthening peace and security, and their particularly active role within the group of non-permanent members of the Council representing the non-aligned countries when, during the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly, the Council was discussing the question of the situation in the Middle East. With their active participation, the Council decided for the first time to conduct a United Nations peace-keeping operation in the Middle East in accordance with the Charter, the principles of the Charter governing the conduct of such operations by decision of the Council were reaffirmed, and the principle of establishing United Nations armed forces on the basis of equitable geographical representation was also upheld and implemented.

43. The USSR delegation will take great satisfaction in continuing in the future its co-operation and friendly, business-like contacts in the United Nations and its organs both with them personally and with the delegations which they head.

44. The past year was filled with major international events of great importance. It is impossible in this brief statement to enumerate them all in detail. Suffice it to say that 1973 was a year marked by a further perceptible easing of international tension and a strengthening of the trend towards consolidating international peace and security and towards the development of friendship and co-operation among nations with a view to ensuring a fundamental restructuring of international relations based on the principles of peaceful coexistence between States. It is now clear to everyone that the problem of peaceful coexistence is the question of questions in contemporary international relations.

45. In his new year message to the Soviet people, Comrade Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, noted that 1973 had witnessed significant successes in the international arena. In that connexion, he stated:

“The war in Viet-Nam has at last come to an end. The political climate in Europe is changing for the better. The bonds of friendship linking our country with the fraternal countries of socialism and with all peace-loving States have been further strengthened. Our country is making an active contribution to the defence of the legitimate rights of the Arab peoples, which have been the victims of

aggression by Israel, and to the achievement of a lasting and just peace in the Middle East. The negotiations held and the agreements concluded by the Soviet Union with the United States of America and a number of other States have been of great importance in easing international tension."

46. At the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly, an overwhelming majority of Member States acknowledged and noted the importance and usefulness of international détente and of the indisputable fact that the Assembly session itself was held in conditions of détente. That assisted the Assembly in adopting a whole series of positive decisions aimed at strengthening peace and international security, bringing about disarmament and the reduction of military budgets, and preparing for the World Disarmament Conference. For the first time, the General Assembly in its decisions recognized and reaffirmed the principle of a link between détente and development, between development and disarmament. It was recognized that development was possible only under conditions of peace and security; it was also recognized that disarmament was important for the purposes of development. Crucial decisions were taken by the Assembly on decolonization, the elimination of *apartheid* and many other questions.

47. The General Assembly thus made an important contribution towards strengthening détente with a view to ensuring that the continuing process of reducing international tension is made irreversible. Hence the tasks confronting the Security Council. As the principal organ of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security, the Council is duty-bound to concentrate its efforts on this noble task so as to make its own substantial contribution towards strengthening international détente and consolidating peace and security.

48. Today's meeting of the Security Council was convened in connexion with a resolution adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session. The aim of the meeting is the adoption by the Council of a decision which will carry further and strengthen that Assembly resolution. It is therefore appropriate to recall that the Security Council has a duty to the General Assembly under another Assembly resolution, too. At its twenty-seventh session, the General Assembly, on the initiative of the Soviet Union, adopted resolution 2936 (XXVII) on the non-use of force in international relations and permanent prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons. The resolution contained a provision to the effect that the Security Council for its part should take a decision aimed at developing and strengthening that Assembly resolution. So far, however, the Council has not done so. It is high time that it did.

49. A major international event of 1973 was the convening in Moscow of the World Congress of Peace Forces. It was—in the full sense of the word—a world-wide forum of world public opinion, which had as its slogan the concepts of peace and friendship among peoples. Its representative character is attested to by the following facts. It was attended by a total of 3,200 delegates from 144 countries representing more than 1,100 political parties and national organizations and movements. Leaders or representatives of more than 120 international organizations took part in the

work of the Congress. The World Congress of Peace Forces was an event of tremendous political importance. Its decisions and documents provided an analysis of the main trends in the development of international relations, underscored the need to make détente irreversible and defined the tasks currently facing peace forces in their noble struggle for peace and friendship among peoples.

50. In speaking of the efforts undertaken with a view to strengthening peace, we must also draw attention to two other important international events. In Geneva, the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe in which 35 States are participating, has been resumed for the second phase of that international gathering. When that phase has been concluded, a third and final phase of the Conference at the highest level will follow in the spring or summer of this year. That will give fresh impetus to international détente and co-operation.

51. The Middle East Peace Conference has been convened in Geneva and is continuing. There is divergence in the positions of its participants, but there is a real possibility of reaching a settlement of this acute international problem, which is a source of tension both in the Middle East and outside that region. Practical steps must be taken towards peace, realism and a renunciation of the policy of expansionism.

52. In that connexion, one must express regret that there has not yet been any lessening of the shrill outcry of the enemies of détente, the enemies of peace and security, who are trying to turn the world back to the dark days of the cold war. Fortunately for the peoples of the whole world, these hostile forces are in the minority and are isolated both within the United Nations and outside it. Their efforts are in vain. They will not succeed in breaking the will and the irresistible desire for détente and peace of the peoples of the whole world and the overwhelming majority of States Members of the United Nations. That was vividly and convincingly demonstrated and reaffirmed at the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly, the Congress of Peace Forces and the Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries.

53. Speaking of the tasks to be faced in the new year, Comrade Brezhnev, in his new year message from which I have already quoted, declared that in 1974 the Soviet Union would set itself the task of consolidating and developing all the good aspects of our mutual relations with many States. In that regard, he particularly stressed the importance in the new year of the following task: "As in the past, we shall seek to further the process of international détente and to infuse it with real substance. Inspired by communist ideals, we shall resolutely continue to uphold the noble cause of peace and friendship among peoples since it is the most urgent and vital task of our age."

54. We take great satisfaction in saying today that the Soviet people, like the other peoples of the world, are more than ever before enjoying the real, tangible fruits of the Soviet Union's peace-loving Leninist policy of peaceful coexistence.

55. With regard to the item placed on the agenda of the Security Council and now under discussion, the USSR delegation to the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly expressed its attitude when it supported the proposal on this question during the discussion in the Fifth Committee and in the General Assembly. We take a similar position now in the consideration of this matter in the Security Council.

56. Mr. SCALI (United States of America): On this my first day in New York after an enforced absence I should like to express my heartfelt thanks to the many friends here and among the United Nations community generally who so kindly communicated their good wishes at the time of my illness and subsequent operation and during the period of my convalescence. At such a time the moral support of one's friends is a potent secret ingredient influencing your view as you reflect on the past and the future that you and mankind face, and I shall not forget how many of you were kind enough to extend your hand of friendship.

57. Happily, Mr. President, this first occasion for you to preside over the Security Council is one for dealing with a non-contentious matter. Happily, the views of the United States on all aspects of the issue are well known and I am not obliged to repeat them now. There is no sign of opposition from any quarter. Therefore, there remains for me only the pleasurable duty of welcoming five new colleagues to membership of the Security Council. To the representatives of Cameroon, Costa Rica, Iraq, Mauritania and the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic I should like to extend a personal welcome and to reaffirm my desire and that of my delegation to work constructively and realistically to make the Security Council continue as a vital organ of the United Nations system.

58. I should like to make an exception to my delegation's usual role of avoiding honorific courtesy statements which sometimes, it seems to us, become overlong and delay the business of the Council. Quite simply, Mr. President, I want to say how fortunate we are that the Council begins the new year under your distinguished leadership. Like others at this table, my delegation is well aware of your outstanding accomplishments in Costa Rica, in this hemisphere and on the world stage. Your eloquent remarks today and the manner in which you have been heading the work of the Council to this point are evidence that a bright new chapter in the annals of your career is currently being written.

59. Mr. STUBBS (Peru) (*interpretation from Spanish*): My first words must be words of welcome to the delegations of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the United Republic of Cameroon, Iraq, and Mauritania as new members of the Council to which my delegation offers full co-operation in ensuring success for our work in the maintenance of international peace and security. This is a task in which, in connexion with the Middle East, we struggled shoulder to shoulder with Panama, a sister country of Latin America, with which we co-operated in the Council last year and which has now been replaced by Costa Rica, which today is represented brilliantly by you, Mr. President, Mr. Gonzalo Facio, its Foreign Minister, who will be presiding over the work of the Council for this month.

60. With regard to the item on today's agenda, inclusion of Chinese among the working languages of the Security Council, my delegation's view was expressed at length in the General Assembly when it co-sponsored the draft resolution proposing this. Therefore, the draft resolution contained in document S/11192 is one that I am sure the Council will adopt unanimously. It is the just and necessary step to ensure that the work of the United Nations—in this case, specifically, the work of the Security Council—shall be as efficient as the work of the world Organization should always be. Thus, having made the necessary changes in the rules of procedure, we shall have taken the required steps for Chinese, in addition to the other four working languages, to become a working language of the Council.

61. Before concluding my statement, I wish to express my delegation's satisfaction at seeing Ambassador Scali back with us completely recovered. I must say that I feel a certain nostalgia at the absence of the representatives of Guinea, India, Panama, the Sudan and Yugoslavia, with whom we enjoyed working last year in the Council.

62. Mr. JANKOWITSCH (Austria): As this is the first meeting of the Council in the new year, I should like to join previous speakers in offering good wishes to all members of the Council, and particularly to express my delight in re-welcoming here our friend and colleague the Ambassador of the United States, whom we missed for a number of weeks.

63. Mr. President, it gives my delegation a particular and indeed a double pleasure to welcome you and your delegation as one of the five new members of the Security Council this year, and to congratulate you on assuming the most honourable and most responsible duties of President of the Council. Our pleasure in welcoming Costa Rica to the Council, where it serves, like Austria, for the first time, is based in the first place on the traditionally good relations between our countries, but also on the fact that Costa Rica appears to be particularly well suited for membership of the Council. Indeed, few countries can be considered more qualified to serve the noble purposes of the Council than your own, Mr. President, whose peace-loving character has been convincingly demonstrated by a number of concrete steps. This augurs well for the work of the main organ of the United Nations which is responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security. I should like to add, Mr. President, that my delegation intends to co-operate fully in your endeavours to fulfil your duties and in the duties of the Council in the coming year.

64. I am also very happy to congratulate, on behalf of my delegation, the four other new members of the Security Council, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Iraq, Mauritania and the United Republic of Cameroon, on their election. We extend our greetings to the representatives of those countries, three of which are also represented in this Council for the first time, and we are looking forward to co-operating with them in a way that will reflect the good and the traditionally friendly relations which my country has maintained with all of them.

65. The year 1973 did not afford us an opportunity to express our gratification at the co-operation we enjoyed

with the former five non-permanent members of the Council, namely, Guinea, India, Panama, the Sudan and Yugoslavia, which have now left this chamber. It would be extremely difficult to pay a tribute here exhaustively and individually to the representatives of those five former members of the Council: Mrs. Jeanne Martin Cissé of Guinea, Ambassador Sen of India, Ambassador Boyd of Panama, Ambassador Abdulla of Sudan and Ambassador Mojsov of Yugoslavia. However, every one of them has made his own brilliant contributions to the aims and purposes of the Council; every one of them has served the cause of peace extremely well.

66. Let me recall briefly here the brilliant role that Mrs. Jeanne Martin Cissé played as the first woman member and the first woman President of this Council. Her great talent was especially given to the direction of the work of the Council Committee on sanctions. To Ambassador Boyd of Panama the Council owes the initiative for the historic first meeting of the Council in Latin America, a most significant event which undoubtedly contributed to the strengthening of peace and security in a most important region of the world. Ambassador Sen of India brought to the Council the vast experience and prestige of his country, the greatest democracy of the world, India, whose constructive contributions helped enhance the work of the Council in many a difficult moment. Ambassador Abdulla of the Sudan distinguished himself equally on many occasions, and I should like to pay a particular tribute to him in his capacity as a member of the Security Council Special Mission to Zambia.

67. A final word of tribute is directed to the representative of Austria's friendly neighbour to the south, Yugoslavia. Few members of this Council have served it with more imagination and dedication than Ambassador Mojsov, and many decisions the Council has taken in the past two years bear the mark of his intellectual capacities.

68. Finally, let me also profit from this occasion to say a word of gratitude to Ambassador Huang Hua for the distinguished way in which he guided the difficult work of the Council during the month of December 1973.

69. Permit me now to revert briefly to the subject of the day and speak on the most important matter before us this morning. The operative paragraph of the draft resolution before us calls for the inclusion of Chinese among the working languages of the Council. My delegation fully supports this draft resolution, just as it supported General Assembly resolution 3189 (XXVIII), which made Chinese a working language of the General Assembly. Previous speakers have pointed out that the number of working languages of the Council has gradually increased over past years. Four years ago the Council decided to add Russian and Spanish as working languages to the working languages then in use, namely, English and French. The adoption of the draft resolution today will be the logical consequence of those decisions, and henceforth there will be a complete identity between the official languages of the Organization, which from the beginning have been those mentioned in Article 111 of the Charter, and the working languages of the Council.

70. Including another language among the working languages necessitates a revision of a number of rules falling within the scope of two chapters of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, and I should like to add a brief comment at this juncture concerning the annex to the draft resolution, dealing with the revision of the provisional rules of procedure. These amended rules are brought up to date and into line with the corresponding rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

71. In revising these two chapters the Council, in the view of my delegation, should not lose sight of the over-all problem of reviewing and updating other chapters of the rules of procedure as well. We are all aware that a number of rules have never been operative and that other rules might need clarification or revision in the light of the practice that the Security Council has developed over the quarter-century that has elapsed since the rules of procedure were first formulated by the Council. On certain subjects new rules might eventually be added. I refer to this problem because it seems to my delegation to be a most important one. The rules which govern the Council's proceedings should correspond as closely as possible to the existing realities. They must constitute a clear and agreed framework for the efficient conduct of our business.

72. Members of the Council may recall that, in response to the General Assembly's call for the views of Governments on ways and means of enhancing the effectiveness of the Security Council in accordance with the principles and provisions of the Charter of the United Nations—I refer to resolution 2864 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971—my Government suggested several ways of improving the Council's effectiveness within the existing framework of the Charter, one suggestion being that the Council itself might have a new look at its rules of procedure. Let us not forget that the General Assembly in its most recent resolution on the subject, that is, resolution 3186 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973.

"Draws the attention of the Security Council, when considering steps to enhance its effectiveness in accordance with the principles and provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, to the views and suggestions submitted by Member States in response to General Assembly resolution 2864 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971 and 2991 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, as contained in the annexes to the Secretary-General's reports submitted in accordance with these resolutions".

73. Let us also bear in mind that when we discussed the Security Council's last report to the General Assembly there was agreement among members that early this year the Council should also review the structure and format of its report. In this connexion the month of February was mentioned as a possible starting date. With this in mind, I want to express the hope that our decision today will be a starting-point for a more general review of the rules of procedure and for the gradual adoption of measures in this field which might strengthen the effectiveness of the Council, in response to the desire expressed by the General Assembly and the membership of the Organization at large. The Council, which is the master of its procedure, should remain as effective an instrument as possible for the maintenance of world peace and security.

74. Mr. DE GUIRINGAUD (France) (*interpretation from French*): Mr. President, at the outset permit me to address to you the warmest congratulations of my delegation on the accession of your country, Costa Rica, to the presidency of the Security Council. You have done honour to the Council and our Organization as a whole in making a special voyage here to start our work despite your onerous duties in handling the foreign affairs of your country. We are very grateful to you and we whole-heartedly wish you success in the performance of your high duties.

75. I am very happy to see at this table once again the representative of the United States, Mr. Scali, fully recovered from his illness. I wish to assure him of our warm regard and of our pleasure at seeing him once again in the Security chamber, more ready than ever, I am sure, to take a leading part in our work.

76. I should like also to extend a cordial welcome to the four other States, the Byelorussian SSR, the United Republic of Cameroon, Iraq and Mauritania, which have also now joined the Council, and I wish to assure them that at all times the French delegation will offer them understanding and warmth, thus reflecting the excellent relations that exist between their countries and mine. I have no doubt that their participation will contribute to enriching our work and making it more constructive for the cause of world peace.

77. This meeting, which offers us an opportunity of welcoming five new members to the Council, also calls for a tribute by us to the five members that left us on 31 December last—Guinea, India, Panama, the Sudan and Yugoslavia—for the contribution they made to our work. Each of them assisted the Council with the specific experience gained from its geographical situation, its culture, its past or its present concerns and directions. But that contribution was far greater than what we might term a spontaneous one. Imbued with a remarkable sense of the responsibilities flowing from membership in the main organ entrusted with international peace and security, each of their representatives in one way or another tried in this chamber to find solutions that were not so much a reconciliation of disparate views or the result of a balance of forces as an expression of what the international community should consider to be both legitimate and reasonable. Inspired by fundamentally convergent concerns, their initiatives and their acts all went towards the same goal, which was the general interest. I am linked to all five representatives by feelings of very close and sincere friendship and admiration. The Council has owed them a great debt for their two years and they have earned the appreciation of the other Members of our Organization. But they should know that even if they are not sitting with us today, their awareness and knowledge of matters, and the quality of their approach, will still make of them invaluable counsellors to the members of the Council.

78. Finally, since by a happy coincidence the subject of our meeting today deals with China, it is a specific pleasure to congratulate Ambassador Huang Hua for the constant effectiveness and the courteous authority with which, in the course of last month, he presided over the Council. The prestige with which he carried out his work and the

eminent place in which he stands in our eyes do not have to be mentioned. Inflexible on matters of principle, but open to discussion, Ambassador Huang Hua made known the views of his country—sometimes rigorous but always logical and dictated by national interests—concisely and in measured tones that only stressed the weight of his arguments. In this arena, as in the world scene, China speaks and it is listened to.

79. It is only normal and just, given the place that China occupies in the world and its position as a permanent member of the Council, that the Chinese language be given the status of a working language, both in the Security Council and in the General Assembly. It is particularly “this weight of evidence and reason”, to mention a well-known phrase, which prompted France to co-sponsor the draft resolution which was ultimately adopted on 18 December by the Assembly as resolution 3189 (XXVIII). It is also these ties of close friendship that link our two countries and that were proved during the September visit of the President of the French Republic to China, where he was received with such a warm welcome.

80. These are the primary reasons that led my country to advocate a wider use of the Chinese language in our work. There are, however, more general reasons and particularly the growing interest shown in the world, and particularly in Western Europe, in that language, which has behind it a very lengthy history and is used by one fifth of mankind. Today, in France, the study of the Chinese language is no longer left to a group of researchers or original thinkers. Today, to learn the language is still a bold and long-term undertaking, but it is no longer unheard of. In our universities the enrolments for courses in Chinese, which two or three decades ago could be counted on the fingers of one hand, today number hundreds if not thousands, and, since the fortunate resumption of dialogue with China, a similar phenomenon has been noted in the United States. In a word, Chinese is no longer the private domain of a small group of specialists and, without having become entirely generalized, the study of language today already goes beyond the somewhat starchy ranks of sinology.

81. Another reason for strengthening the position of Chinese in the Organization is the very nature of the language. It has been admired because of the intrinsic beauty of its characters, and it was known that, from T'ou Fou, Li T'ai-po and T'ao Yuan-ming to Mao Tse-tung, it had been the language of the poets, excelling more than any other in describing the beauty of a landscape, the fleetingness of a moment or the depth of a state of mind. But Chinese is something other than the language of philosophers and aesthetes; it is also a practical, concise language, remarkably adaptable to political, diplomatic and technical vocabulary even of today's world. Many people still believe that it is a language of vagueness and approximation. Yet Chinese possesses its own precise term to define each of the terms that crop up in our discussions and our texts. This exactness stresses the mastery and skill of the excellent group of Chinese interpreters and translators whose assistance is so precious to us, and to whom my delegation wishes to pay a tribute at this moment. It is true that the inclusion of Chinese among the working languages will doubtless increase their workload considerably and will call

for a reinforcement of their numbers. Although we are opposed to any measure that might increase the financial burden of the Organization, my delegation feels that in this case it is an investment that is fully justified and that the future work of the Council will prove the wisdom of our decision.

82. Sir Laurence McINTYRE (Australia): Mr. President, let me first of all, on behalf of my delegation, extend a warm welcome to you in your capacity both as the representative of a new non-permanent member of the Security Council and as President of the Council for the month of January. As our colleague of France has just said, it is an added honour to this Council that your country should be represented, and represented so eloquently, by its distinguished Foreign Minister at this opening meeting of the year.

83. The fact that alphabetical accident has exposed you, as it did our Indonesian colleague last year, to the duties of the presidency in Costa Rica's first month of membership of the Council is a double guarantee of my delegation's full co-operation and support.

84. I should like also to pay a tribute to the very effective, conscientious and courteous work of your predecessor, Ambassador Huang Hua, throughout the month of December. Let me also welcome cordially the other four new non-permanent members of the Security Council: the Byelorussian SSR, Iraq, Mauritania and the United Republic of Cameroon, and extend to them a similar assurance of our desire to co-operate constructively with them in the year that lies ahead.

85. The past 12 months have illustrated that this Council can act decisively and in concert when called upon to do so. No small part was played in this regard by the five outgoing members of the Council—Guinea, India, Panama, the Sudan and Yugoslavia—and to them my delegation expresses its sincere appreciation, not only for the very able and effective work they have performed but for the guidance they have given and the consideration they have shown to my delegation in its first year on the Council.

86. My delegation will vote in favour of the draft resolution that is before us [S/11192] and the consequential changes in our provisional rules of procedure which we consider appropriate and desirable for the future conduct of the business of the Council.

87. Mr. JAMIESON (United Kingdom): Mr. President, since this is the first meeting this month, I should like to join others in paying high tribute to the exemplary and efficient conduct of the Council's business under the presidency of your predecessor, Ambassador Huang Hua of China.

88. Secondly, I should like to join our colleagues in welcoming you, Sir, to the presidency of the Council and to the Council itself.

89. The links between our two countries have always been close, sharing, as we do, a common belief in democratic traditions. Your country's record at the United Nations is a

distinguished one, and it reflects the importance which Costa Rica attaches to the role of the Council and of the Organization as a whole that you yourself should be here to preside over this meeting. I listened with close interest and attention to your thoughtful remarks at the outset of this meeting, and I believe that they augur well for the contribution which your delegation will make to the work of this Council. We shall benefit from your distinguished leadership during January, and my delegation willingly pledges you its close co-operation.

90. I wish also to welcome to the Council our colleagues from the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Iraq, Mauritania and, not least, the United Republic of Cameroon, whose recent change of nomenclature has happily made us neighbours in this Council. My delegation offers all the new members a warm welcome and looks forward to working closely with them during the next two years.

91. And since I have been welcoming new faces, perhaps I too may welcome the return of an old face, that of our friend and colleague Ambassador Scali, looking, I am glad to say, a good deal healthier than when we last saw him.

92. I do not propose to enter into a review of the events of 1973, but I cannot let the first meeting of the Council in 1974 pass without putting on record our warm gratitude to those members of the Council who left it at the end of last year. Each of those five members in their own way contributed substantially to our work, and I do not think that anyone who participated in the discussions on the Middle East in the last quarter of 1973 would challenge the judgement that the retiring members, together with others who happily remain, made a most valuable impact—an impact of realism and pragmatism—on the work of the Council for preserving international peace and security.

93. On the substance of our agenda today, I wish merely to recall the fact that my delegation supported resolution 3189 (XXVIII) when it was adopted by the General Assembly on 18 December 1973. We recognize the importance and value of according Chinese the same status as the other four official languages of the Council, and we are therefore happy to vote in favour of the draft resolution in document S/11192.

94. Mr. ANWAR SANI (Indonesia): Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that my delegation joins previous speakers in welcoming Costa Rica to the Security Council and in congratulating you, Sir, on the assumption of the presidency of the Council for this month. Having been in the same position last year, my delegation knows how it feels to assume the presidency immediately after election to the Council. But we know that the presidency is in good and competent hands, and my delegation would like to assure you of our whole-hearted co-operation in the execution of your important responsibilities as President of this Council.

95. My delegation would like to express its high appreciation to the out-going President, Ambassador Huang Hua of China, for his competent leadership during the month of December when he presided over the Council's activities.

96. My delegation also welcomes most warmly the other new members of the Council—the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Iraq, Mauritania and the United Republic of Cameroon. We are looking forward to working together productively with them in this coming year.

97. It is a great pleasure indeed for me to associate myself with the expressions of appreciation and gratitude to the out-going members of the Council—Guinea, India, Panama, the Sudan and Yugoslavia—for their most valuable contribution to the work of the Council during their term in the Council. It will not be easy for my delegation, and for me in particular, to get used to the absence of Mrs. Jeanne Martin Cissé, Samar Sen, Aquilino Boyd, Rahmatalla Abdulla and Lazar Mojsov from this Council.

98. My delegation hopes that in this last year of our membership we can maintain the high standard of performance that has been set by them and continue the concrete and positive contributions to the efforts to find solutions to the problems with which the Council has been confronted. Indonesia is proud to have been together with them in the group of non-aligned members of the Council in a common effort to contribute constructively to the Council's work.

99. With regard to the item on our agenda, my delegation will vote in favour of the draft resolution in document S/11192, as we are of the opinion that it is only logical to end the difference between the official and the working languages when it is reduced to only one language—Chinese—which is the language of about 800 million people who have contributed so much to civilization.

100. Mr. BOOH BOOH (United Republic of Cameroon) (*interpretation from French*): Mr. President, I take pleasure in extending to you, on behalf of the Government of the United Republic of Cameroon, my warm congratulations both on the brilliant election of your country, Costa Rica, as a non-permanent member of the Security Council and on your own assumption of the important office of President of the Security Council for this month. I am convinced that thanks to your lengthy political experience, to which your present function as head of the diplomacy of Costa Rica is eloquent testimony, you will succeed in directing the proceedings of our Council to the general satisfaction. You can always count on the fullest co-operation of my delegation for the satisfactory discharge of your delicate responsibilities.

101. I should also like to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to the States members of the Organization of African Unity for the confidence they expressed in my country when they lent their unanimous support to its election to the Council. I can assure them of my Government's resolve to spare no effort to assist in the quest for satisfactory solutions to problems of vital importance for Africa which are before this Council.

102. To the permanent members of the Security Council it is my pleasure to say how much my delegation appreciated the warm words of welcome they have addressed to the United Republic of Cameroon as it takes up its responsibilities as a member of this important organ of the United Nations. Coming from such distinguished

figures, these words constitute an encouragement for the policy of peace, co-operation and understanding among nations so tenaciously pursued by the President of the United Republic of Cameroon. His Excellency El Hadj Ahmadou Ahidjo.

103. Having benefited from the continuous concern of the international community, my country fully appreciates the priceless contribution that the United Nations has made and continues to make to the maintenance of world peace and the emancipation of oppressed peoples.

104. This is to say that during the term of its membership in the Council my Government will always work constructively with a view to giving practical expression to the noble ideals proclaimed in the Charter of our Organization and freely accepted by our States—which is to say, in the final analysis, for the building of an international community more conscious of its common destiny and freed from the scourges of war, poverty, colonialism and racism.

105. I turn now to the question of the inclusion of Chinese among the working languages of the Security Council—the agenda item before us. My Government's position will be in conformity with that which it took in the vote on General Assembly resolution 3189 (XXVIII), adopted on 18 December 1973, in which the Assembly

“Decides to include Chinese among the working languages of the General Assembly and to amend accordingly the relevant provisions of the rules of procedure of the Assembly;

“Considers it desirable to include Chinese among the working languages of the Security Council;”

106. The unanimous adoption of that resolution clearly points up the pertinence and justice of the concerns of the sponsors of the draft resolution now before the Security Council in document S/11192.

107. My delegation is convinced that by according Chinese the same status as that enjoyed by French, English, Russian and Spanish, the Council will offer all its permanent members identical working conditions in close concordance with the identical obligations and prerogatives they enjoy under the Charter of our Organization, which to me seems quite right and proper.

108. I also note with interest the fact that considerations of efficiency, which to me seem essential in this field, have not escaped the sponsors of the draft resolution before us. Indeed, from the information available to us, it appears that the adoption of Chinese, whose importance and wealth are well known, as a working language of the General Assembly and the Security Council will help increase the efficiency of the work of the United Nations.

109. For all those reasons my delegation will vote in favour of the draft resolution.

110. Mr. ZAHAWIE (Iraq): Iraq was last a member of the Security Council 15 years ago. The world has witnessed many important events and developments during those

years. What Iraq experienced in that period could well qualify it as a microcosm of the emergent world which, for lack of a better term, came to be known as the third world.

111. Ostensibly sovereign and independent since it joined the League of Nations in 1932, the country was in fact still shackled by a mandate which lingered on under the guise of pseudo-independence. It was in the last few months of its previous membership in the Security Council that Iraq was finally able to terminate that particular form of foreign domination to which it had been subjected since the end of the First World War. That was not the end of the struggle. It was only the beginning of a long and arduous campaign which profoundly changed not only the political, diplomatic and military character of the State but also the social and economic structure of the land. That struggle achieved its final fulfilment in 1972, when the present Government of Iraq, under the leadership of President Ahmad Hassan Al-Bakr and the Arab Baath Socialist Party, nationalized the major holdings of the foreign oil companies that had monopolized all petroleum operations in the land for half a century.

112. The Secretary-General, Mr. Kurt Waldheim, rightly pointed out in his first press conference of this year that the world community is moving into an entirely new era of international relations. Since its emergence as a republic in 1958, Iraq has strongly adhered to and advocated the principles of the non-aligned movement to achieve a new world order based on independence, progress and justice. Full and genuine sovereignty meant not only freedom from foreign political and military domination but also the emancipation of the developing countries from the ruthless control and exploitation of multinational corporations and conglomerates. My country hopes to bring its experience in this multifaceted struggle to the service of the countries of the third world in order to promote the causes of non-alignment.

113. The importance and the growth of the non-aligned movement as a positive factor in international relations was best demonstrated by the outstanding contributions made by the out-going non-permanent members to the work of the Council. Each and every one of those representatives, individually and collectively, discharged his duties in an exemplary manner. They set a standard of excellence and integrity of which the non-aligned community could justly be proud. Their defence of the principles of right and justice, their genuine solidarity with the people of Palestine and with other Arab countries, will not be easily forgotten. Iraq, for its part, will continue to adhere to its declared policies until the Palestinian people regain their inalienable rights and until the injustice done them is finally undone.

114. Coming to the item on our agenda for today, my delegation fully and wholeheartedly supports the inclusion of Chinese among the working languages of the Security Council. This draft resolution is, in fact, the final procedural act in the process of the restoration of the rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations, a cause Iraq has actively advocated since 1958. The draft resolution before us is of special significance to my delegation since it follows a similar resolution adopted by the General Assembly, which had on the same day adopted

another resolution approving the inclusion of Arabic as an official and working language of the General Assembly and its main committees.

115. Before concluding, I should like to thank all the members of the Asian Group which endorsed Iraq's candidature to the Security Council and all the representatives who have today kindly extended a word of welcome to the new non-permanent members of the Council. I should also like on behalf of my delegation to extend our own congratulations and best wishes to our new colleagues.

116. Mr. President, I must congratulate you on two counts: your country's membership of the Council and the high honour of presiding over its deliberations for the month of January. At the historic meetings of the Security Council held in Panama City last year at the invitation of the Government of Panama, I had the honour to represent my country as an observer, together with other Arab delegations, as a token of our solidarity with the hopes and aspirations of the peoples of the great Latin American continent. We sincerely hope that Costa Rica's membership in the Security Council will demonstrate your country's increasing understanding of and co-operation with the non-aligned community in conformity with the general trend in Latin America of increasing awareness of the identity of interests of all developing countries of the third world. The co-operation and solidarity we find within the non-aligned community is not, however, limited to their narrow national goals or material gains but also involves safeguarding the basic principles of the Charter to attain a better world based on freedom, justice and equity.

117. Mr. SMIRNOV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) (*translation from Russian*): The delegation of the Byelorussian SSR is taking part for the first time in the work of the Security Council as one of its members. Accordingly, we should like to express our sincere appreciation to the delegations of all those States which, at the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly, upon the recommendation of the group of Eastern European States, supported the election of the Byelorussian SSR to non-permanent membership in the Council for 1974-1975. Our awareness of the trust placed in us is enhanced by a sense of the enormous responsibility which the Republic assumed with its election to membership in this most important international organ.

118. Permit me to congratulate you, Mr. Minister, on your assumption of the office of President of the Security Council for January and to express our thanks for your words of welcome addressed to the Byelorussian SSR. We should also like to express our appreciation to the delegations of the Soviet Union, Kenya, the United States of America, Peru, Austria, France, Australia, the United Kingdom, Indonesia and Iraq for their congratulations to the Byelorussian SSR upon its election to the Security Council. We should like in turn to offer our sincere congratulations to the other new members of the Security Council—Iraq, Mauritania, Cameroon and Costa Rica—which, together with Byelorussia, took their places on 1 January of this year as non-permanent members of the Council. At the same time, we should like to pay a tribute to the delegations of Yugoslavia, India, Guinea, the Sudan

and Panama for their worthy contribution to the work of the Security Council until the expiry of their membership in that organ on 31 December last.

119. The delegation of the Byelorussian SSR expresses its readiness to co-operate with all the members of the Council in the interests of strengthening peace and international security.

120. The Byelorussian people, which lost over two and a half million—a quarter of its population—during the last war, know full well the value of peace. That is why, throughout its history, the Byelorussian SSR, together with all the other Soviet republics, has made and continues to make a valuable contribution to the realization of that dream of mankind—in the words of the Charter of the United Nations, “to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind”. The Byelorussian SSR took an active part in drafting the Charter and was one of the 51 States which signed it and became founder members of the Organization.

121. The Byelorussian SSR, actively participating in the work of this international Organization, has been represented at all 28 sessions of the General Assembly and at numerous other international conferences and forums convened under the auspices of the United Nations. Soviet Byelorussia is a member of many international organizations and specialized agencies—the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Universal Postal Union, the International Telecommunication Union, the International Labour Organisation, the World Meteorological Organization—as well as the International Atomic Energy Agency. In all these and other international organizations, the representatives of our Republic advocate broad international co-operation and tirelessly defend the policy of peace and friendship among peoples.

122. Throughout the 28 years of its participation in the work of the United Nations, the Byelorussian SSR, guided by its Leninist peace-loving foreign policy, has done its utmost to ensure the achievement of the purposes and principles of the Charter, constantly striving to make the Organization an important and effective instrument for the strengthening of peace and the easing of international tension and to ensure that it is utilized in the interests of all-round co-operation on the basis of equality. The Byelorussian SSR has frequently initiated or co-sponsored constructive proposals concerning the most pressing issues and has actively sought to ensure their adoption and implementation.

123. During the years of Soviet power, truly grandiose changes have been made in Byelorussia in all spheres of the economy and social life. Those years have been marked by a rapid upsurge of industry and by advances in agriculture, technology, science and culture. Thus, for example, the volume of industrial production rose by a factor of 136 during this period, with an increase of almost 150 per cent during the past eight years alone. The talents and gifts of our people have flourished. Generations of people of an entirely new spiritual and moral stamp—staunch fighters and builders, ardent patriots and internationalists—have

arisen. These achievements are founded upon the unquestionable advantages of the social and governmental system of socialism and of the Leninist national policy and the monolithic solidarity and friendship of our peoples.

124. The Byelorussian SSR is participating in the work of the Security Council at a significant time when the forces of peace and progress resolutely struggling against those who oppose the easing of international tension are gaining more and more ground. Concern with the strengthening of peace is one of the most important tasks of our time, and therefore of the Security Council.

125. As a representative of the mighty community of socialist States, the Byelorussian SSR will continue to work for even greater solidarity among the fraternal countries of socialism and the other forces of peace and progress in the world.

126. Lately there has been a further strengthening of friendly relations between the socialist States and the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America that uphold peace and the consolidation of national independence.

127. Both in Indo-China and in the Middle East it has been demonstrated in practice that the solidarity of the Soviet people and of the countries of the socialist community with the forces of national liberation and social progress is a most important factor of international life which assists peoples in asserting their legitimate rights and interests.

128. We shall continue to support the just struggle of peoples for their national independence and social progress in the interests of the broad working masses and to oppose aggression and the policy of force in relations between countries; we shall continue to support respect for sovereignty and to oppose interference in the internal affairs of States. In other words, our foreign policy fully accords with the Charter, and we shall help to enhance the role and authority of the Organization in finding a solution to the complex problems of the world.

129. The delegation of the Byelorussian SSR in the Security Council, together with the delegations of other peace-loving States, will do its utmost to further international détente, to ensure lasting peace and security for peoples and to prevent another war. There can be no other position on our part vis-à-vis the questions of war and peace. Our attitude is founded upon Marxist-Leninist ideology and philosophy and is determined by our whole way of life and by the nature of our socialist order, the purpose and meaning of which is not destruction, but the creation of material and spiritual values for the benefit of the people.

130. Noting the great successes achieved in consolidating peace, we are fully aware that the struggle to transform the principles of peaceful coexistence into a universal standard for relations among States with differing systems will require intensive and, obviously, protracted efforts. Although the aggressive imperialist forces take into account the new disposition of forces in the world, they are continuing to pursue a policy which demands constant vigilance on the part of peace-loving States.

131. All progressive and peace-loving forces are now faced with the task of turning the détente achieved in key areas of the development of international relations into a stable, lasting and, indeed, irreversible phenomenon.

132. With regard to the discussion of the item on the agenda for today's meeting of the Security Council, the delegation of the Byelorussian SSR will vote for draft resolution S/11192 and for the amendments thus made necessary in the relevant provisions of chapters VIII and IX of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

133. In conclusion, I should like once again to assure you, Mr. President, and all the members of the Council of the readiness of the Byelorussian SSR to engage in broad and fruitful co-operation in the consideration of the various questions on the Council's agenda.

134. Mr. OULD MOULOUD (Mauritania) (*interpretation from French*): Mr. President, may I first of all thank you for your kind words of welcome to the new members of the Council, including Mauritania.

135. I should also like to congratulate you on your assuming the presidency of the Council for this month.

136. I wish to express my thanks to all the representatives who were so good as to offer a cordial welcome to my delegation. May I be allowed to thank our brothers of the African group who unanimously supported our candidacy, as well as all the other friendly States that voted in favour of our election to membership in the Security Council.

137. My delegation attaches true value to the heavy burden and the honour paid us by electing us to the Council. We shall bring to our work not only our modest contribution but also our sturdy faith in the United Nations. In the course of our tenure we shall always act in accordance with the spirit and letter of the Charter and of the important resolutions of the General Assembly. We shall always draw inspiration from the principles of justice, peace and progress, which are deeply rooted in the awareness of our national community and which everyone agrees are all closely interrelated.

138. Taking up the question on our agenda, I can be extremely brief because in the General Assembly my delegation warmly supported the draft resolution on the inclusion of Chinese among the working languages of the Council. I would recall that the Assembly adopted that resolution without any opposition and I trust that the Council will do likewise.

139. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): We have now heard the representatives of all members of the Council. If no member wishes to speak again, I shall take it that the discussion is concluded and that the Council is ready to take a decision on the draft resolution in document S/11192.

140. If there is no request for a vote, I shall consider that the Council wishes to adopt the draft resolution without vote.

The draft resolution was adopted.³

141. Mr. HUANG Hua (China) (*translation from Chinese*): The Security Council has just unanimously adopted the draft resolution in document S/11192, by which it has decided to include Chinese as a working language of the Security Council and, accordingly, to revise the relevant provisions of chapters VIII and IX of the Council's provisional rules of procedure. The Chinese delegation would like to express its appreciation to the entire membership of the Security Council for the unanimous support that it has given in this respect. We are convinced that this action of the Security Council has terminated the abnormal state of affairs that existed in the United Nations for a prolonged period. This action is entirely logical and in accordance with the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations. We hope that through this action the inclusion of Chinese as a working language in the Security Council will enhance the efficiency of the Security Council in the future.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.

³ See resolution 345 (1974)

كيفية الحصول على منشورات الأمم المتحدة

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