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

AGENDA ITEM 30

**Question of equitable representation on and increase
in the membership of the Security Council (*con-
cluded*)***

1. The PRESIDENT: This afternoon I should like to refer to two items which are still on the agenda of the thirty-fifth session.

2. In connexion with agenda item 30, the members of the General Assembly will recall that draft resolution A/35/L.34/Rev.2 is before the Assembly. It is now my understanding that the sponsors of that draft resolution would like to propose that the item be included in the draft agenda of the thirty-sixth session, which will be considered by the General Committee. May I take it that the General Assembly agrees to that proposal?

It was so decided (decision 35/453).

AGENDA ITEM 123

**Launching of global negotiations on international
economic co-operation for development (*concluded*)****

3. The PRESIDENT: As members will recall, the General Assembly at its 100th plenary meeting, on 15 January 1981, decided to request the President to continue consultations concerning this agenda item with a view to reporting to the Assembly on the outcome of those consultations at a later date.

* Resumed from the 101st meeting.

** Resumed from the 100th meeting.

4. Members will also recall the convening of an informal open-ended meeting of the whole of the Assembly on 5 and 6 May 1981, for consultations on agenda item 123, at which time I presented a detailed report on my consultations and on the developments which had taken place since January. I also indicated at that time that the United States had communicated to the President of the General Assembly that it did not feel ready to join in our deliberations in a substantive manner until the autumn.

5. On 6 August 1981, the Secretary of State of the United States—in response to an inquiry as to the possibility of resuming consultations following the summit meeting of the seven principal Western industrialized countries held at Ottawa, on 20 and 21 July and the Foreign Ministers' preparatory meeting held at Cancún on 1 and 2 August 1981, for the purpose of setting up the international meeting on cooperation and development, to be held at Cancún later in the year—communicated to the President of the Assembly that the United States position on the question of global negotiations remained the same as it was before the exchange at Ottawa.

6. The United States indicated that it continued to believe that further consideration of global negotiations should not take place at least until the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly, after the Cancún meeting. Accordingly, the United States strongly favoured the most expeditious and purely procedural deferral of global negotiations from the thirty-fifth to the thirty-sixth session.

7. I have since consulted the members of the "group of friends" of the President of the General Assembly on this matter. The consensus of those consultations is that this agenda item should now be transmitted from the thirty-fifth to the thirty-sixth session.

8. However, before doing so, I wish to summarize the long and difficult process of negotiations which has taken place since the eleventh special session of the General Assembly, which ended a year ago. Such a summary will, I believe, provide a useful basis for discussion on this question at a future date.

9. Members will recall the consensus reached at the eleventh special session of the General Assembly with regard to the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, subsequently adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 35/56. Concerning global negotiations, intensive consultations narrowed the areas of disagreement on procedures, no time was available, however, for addressing the agenda. Thus, at the 21st plenary meeting of the eleventh special session, on 15 September 1980, the General Assembly adopted decision S-11/24 concerning global negotiations on international economic co-operation for development.

In that decision, the Assembly took note of paragraph 18 of the report of the *Ad Hoc* Committee of the eleventh special session concerning the position with regard to procedures for global negotiations and decided to transmit to its thirty-fifth session all documents relevant to global negotiations.

10. Following a request by the Group of 77, on 1 October 1980 [A/35/243], the General Assembly, on 15 October 1980, included item 123, entitled "Launching of global negotiations on international economic co-operation for development", in its agenda for consideration in plenary meeting.

11. The members of the Assembly will recall the position with regard to a set of procedures and an agenda for global negotiations at that time. At the eleventh special session considerable effort had been devoted to procedures, whereas the situation regarding the agenda remained as it had been at the conclusion of the work of the Committee of the Whole Established under General Assembly Resolution 32/174. I felt, as President of the Assembly, that an initiative was called for that would help in reaching an agreement to launch global negotiations as soon as possible.

12. Soon after the thirty-fifth session got under way I took the opportunity to consult on this question with the Heads of State and Foreign Ministers of Member States who had come to New York for the general debate. All of them agreed with the view that we should begin as soon as possible with intensive talks on how we could launch global negotiations. Accordingly, on 27 October 1980 I convened for the first time, with the mandate of the Assembly, what has come to be called the group of friends of the President of the General Assembly, an informal consultation group in which all points of view were represented. All discussions were to be on an *ad referendum* basis.

13. The group of friends of the President held more than 20 meetings between October and mid-December 1980, in addition to several bilateral consultations and a week-end conference at Arden House hosted by the Stanley Foundation in November. During that period, the General Assembly took up item 123 at its 71st and 72nd plenary meetings, on 20 and 21 November 1980. On 25 November an informal open-ended meeting of the whole was held on the same question.

14. My initial purpose, before examining the detailed questions of agenda and procedures, was to try to achieve a meeting of minds and a thorough exchange of views on the questions before the Assembly regarding the launching of global negotiations. It was agreed that the group would begin its discussion by reviewing the objectives of global negotiations before taking up the more specific questions of the agenda and procedures. In this context, some basic documents pertaining to the objectives of global negotiations were discussed by the group—and here I might mention the Declaration on the New International Economic Order [resolution 3201 (S-VI)], General Assembly resolutions 32/174, 34/138 and 34/139, the agenda and agenda *chapeaux* from the Committee of the Whole and the preamble to the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, among others.

15. The group of friends concluded its consideration of the objectives of global negotiations by reaffirming the consensus contained in General Assembly resolution 34/138. The resolution was felt to provide a complete list of the over-all objectives for global negotiations in the five major areas of raw materials, energy, trade, development and money and finance. The global nature of both participation in the negotiations and of the issues for discussion was stressed. I believe that this reaffirmation of objectives was an important and necessary starting point.

16. The consultations within the group of friends, during November and early December, tended towards relating the over-all objectives of global negotiations to the procedures, the agenda and the *chapeau* to the agenda. Under my name, a composite synoptic text was prepared on the various agenda formulations which had been proposed in the Committee of the Whole and during the eleventh special session, and a full first reading was conducted. My purpose in conducting that first reading was to produce a reasonable agenda for global negotiations, one which would be acceptable to all groups and delegations. At the same time, the *chapeau* to the agenda was seen to provide an opportunity for reflecting an appropriate approach to the objectives of the global negotiations as outlined in resolution 34/138. The examination of the agenda led naturally to a discussion of procedures, using the text of document A/S-11/AC.1/L.1/Rev.1 of the eleventh special session¹ the so-called Crnobrnja text—as a starting point. The crucial questions of the role of the central body and that of the specialized forums were fully explored.

17. By early December, the extensive consultations in the group of friends had reached the point where I was able to offer a composite or consolidated set of reformulations on the procedures and agenda for global negotiations. A series of intensive meetings of the group during the second week of December resulted in the President's informal "non-paper" of 14 December 1980. This so-called "non-paper", which attempted to consolidate the progress achieved in the group up to that point is, I believe, an important document. It shows clearly the substantial progress towards agreement that had been made on most paragraphs of the text on procedures and the agenda, including the agenda *chapeau*. It shows also the narrowing of differences on the outstanding questions. I am convinced that we were close to an agreement on the texts at that time, but unfortunately time ran out on us and on 17 December, at the 99th meeting of the Assembly, I reported that I was not in a position to offer a text on procedures and agenda which had the agreement of all parties.

18. Let me take a moment to examine the position we had achieved last December with the President's "non-paper". First, I will deal with procedures. There is a wide measure of agreement on the general framework for the global negotiations. They would begin with an initial stage during which the conference would establish objectives for and provide guidance on the agenda items or parts thereof. Each specific item or subitem would be entrusted by the central

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Eleventh Special Session, Annexes*, agenda item 7, document A/S-11/25.

conference to an existing specialized forum in the United Nations system or to an *ad hoc* group dealing with a particular field. For example, commodity questions could go to UNCTAD, or trade matters to UNCTAD and/or GATT. Since there is no specialized agency for energy, a special *ad hoc* body would have to be established for the discussion and negotiation of energy questions. Then the outcome of these discussions and negotiations would be sent back from the specialized forums to the central conference, which would be responsible for assembling a "package agreement" for approval by all Member States. A fourth stage would be the implementation of the agreements. It is the third stage, however, that poses a problem, namely the power of the central conference—where all Member States have an equal vote—to change or adjust conclusions reached in the specialized forums. To state the problem more succinctly: would the central conference be able to change conclusions achieved in IMF, whose procedures and voting structures are rather more restricted than those of the General Assembly, in order to fit them in with the over-all package agreement, or should they be sent back for further discussion? Some delegations have seen a potential adversary situation in these procedures, between the central conference and the specialized forums. We have not yet been able to agree on practical alternatives, nor to overcome these objections, but I am still convinced that procedures acceptable to all parties can be worked out.

19. Secondly, I will deal with the agenda, including its *chapeau* or foreword. The *chapeau* paragraphs draw on resolution 34/138 and provide the line of approach to the agenda. They provide an opportunity to underline the objectives, while also emphasizing some important aspects of the global negotiations, for example, the mutual interests involved and the particular emphasis on the needs of developing countries. These paragraphs are largely agreed upon. I do not believe that they pose any insurmountable problems if the agenda itself is agreed. As far as the agenda items themselves are concerned, many of them are agreed to the satisfaction of all parties; however, I should be over-optimistic if I were to say that no problems remain. For example, parts of the agenda items dealing with energy and money and finance have so far defied attempts to resolve them. The major question for resolution with regard to energy is whether the questions of predictability of supplies and the pricing of oil are to be explicit agenda subitems or whether a more general formulation could be understood to encompass these aspects of the topic of energy. I believe also that, in the energy section of the agenda, it would be useful to make a distinction with regard to aspects affecting all countries as opposed to those aspects bearing on the situation of the energy-deficient developing countries. Further, it would possibly clarify matters if a distinction were to be made between urgent and longer-term aspects. I shall return to that point in a moment in relation to the agenda as a whole.

20. I turn now to the section of the agenda dealing with money and finance. The major question for resolution is the manner in which the functioning and reform of the international monetary and financial system can be set out in all its aspects. Here again

there is a basic choice between explicit itemized points for discussion and a more general formulation which would be understood to encompass all aspects of the complicated topic of money and finance.

21. I have dwelt at some length on the "non-paper" of 14 December because I felt that, with some revision of formulations and some measure of political will, agreement is not difficult to achieve. Let me make some remarks regarding the "non-paper" in general. It is my opinion, following the intensive consultations in the group of friends, that it would be worth while to explore some possible alternatives or adjustments, in order to overcome the impasse in the texts of 14 December. Many complicated issues are to be addressed in the agenda. In order to impart momentum to the process of global negotiations and to overcome the practical difficulties of discussing all items simultaneously, it might be possible to identify items of urgent and immediate priority where attention could be focused on reaching an early agreement without losing sight of the need for a package agreement at each stage of the process. It might be feasible to indicate such priority items in an additional paragraph in the "chapeau" to the agenda or in a footnote to the items themselves. It might also be useful to make a clearer distinction between those items that deal with institutional questions and those which are directly related to matters of substance.

22. The "non-paper" represents a considerable achievement by the negotiators in the group of friends, a fact which should not be overlooked. In my view, it provides the basis for the next steps in this endeavour towards launching global negotiations. I have taken the liberty of distributing this "non-paper" text today under my name so that members may be apprised fully of the current situation.

23. At the 99th meeting of the General Assembly, on 17 December 1980, the Assembly decided to request its President to continue consultations on item 123, with a view to reporting on the results of those consultations at the resumed thirty-fifth session. This mandate was renewed at the 100th plenary meeting on 15 January 1981, as I said earlier. In addition to convening the group of friends of the President for this purpose, I also undertook extensive bilateral consultations with groups of Member States and individual delegations, based on the texts of the "non-paper" of 14 December. Furthermore, I visited a number of countries and attended several conferences in order to obtain information, guidance and advice on how to proceed with our task, how to establish an agreed time-table and how to resolve the remaining problems of substance. I attended the spring meeting of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination held at Geneva on 13 and 14 April 1981. It was the first time a President of the General Assembly had been invited to participate and to exchange views with the heads of the organizations of the United Nations system. During my visit to Member States, I joined in a North-South meeting of key countries, held at Bolkesjø, from 4 to 6 April 1981, at the invitation of the Norwegian Government, which also resulted in full support for our efforts to come to an early conclusion of our work. I also attended a meeting of the North-South Commission, headed by Willy Brandt, held at Berlin from 27 to 31 May 1981. Following my consultations both

here in New York and in Member States, I decided that it was necessary to call another meeting of the whole in order to give the Assembly a detailed report of the latest developments. That meeting took place on 5 and 6 May 1981.

24. At that time, and indeed for several months prior to that, your President and the group of friends did not overlook a new and important factor: the change of administration in Washington. I have been in close and constant contact with the United States representatives, both here and in Washington, and have offered every assistance which has been requested so that they might better understand the history of our work and the related developments taking place here and elsewhere.

25. Similarly, we are all aware of the economic summit meeting of industrial countries held at Ottawa in July and the more recent meeting of the Foreign Ministers preparatory to the Cancún North-South summit. Although the Cancún summit is not intended to be a decision-making meeting and although there is, as you know, no institutional link between it and the launching of global negotiations—which remains a decision for the General Assembly—it is obvious that the two processes embrace common concerns. The meeting of Heads of State or Government at Cancún will no doubt provide a very important opportunity to tackle, at the highest political level, the question of global negotiations.

26. As I indicated at the beginning of my remarks today, following the Ottawa summit meeting, the United States indicated, in response to my inquiry, that the matter of global negotiations should not be pursued until the thirty-sixth session of the Assembly. I am convinced that full participation in our efforts to launch global negotiations is vital. It has therefore been with regret and disappointment that we have found ourselves in a position that has not allowed us to continue our search for a solution in the past weeks. We have little alternative but to pursue the matter of launching of global negotiations during the thirty-sixth session.

27. Before I propose that procedural decision, I should first like to say that it has been a most rewarding experience to have worked with the group of friends and with other delegations and bodies in the search for a consensus towards launching global negotiations. I am deeply grateful to all of them. Our experience has shown that good will and a constructive attitude can take us a long way. I sincerely believe that global negotiations will become a reality before long. My thanks go also to the Secretary-General and his dedicated staff for their most valuable contributions to our work.

28. Global problems will not disappear. What is needed is a rearrangement of international relations and a new kind of comprehensive approach to the critical problems of development. At a time of accelerating change, economic stability and positive economic policies are crucial to political stability and to the success of positive political relationships. Serious changes have occurred in the past 10 years. Today, more than ever, we need carefully to calculate the mutual interests of North and South, because global politics are outgrowing East-West issues. The

world of the 1980s is one of varying regional and national strengths, all of which have to be recognized as an increasing physical and economic interdependence. In short, global negotiations represent an agenda for orderly growth and change; they are both a process of dialogue between North and South and a means of securing tangible economic benefits for all countries concerned. However, reasonable concessions on all sides will be necessary if these economic benefits of global stability are to be realized.

29. In conclusion, I should like formally to propose that the General Assembly decide to include the item entitled "Launching of global negotiations on international economic co-operation for development" in the draft agenda of the thirty-sixth session which will be considered by the General Committee and to transmit to that session all relevant documentation from the eleventh special session and the thirty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly. The draft *ad referendum* text which I put forward on 14 December 1980 and which delegations will find annexed to the press release of 14 September 1981 with the text of the observations I have just made will remain available to all delegations as *ad referendum* material for future discussions. May I take it that the General Assembly agrees to my proposal?

It was so decided (decision 35/454).

30. Mr. PEREZ-GUERRERO (Venezuela) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Mr. President, I am sure that all member countries of the Group of 77 have listened with great interest and with a certain amount of disappointment to the statement you have just made on item 123, "Launching of global negotiations on international economic co-operation for development". There is obvious interest, because this is the most important economic item on the agenda of this session, as I stated at the beginning of the session.

31. In spite of your efforts, Sir, to bring about the success of the informal consultations under your leadership and to promote global negotiations until their formal launching, success was not to be. There was also failure at the eleventh special session because of the absence of three countries from the near consensus which had been nearly achieved on the procedural question. That is why we are disappointed—not to mention the time that has been wasted. To a considerable extent this is due to the fact that the new American Administration has asked for a period of study and familiarization which at the time seemed normal enough.

32. In spite of everything, during this period, far from losing the momentum that had been built up in favour of global negotiations, we have seen that there is greater appreciation of and support for it on the part of the developing countries, as well as in the group of developed countries. This attitudes was obvious in the preparations for the forthcoming meeting at Cancún, the success of which, we all desire is clearly and directly dependent on removing the misgivings which thus far have stood in the way of the launching of global negotiations, your constant aim, Mr. President, throughout your term of office.

33. We hope that there will be adopted in Cancún at the highest political level a resolution pointing the way to the launching of those negotiations at the thirty-

sixth session. Just as it has been at this session, so it will certainly be the most important economic item at the forthcoming session, for it aims to bring about long-term political benefits for the entire international community, which finds itself today enmeshed in a deep economic crisis.

34. There is no alternative, as we know, to accommodation within a climate of mutual confidence. Even though we cannot help being preoccupied by the intolerable situation of the developing countries, which require help of all kinds to deal with immediate and structural problems, all member countries of the international community stand to benefit from whatever progress might be made towards a new international economic order.

35. This is not the time to discuss specific issues. I merely wish to say that, in our view, we must bring about a reasonable distribution as regards the specific items to be assigned to the competent organs of the United Nations and the specific items to be assigned to the *ad hoc* committees. Global negotiations will deal with that subject and other issues to be negotiated in due course and, of course, a consensus is required before agreement can be considered to have been reached.

36. I am sure, Mr. President, that you will continue to be interested in this question on which you have worked so hard and to which you have devoted so much time and effort. We will long remember what you have done. Your name will ever remain closely linked to this subject of such great importance to all countries of the world.

37. Mr. MORDEN (Canada): Over the week-end I came across some material which struck me as apropos of the matter before us at this closing meeting of the thirty-fifth session. The passage reads "Surely the task of statesmanship is more difficult today than ever before in history. ... The distance between what we know and what we need to know appears to be greater than ever".

38. Walter Lippmann wrote that in 1913. The problems he was thinking about were undoubtedly a far cry from the ones we find under agenda item 123. However, his articulation of the knowledge gap remains as valid today as it was almost 70 years ago. If we have been able to close that gap to any degree, it is largely as a result, Mr. President, of your energy, your diligence and your constructive approach, to which I think all members are indebted, and I should like on behalf of my own Government to express formally to you our appreciation for your leadership throughout the fall session of the Assembly and in the informal consultations you have conducted throughout 1981. Your efforts have served to increase and deepen the understanding of the views of all concerned, and the progress achieved will provide a basis for seeking common ground once discussions on global negotiations resume during the thirty-sixth session of the Assembly.

39. I should note that Canada welcomed the opportunity to participate in your group of friends, even when you worked us very hard through Saturdays, Sundays, holidays and evenings as well. We naturally regret that it was not possible to reach agreement on the key issues of the procedures and the agenda,

although the progress achieved in narrowing differences was substantial. Indeed, Sir, we would agree with you and we too believe that we were at one point very close to agreement.

40. As we pass the question of global negotiations to the thirty-sixth session it is perhaps not out of place to record in this hall the satisfaction of the Canadian Government with the positive discussions on North-South relations which took place at Ottawa on 20 and 21 July at the economic summit meeting of seven industrialized countries. In particular, I should like to recall to the Assembly the part of the communiqué of that summit meeting in which the leaders present stated "We are ready to participate in preparations for a mutually acceptable process of global negotiations in circumstances offering the prospect of meaningful progress"².

41. It is perhaps also worth recalling that at the August preparatory meeting for the summit of countries from North and South to be held at Cancún, it was agreed that, while there was no formal link to global negotiations, a main objective of that summit would be to facilitate agreement with regard to them. Canada, for one, very much hopes that Cancún will serve as a catalyst in the launching of global negotiations.

42. Finally, I should like to take this occasion to reaffirm Canada's commitment to the successful launching of global negotiations once the discussions resume at the thirty-sixth session, and also to express the hope that all parties concerned will recognize the need for compromise in pursuit of the common good.

43. The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of the United Kingdom, who will speak on behalf of the European Community.

44. Mr. WHYTE: Mr. President, on behalf of the European Community and its member States, I thank you warmly both for your statement and for your endeavours since last December. You have described your task, but you have given little hint of the personal energy and commitment which you brought to it.

45. You have our admiration. You have challenged us. You have brought a fresh mind to bear on issues which have been and will remain complex. You have sought at each stage to clarify them with patience and bring us nearer agreement by open and positive discussion. You have covered much ground in substance and in geography, which bears witness to your determination.

46. The States members of the Community supported resolution 34/138 without reservation, in keeping with our view that co-operation with the developing countries and the strengthening of international economic relations serve the interests of all concerned. We have accordingly participated actively in your consultations and sought to move with you towards satisfactory agreement.

47. The European Council last June stated its opinion that the preparations for the new round of global negotiations should be completed as soon as possible,

² Department of State Bulletin, vol. 81, No. 2053, August 1981, p. 8.

and emphasized also the crucial importance of the further impulse to be given thereto by the summit conferences at Ottawa and at Cancún. The participants at the Ottawa economic summit meeting stated their readiness to take part in preparations for a mutually acceptable process of global negotiations in circumstances offering the prospect of meaningful progress. The summit meeting at Cancún offers an opportunity for further progress in our collective efforts to promote the well-being and development of the developing countries.

48. In conclusion, the Community wants to see relations between developed and developing countries take a constructive course. It remains ready, as before, to resume discussions leading to full agreement on how global negotiations may best be launched.

49. Mr. ÅLGÅRD (Norway): Mr. President, speaking on behalf of the delegations of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Sweden and Norway, I should like to take this opportunity to express the great appreciation of our Governments for your perseverance and untiring efforts to reach agreement on the launching of global negotiations. You have spared no effort nor have you overlooked any opportunity to seek progress on the unresolved issues. Your personal qualities were no doubt instrumental in the maintenance of a good, businesslike but informal atmosphere during your considerable and difficult consultations. Thereby you have laid the best possible foundation for a continuation of the efforts to reach our goal.

50. It is the view of our delegations that the efforts must continue. Two whole years have passed since the proposal for a global round of negotiations was first presented to this Assembly. At that time all Governments represented here felt that there was an urgent need for a new and comprehensive approach to solving the economic problems we all were facing, especially the developing countries. The situation has not improved since then; on the contrary, we are witnessing a rapidly deteriorating economic situation, especially for the countries which have the least resources to counteract it.

51. Our Governments have already, on various occasions, made known their positions with regard to the texts which are on the table. We can accept them as they now stand. We hope that all the Members here will be able to join in a consensus. It is of the utmost importance to reach agreement on launching the global negotiations during the coming session of the General Assembly. We all have a stake in the future success of a genuine dialogue between the North and the South on the important economic issues before us.

52. Mr. NISIBORI (Japan): First of all, I should like to express to you, Mr. President, the deepest gratitude of my delegation for your dedicated and untiring efforts to launch the global negotiations. Although the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly has not arrived at a final agreement, I am sure that without your devotion and imaginative guidance the momentum for launching the global negotiations would have been completely lost.

53. As is known, Japan supports launching of the global negotiations at the earliest date possible. We also believe that the positive participation of all countries concerned, particularly those which have a

responsible role to play in international economic activities, is essential for the global negotiations to be truly effective and constructive. In this regard, we all are aware that certain countries have difficulties in accepting the proposed formula for the global negotiations; and we know that, on an issue as important and with as far-reaching implications for the North-South dialogue as the global negotiations, various positions are possible. However, I feel strongly that all countries, particularly those having responsible roles in the international economy, should recognize the serious economic and even political impact which failure to engage in constructive North-South dialogue may have on all nations. Those countries should adopt a more positive and constructive attitude towards the launching of the global negotiations; their actions should be guided by consideration for the welfare and stability of the world economy as a whole and in particular of those developing countries which are suffering from the present economic malaise.

54. The North-South dialogue, of which the proposed global negotiations would be a part, must be ongoing; there is no one end the attainment of which would justify the termination of that dialogue. While we have been preparing to launch the global negotiations here, significant progress has been made in other forums of North-South dialogue, such as the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, held at Nairobi from 10 to 21 August 1981; many important issues were also discussed at the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries held in Paris from 1 to 14 September 1981. Therefore, I am of the view that there has been steady progress made towards the achievement of genuine North-South dialogue, even if at times that progress has been slow. Let us therefore be patient with the pace of efforts to launch the global negotiations and continue with renewed determination our efforts to find a solution to the current impasse.

55. Next month the International Meeting on Cooperation and Development will be held at Cancún and Japan will strive to make the most of that important opportunity to promote a North-South dialogue based on the recognition of our interdependence and mutuality of interests. I earnestly hope that one result of that meeting will be the creation of a favourable climate for the launching of the global negotiations.

56. Mr. MI Guojun (China) (*translation from Chinese*): Mr. President, we have listened attentively to the report you have made on the consideration by the thirty-fifth session of the question of global negotiations and other relevant matters. We have also listened carefully to the views expressed by the previous speakers.

57. Global negotiations, as a new attempt to restructure international economic relations, is an important item on the agenda of the thirty-fifth session, which has been given importance by all parties concerned and has attracted the close attention of public opinion, both within and outside the United Nations. The Chinese delegation, like most others, attaches great importance to the item.

58. As a result of the efforts made jointly by you, Mr. President, and by all sides concerned, particularly the Group of 77, we have indeed made some

progress on the question of the agenda and procedure for the global negotiations and we have bridged certain divergences of views. It had been hoped that the time between the two sessions of the General Assembly would be made use of to enable all sides concerned to make a further effort to achieve consensus agreement before the convening of the thirty-sixth session.

59. However, as you have just reported, Sir, because of the fact that one major developed country is not yet ready to participate in this preparatory process, our work now has come to a halt, which is regrettable.

60. We fully agree with the proposal you have made, Mr. President, namely that the item on global negotiations be referred to the forthcoming thirty-sixth session for further consideration. We have noticed that in recent months a number of major international gatherings have been held, both within and outside the United Nations, that have addressed themselves to the important question of global negotiations. In the latter half of October, the summit meeting at Cancún will also have a direct bearing on the question.

61. We hope that those activities will provide a positive impetus to the consideration by the thirty-sixth session of this question. We are convinced that the statement made just now by the President and the informal text on the agenda and procedure of the global negotiations, to be distributed as a formal document, will enable us to reach further agreement on the basis of the progress already achieved.

62. In the economy of the world at present, there exist both interdependence and contradictions in the relations between the developing and the developed countries. Because of the interdependence both sides can now sit down and, through dialogue, find a way to adjust and restructure those relations. On the other hand, because of the contradictions, the dialogue will inevitably assume a tortuous course and the process of restructuring will be a slow one.

63. How to proceed from the over-all situation and the long-term interests and to understand correctly the relations of interdependence, how to transcend the limitations imposed by the immediate interests, how to handle well the economic relations between the South and the North, how to facilitate the development of the world economy and to promote world peace and stability: that is the challenge before all of us, particularly the developed countries.

64. Resolution 34/138, adopted by consensus at the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly, is the direct and positive reply to that challenge. The joint commitment assumed by all sides under that resolution reflects our determination to launch a new round of continuous and comprehensive global negotiations so as to enable us gradually, but in an orderly fashion, to rectify the various defects that now exist in the world economy and to create the conditions necessary for the establishment of a new international economic order. That resolution has all along been the common theoretical basis for our preparations for the global negotiations. It should also be the common starting point for our future work.

65. Before concluding this statement, I feel that I must once again express the deep appreciation of the Chinese delegation to you, Mr. President, for the

positive efforts you have made in promoting the global negotiations. You not only have taken many positive initiatives in the informal consultations among the group of friends of the President but, outside the General Assembly, you have also done a great deal of work in publicizing and explaining the meaning of the global negotiations, thus bearing witness to your vision of restructuring the North-South economic relations, which is highly commendable. Your efforts, Sir, will definitely not have been in vain.

66. The Chinese delegation would also wish you new success in the posts you will assume in future.

67. The PRESIDENT: I should like to repeat what I said earlier in the meeting: The text of 14 December, which was annexed to the text of my statement, has been issued under my own authority. It is totally my responsibility. It is an *ad referendum* paper. It has no formal status. It is not a United Nations document. I should like to make it quite clear that it is *ad referendum* material and nothing more.

68. That is so because the agreements reflected therein were all *ad referendum* and, as members know, the group of friends was not a meeting of the whole. It did not comprise the entire membership and the persons who were present were, I am quite sure, reflecting their own views and not those of other delegations that were not in the group.

69. Mr. SORZANO (United States of America): Mr. President, the United States continues to believe that, as you have stated, further consideration of global negotiations should be deferred until after the Cancún meeting. The United States takes seriously its relations with developing countries and we are fully committed to policies which are constructive, practical and designed to achieve concrete results.

70. I also want to take this opportunity to express my personal appreciation for your tireless efforts, Sir, to resolve the many issues that have been before us. I want in particular to compliment you for your invaluable role in regard to global negotiations and international economic co-operation for development. As we are all aware, that question is difficult and complex; but, through your energy, insight and tact, you were able to bridge many gaps and increase mutual understanding. All delegations have reason to appreciate your outstanding work and the wisdom of a master diplomat.

71. Thank you again, Mr. President, for all your excellent work. I have greatly enjoyed our association and I am sure I speak for all others present here in expressing our best wishes to you in your future endeavours.

72. Mr. NUSEIBEH (Jordan) (*interpretation from Arabic*): Mr. President, I think I am expressing the opinion of my colleagues in the group of Arab States when I say that we have listened with great attention to the thorough and most interesting report which you have submitted this afternoon, at the end of this thirty-fifth session, concerning the progress that has been made and the difficulties that have been encountered during your presidency and under your wise guidance in the past year concerning the global negotiations for the establishment of a new international economic order.

73. It goes without saying, Sir, that we, as members of the Group of 77 and many other groups, are disappointed by the very meagre success that has been noted despite your tireless efforts and those of your collaborators, not only within the United Nations but at other international conferences and meetings, and despite the bilateral, regional and international contacts that have been established.

74. Notwithstanding all this, the very interesting report that you have kindly submitted to us this afternoon leads us to hope that we can overcome the crisis and break the vicious circle in which we find ourselves and which have prevented us from launching the global negotiations as we have been trying to do over the past few years.

75. The efforts that you have expended with the group of friends representing various States have led to significant progress and done much to highlight the most important subjects that we must confront, and you have put forward constructive proposals as to how to deal with these.

76. The basic point I should like to emphasize is that our concept as developing countries of the new international economic order is not, as some developed countries might think, limited to the transfer of riches from those that possess them to those that do not. That has never been and never will be our line of thinking. The developing countries rely on the efforts of their children; they rely first on themselves and then on mutual co-operation.

77. What the developing countries are seeking is assistance that will help them to develop their resources, their human potential and their natural riches; it is the exchange of technological and administrative experience and assistance of many kinds so that the developing countries, which represent millions of individuals throughout the world, may be a vital and effective factor as producers and consumers of goods within the economic and commercial world order. The poor, developing countries could then participate in reviving the world economy, which they cannot now do because of the immense difficulties they are now facing and have been facing for some years. These interests are common to developing and developed countries alike since they will benefit both. I say again that it is not merely a question of transferring resources from the rich to the poor.

78. That is our concept of the problem and it is in this light that we shall proceed during the thirty-sixth session. On behalf of Jordan and of the permanent representatives of the Arab States to the United Nations, I should like to express our most sincere gratitude for the laudable efforts that you, Mr. President, have made, which were clear from your exhaustive report and which will prove most important and decisive for the attainment of the objective that we all pursue.

Organization of work

79. The PRESIDENT: There is another matter which I should like to bring to the attention of the General Assembly. I refer to resolution 35/211, concerning the establishment of the Committee of Governmental Experts to Evaluate the Present Structure of the Secretariat in the Administrative, Finance and Personnel Areas.

80. Inasmuch as the Secretary-General has just received the last nominations from the regional groups and the Committee is holding its first meeting today, it is obvious that the Committee has not been able to meet the deadline of 1 September set by the General Assembly for the completion of the work of all subsidiary organs. May I therefore consider that the Assembly authorizes the Committee to meet beyond the deadline in order to perform its task and submit its report to the thirty-sixth session? I hear no objection.

It was so decided (decision 35/455).

AGENDA ITEM 2

Minute of silent prayer or meditation

81. The PRESIDENT: May I now invite representatives to stand and observe one minute of silent prayer or meditation.

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

Closure of the session

82. The PRESIDENT: I declare closed the thirty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly.

The meeting rose at 4.30 p.m.