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*President:* Mr. Ismat T. KITTANI (Iraq).

*In the absence of the President, Mr. Muñoz Ledo (Mexico), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

*Tribute to the memory of Mr. Indalecio Liévano,  
former President of the General Assembly*

1. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): It is my painful duty to announce the death this morning of Mr. Indalecio Liévano, President of the thirty-third session of the General Assembly, a Foreign Minister of Colombia and his country's Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

2. We are all familiar with those qualities that distinguished Mr. Liévano. He was not only an outstanding diplomat, he was also a historian and a man of letters. He embodied those virtues of the statesman that have been characteristic of some of the greatest figures of Latin America and that reflect particular credit upon the genius of Colombia. First and foremost, Mr. Liévano was a good man who believed passionately in the work of the United Nations and who struggled tirelessly for peace and international harmony.

3. On behalf of the General Assembly and the many friends he made during his years of service to the United Nations, I should like to convey our profound condolences to the Colombian delegation and would ask it to convey our sympathy to Mr. Liévano's family.

4. I ask members of the Assembly to stand and observe a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of Mr. Indalecio Liévano.

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

5. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I call upon the representative of Colombia.

6. Mr. SANZ de SANTAMARÍA (Colombia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): I should like to thank you, Mr. President, and all delegations present for this gesture of solidarity on the occasion of the passing of an outstanding citizen of my country.

7. It is to some extent mere happenstance that many—indeed probably all—of you had the opportunity to come to know a good man and a great gentleman in every sense of the word, who attained the high position of President of the General Assembly.

8. All I can do now is express my thanks to you, Mr. President, to the Secretary-General and to all of you here for your presence, and tell you that, as you have observed a minute of silence here, in Colombia a sad silence also now prevails because of the death of a great Colombian, a great Latin American, a great man of peace.

**AGENDA ITEM 18**

**Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments (*concluded*):\***

**(i) Appointment of the United Nations Commissioner for Namibia**

9. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): Members will recall that by decision 36/461 of 18 December 1981, the General Assembly decided to postpone consideration of agenda item 18 (i), on the appointment of the United Nations Commissioner for Namibia.

10. In this connection, I invite members to turn their attention to the note by the Secretary-General [A/36/870] in which he proposes "to the Assembly, for its approval, the appointment of Mr. Brajesh Chandra Mishra, former Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, as United Nations Commissioner for Namibia for a nine-month term, beginning on 1 April 1982". May I take it that the General Assembly approves the proposal of the Secretary-General?

*It was so decided (decision 36/325).*

11. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I should like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Mishra on his appointment. Those of us who have known him in the performance of his duties are convinced that his singularly distinguished diplomatic qualities, his devotion to the best causes of the United Nations, his deep respect for the principles of the Charter, his political experience and his familiarity with the problems of southern Africa will make him a worthy and effective High Commissioner. May his experience serve in solving this lacerating problem that concerns all of us and in which the prestige of the Organization is at stake.

12. Sir Anthony PARSONS (United Kingdom): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the delegations of Canada, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, the United States and the United Kingdom. We are speaking now because of our long involvement in the negotiations that we hope will lead this year to the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978).

\* Resumed from the 105th meeting.

13. Our Governments are engaged in intensive consultations with all the parties concerned. Later this week, high-level delegations from the five States will be visiting Luanda and Cape Town in an effort to complete the present phase and to move the negotiations forward.

14. The consultations leading to the nomination of the Commissioner for Namibia have been hasty and inadequate. Neither the Council for Namibia nor the Commis-

sioner has a part in the negotiations to implement resolution 435 (1978). Our responsibility in these negotiations, as authors of the settlement proposal, has led us to warn that the appointment of a Commissioner at this time is potentially damaging. The course we have set for ourselves, and in which we hope that the African countries most closely concerned also continue to believe, is the peaceful negotiated settlement of the question of Namibia.

*The meeting rose at 4.10 p.m.*