



*President:* Mr. Imre HOLLAI (Hungary).

*Tribute to the memory of Mr. Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev,  
President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of  
the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and General  
Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist  
Party of the Soviet Union*

1. The PRESIDENT: It would be difficult to overestimate the loss suffered through the passing of Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, President of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. To give a true account of his lifelong activities is a task best left to historians. With his passing, the world has lost a champion of social justice and progress, a great leader and statesman, a great revolutionary thinker, a devoted fighter for the cause of peace and disarmament, an outstanding man of our time.
2. The peoples of the Soviet Union and the world mourn the death of this outstanding politician, who was tied to his people in a thousand ways and who, all through his long and eventful life, served the cause of their material and spiritual well-being. His life was closely connected with the gravest and greatest period of the history of his homeland, the defence of the Soviet Union against foreign invaders. He was closely involved with the reconstruction, with the speedy economic and cultural development and with the progress of science, which enabled his country to take the first steps in the peaceful use of outer space.
3. He devoted all his energy and his thoughts to the service of his people. Under his leadership and guidance, the Soviet Union has become a decisive factor in international life. In guiding the leading socialist Power of the world, he felt responsibility not only for his country and his people, but for the fate of humanity as well. This is what reinforced his energy; this is what enabled him to follow closely all important events occurring in the world. This he did by giving expression to his sense of realism when he felt that world peace and security and the cause of social progress were at stake.
4. His name was inextricably tied to the policy of lasting peace, détente and disarmament in international relations. He maintained and further developed the policy of peaceful coexistence. This policy led in the 1970s to better understanding and strengthened co-operation among nations of different social systems. His activities were inseparable from efforts made to eliminate the danger of war, from international moves aimed at doing away with sources of tension, and from achievements in the acceleration of the process of

decolonization and the full emancipation of the peoples emerging from colonial rule. For all his achievements, he was respected far beyond the frontiers of his country, and this loss is deeply felt by all peace-loving people.

5. The activities of Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev reflected a strong faith in the United Nations. The United Nations has lost one of its powerful friends, who exerted great efforts for the attainment of the noble goals serving the interests of mankind, as enshrined in the Charter. The Head of the Soviet State remained faithful to the cause of international peace and security even when the achievements of détente were strenuously tested. His wise statesmanship served to call for restraint in the face of events tending to jeopardize the survival of us all.
6. I express my firm conviction and certitude that the foreign policy of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics will continue to be guided by his principles, namely, the maintenance of international peace and security, the cause of disarmament, the lessening of international tensions and the furthering of co-operation among all nations. I am also convinced that his country will do everything to uphold the cause of the United Nations, in the service of peace, progress and justice.
7. I now invite representatives to stand and observe one minute of silence in tribute to the memory of Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev.  
  
*The members of the General Assembly observed a minute of silence.*
8. The PRESIDENT: I now call on the Secretary-General, on the representatives who have asked to speak on behalf of their countries or the group of States they represent, and on the Observer for the Palestine Liberation Organization.
9. The SECRETARY-GENERAL (*interpretation from Spanish*): In my capacity as Secretary-General and on my own behalf, I wish to reiterate to the Soviet delegation the heartfelt condolences I have already conveyed to its Government on the death of Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.
10. The Soviet people and the international community have lost a leader who devoted every effort to world détente and to the strengthening of co-operation among States. His death in these troubled and turbulent times thus deserves to be marked by a new appeal to Member States to renew their commitment to the objective of peace in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

11. Scarcely two months ago, I had the privilege of meeting with President Brezhnev in Moscow. I was able to see for myself the dedication to world peace and understanding that inspired him, as well as his firm support for the United Nations and its work in favour of peace. President Brezhnev suffered the horrors of the Second World War, which explains both the fervour with which he pursued the cause of disarmament and the countless initiatives of his Government in the field of peace and security. The pursuit of those objectives, which are also in keeping with the purposes and principles of the Charter, was combined in his spirit with his efforts to further the well-being and progress of his people.

12. President Brezhnev sought a world in which the suffering and privation which are the bitter fruits of war would not recur. He leaves to his people the heritage of hope for a lasting peace, and to the world the challenge to ensure that this hope becomes a reality.

13. Mr. TSVETKOV (Bulgaria) (*interpretation from Russian*): The world has learned the grievous news that the Soviet people, and all who cherish peace, have suffered a serious loss: the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, has passed away.

14. As current Chairman of the Group of Eastern European States, I should like to convey to the delegations of the Soviet Union, the Byelorussian SSR and the Ukrainian SSR and, through them, to the Soviet Government and all the Soviet people our most profound condolences.

15. Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev was an eminent statesman and politician, a man of his times. He is known in all continents, in all corners of the earth. The most important achievements of the Soviet Union are intimately linked with his constant activities. From his beginnings as a simple worker, Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev became the leader of a major State of the world and a clear example of devotion to the ideals of peace and progress. Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev played an outstanding part in the achievement of tremendous successes in the economic, scientific and cultural fields, which today are the pride of the Soviet people. He occupied the most difficult and responsible posts during the industrialization period, in the Great Patriotic War and in the post-war reconstruction of the Soviet Union, and he spared no effort in any of his tasks.

16. The name of Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev is linked with a whole era in the development of the contemporary world, an era marked by détente in international affairs and the struggle to remove the threat of nuclear war, improve the climate of trust between States and develop mutually advantageous international co-operation.

17. Possessing both profound theoretical knowledge and outstanding talent as a realistic politician, he made a tremendous contribution to the development and implementation of a comprehensive programme for strengthening peace on earth, for curbing the arms race and for disarmament.

18. During the lifetime of Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev and with his direct participation, international agree-

ments of the utmost importance were achieved, which determined for many years into the future the way in which international politics were to develop. We in this Hall have frequently discussed proposals put forward by Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev aimed at improving the international climate. We can say without fear of contradiction that it is largely thanks to the tireless concern for peace of the Soviet Government, headed by Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, that peoples have not yet had to undergo the horrors of thermonuclear war.

19. Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev has left behind the memory of a great humanitarian, a truly charming personality, a politician who combined his principles with far-sightedness and thoughtful breadth of vision. Quite properly, his contemporaries consider him a worthy continuer of Lenin's work.

20. The People's Republic of Bulgaria and the Soviet Union are linked by strong ties of brotherly friendship deeply rooted in our history. The name of Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev will for ever be connected with the comprehensive development and flourishing of relations between Bulgaria and the Soviet Union. He did a great deal to enrich and buttress the brotherly friendship between the Soviet Union and all the other countries of the socialist community.

21. At this sad hour, all our peoples share the grief of the Soviet people and together with them will continue to struggle for the triumph of the ideals of peace and social progress and to preserve mankind from the threat of war. We are profoundly convinced that at the present moment there is no more important or urgent task than that of the preservation of peace on earth and the adoption of effective measures to prevent nuclear war. We should like to express our conviction that the United Nations will live up to the hopes of the peoples of the world and will make its own contribution to solving this most pressing problem, to which Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev devoted his whole life.

22. We salute the efforts of Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev to spare the peoples of the world the dangers of war. In this connection, I should like to recall his moving words in expressing his international political viewpoint. He said:

“If I were to be asked today what is the main conclusion I have drawn from the war, which I lived through from beginning to end, I would reply that there should be no more war; there should be no war ever again.”

23. Mr. WABUGE (Kenya): On behalf of the Group of African States, I wish to convey our heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the death of Leonid Brezhnev, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and Head of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

24. It was with shock and grief that we learned this morning of the passing of President Leonid Brezhnev, who led his great country for more than 18 years.

25. Born of humble parents in 1906 in the small Ukrainian factory town of Kamenskoye, and after working with his father as a steel-worker as a young man, he managed to study and qualify as an engineer. Leonid Brezhnev became interested in politics and

joined the Communist Party in 1931. He served his country in various capacities and finally succeeded in assuming the leadership of his country's Communist Party in 1964.

26. We mourn the passing of a great man, a leader of a great country that has championed the cause of the colonized peoples of Africa, Asia and elsewhere. The contribution of the Soviet Union under the leadership of President Brezhnev to the liberation of Africa from colonialism and imperialism will be recorded in the annals of our history. Africa remains grateful for the contributions made by the Soviet Union in our dark days of struggle for our freedom.

27. In his long service to his country and as a world leader, President Brezhnev worked for and dedicated much time to the cause of international peace. The word "détente" is associated with the name Brezhnev, and rightly so. The Soviet Union, as a world Power, has played an important role, under the leadership of President Brezhnev, in promoting the ideals of international peace and security for all nations.

28. We offer our sympathies and condolences to the delegation, the people and the Government of the Soviet Union on the great loss they have sustained in the passing of their leader, a leader whose services to the Soviet people have been recognized and attested to by the award of numerous well-merited medals and orders. We wish to pay tribute to him as a world figure and we join the people of the Soviet Union in mourning the passing of their dedicated leader.

29. Mr. AL-ASHTAL (Democratic Yemen): On behalf of the Group of Asian States, I have the sad duty of expressing our profound condolences and deep sympathy on the death of Leonid Brezhnev, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

30. Leonid Brezhnev was a great leader and statesman, whose commitment to the ideals of peace and progress was unshakable. He will always be remembered as the man who laid the foundations of the policy of détente at a time when humanity faced the catastrophic dangers of nuclear war. Thanks to his leadership, the European continent, which was devastated by two world wars, is today an evolving model of regional co-operation based on peaceful coexistence. The policy of détente is now upheld by the international community as an irreversible trend, which is being broadened and deepened at the same time.

31. As a champion of peace, Leonid Brezhnev consistently called for serious negotiations on disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament. In recent years, the Soviet Union has come up with various initiatives to curb the arms race and divert national resources to economic development, thus underlining the need for social and economic progress as a corollary of the relaxation of tension on the international level.

32. In one of his last speeches, Leonid Brezhnev outlined the prerequisites for a just and durable peace in the Middle East. The search for peace has thus become a constant theme in Soviet policy. He will be remembered as a man who led the Soviet Union to new horizons of progress under socialism and led the struggle for peace on the international scene.

33. On behalf of the Group of Asian States, I request the delegation of the Soviet Union to convey to the Soviet Government, the Soviet people and the family of the deceased our profound condolences and sympathy.

34. Mr. MUÑIZ (Argentina) (*interpretation from Spanish*): In my capacity as Chairman of the Group of Latin American States, composed of 32 members, I wish to convey to the Government, the people and the delegation of the Soviet Union the condolences of our region on the passing of the President of the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union and General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, Mr. Leonid Brezhnev.

35. President Brezhnev was in office during an especially difficult and important period in contemporary history. Over that span of time, the world ardently sought the establishment of a suitable climate for the development of more just, democratic and beneficial international relations, in particular for the developing countries. Mr. Brezhnev played an important part in those efforts.

36. The strengthening of détente is legitimately called for by Latin America and the other developing regions, whose genuine interests can hardly be achieved in a climate of confrontation.

37. The creation of the indispensable conditions for the fulfilment of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the strengthening of peace and security in the world and the fulfilment of the aspirations of the developing countries are a fundamental and urgent objective of the international community. In this context, it is appropriate to recall the support of the Soviet Union for the struggle of the United Nations in favour of decolonization and its initiatives in areas of particular importance, such as disarmament and the economic and social development of peoples.

38. During the tenure of office of President Brezhnev, there was a considerable improvement in relations between Latin America and the Soviet Union. Those relations have been mutually beneficial. Therefore, we trust that the direction of the policy followed under President Brezhnev will be maintained and that, in the future, new and even more beneficial areas of co-operation will be found by Latin America and the Soviet Union. Undoubtedly, this will be made easier by our mutual concern for the maintenance and strengthening of an appropriate international climate.

39. I should like to add a few words in my capacity as Permanent Representative of the Argentine Republic to the United Nations.

40. The Argentine Government has already conveyed to the Soviet authorities its condolences and those of my people. Without prejudice to the foregoing, the delegation of Argentina cannot fail to add its own public expression of sorrow at the passing of President Brezhnev. These words are directed in particular to our colleagues in the Soviet delegation to the current session of the General Assembly, with whom we maintain the best of relations and whose support for Latin American and Argentine initiatives in the United Nations deserve our special recognition.

41. Sir John THOMSON (United Kingdom): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of Western

European and Other States. We offer our condolences to the people and Government of the Soviet Union on the death of President Brezhnev. He held the highest offices in his great country for many years. Under him, Soviet society evolved and developed. The Soviet people will miss his guidance, and it is to them in particular that I express our sympathy.

42. For the rest of the world, President Brezhnev was a towering figure in international affairs. He has left his mark on many far-ranging developments and on questions of fundamental importance. We note his commitment to détente, to arms control and to disarmament. His departure from the centre of the international stage will be a serious loss to the Soviet Union and will be felt by the international community as a whole.

43. There are several fundamental issues on which disagreements exist between the Soviet Union and members of our group. But, on this sad day, I should like to put aside these questions and mourn the passing of a notable man.

44. I myself had the privilege of meeting President Brezhnev and hearing him speak. No one who had that privilege can doubt the sincerity of his detestation of the miseries which war can bring to individual people. He spoke from the depths of his personal experience of these horrors.

45. I therefore conclude, on behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States, by conveying to the Soviet delegation and, through them, to Mr. Brezhnev's family and to the people of the Soviet Union, our condolences on the death of their leader.

46. Mr. MRANI ZENTAR (Morocco) (*interpretation from Arabic*): The Group of Arab States was saddened to learn of the death of Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, who led the Soviet Union and its people for many years so ably and with such great wisdom and far-sightedness.

47. In expressing its grief at Leonid Brezhnev's death, the Group of Arab States wishes to state that it regards this as a great loss for the Soviet Union and its people and for the entire world. This great leader bore very heavy responsibilities in relation to the destiny of his country, and he gave amply of his wisdom by, among other things, sparing the world the horrors of a confrontation between the super-Powers. We are certain that Mr. Brezhnev will go down in history as one of the greatest leaders of the era and one who made a major contribution to improving relations among peoples in very complicated international circumstances that called for the wisdom, experience and skill that were so characteristic of him.

48. In expressing its grief at this great loss, the Group of Arab States recognizes the paramount part played by Leonid Brezhnev in support of the struggle of the Palestinian people to regain its legitimate rights. The Group of Arab States shares the sadness and pain of the people of the Soviet Union and requests the delegations of the Soviet Union, the Ukrainian SSR and the Byelorussian SSR to convey its heartfelt condolences to the people of the Soviet Union. We are convinced that a leader will emerge from among the

Soviet citizens to follow in the path of Leonid Brezhnev, a path of well-being and progress.

49. Mrs. KIRKPATRICK (United States of America): In my role as representative of the host country and on behalf of my Government, I desire to express our condolences to the people of the Soviet Union on the occasion of the death of the man who stood for so long at the head of their Government, and to extend our deepest sympathy to the people of the Soviet Union, to the family of the deceased, to his colleagues and to the Soviet delegation here at the United Nations.

50. This morning, the President of the United States, Ronald Reagan, sent a letter to Vasily Kuznetsov, First Deputy Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. In that letter, President Reagan said:

"Please accept my condolences on the death of President Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev. President Brezhnev was one of the world's most important figures for nearly two decades. May I ask you to convey our sympathies to the President's family.

"I would also like to convey through you to the Soviet Government and people the strong desire of the United States to work towards an improved relationship with the Soviet Union. I look forward to conducting relations with the new leadership in the Soviet Union with the aim of expanding the areas where our two nations can co-operate to mutual advantage."

51. Mr. OTT (German Democratic Republic) (*interpretation from Russian*): The delegation of the German Democratic Republic learned with great sorrow of the passing of the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev. Together with the fraternal Soviet people, the people of the German Democratic Republic mourn the passing of a great statesman of our time, a man who continued the historic work of Vladimir Ilyich Lenin. His life was completely devoted to selfless and tireless creative labour to benefit his own people and country and to serve the cause of the happiness of all people on the earth.

52. Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev won sincere respect in my country as a devoted and close friend who, for the liberation of the German people from fascism, risked what he held most dear—his own life. We shall never forget his personal contribution to the constant strengthening and development of friendship and co-operation between the German Democratic Republic and the Soviet Union. His visits to my country and numerous personal contacts always left a very deep impression.

53. The name of Leonid Brezhnev will always be intimately linked with efforts to ensure international peace, friendship and co-operation among peoples and States. He had no nobler duty than to do everything possible to preserve peace and to save mankind from the tragedy of a new world war and from nuclear annihilation.

54. As a champion of this noble cause, he was valued and respected by all those that cherish peace as the

greatest achievement of mankind. The programme of peace that was outlined by the XXVth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the historic initiatives of the Soviet Union to ensure peace and security, the limitation of the arms race, disarmament, détente and peaceful co-operation, all are inextricably linked with the name of Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev. These numerous initiatives and constructive proposals have to a large extent determined the activities of the Organization to achieve the purposes and apply the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

55. To honour the memory of Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, we should continue to fight for the aims and tasks that were the focus of his own life and work. His tireless and constructive actions will, particularly in the present tense international situation, serve as an inspiration to us to redouble our efforts to remove the perils of nuclear warfare, to preserve life on earth and to bring about fruitful co-operation among peoples.

56. The delegation of the German Democratic Republic wishes to extend its deep condolences to the delegation of the Soviet Union and the delegations of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and to all our Soviet comrades and friends.

57. Our friend and comrade Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev will remain for ever in our memories.

58. Mr. KRISHNAN (India): The poignant feelings of the representatives of the countries of the Asian region over the passing of Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, have been expressed by the Chairman of the Group of Asian States, the representative of Democratic Yemen. India would like, however, to add its own tribute to President Brezhnev, whom the Government and people of India held in great esteem. I wish, on behalf of the delegation of India, to convey our sentiments of deep sympathy and our condolences to the delegation of the Soviet Union and the Government and people of the Soviet Union.

59. At a time of acute international crisis, President Brezhnev led his country towards greater progress and prosperity for its people and, at the same time, struggled incessantly for the achievement of world peace and security. His commitment to the ideals of the United Nations and to the cause of détente stemmed as much from his personal conviction as from the best traditions of the Soviet Union. The immense contribution that the Soviet Union has made in this regard in recent years is in no small measure due to the far-sighted statesmanship of President Brezhnev.

60. The people of India have reason to feel a grievous sense of loss at the demise of President Brezhnev because, during his time, the friendship and co-operation between India and the Soviet Union grew further and prospered on the basis of the firm foundations which had been laid earlier. We had the privilege of receiving him in India last year, and it was only a few weeks ago that the Prime Minister of India, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, made a highly successful visit to the Soviet Union, where the two leaders

discussed various issues of mutual concern in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

61. On this sad occasion, I can do no more than quote the words of our Prime Minister, who, in a tribute to President Brezhnev earlier today, stated the following:

“The world has lost an outstanding statesman, the Soviet Union, a great architect and the people of India, a valued friend. President Brezhnev’s life was one of unusual dedication, tenacity and achievement. He directed the strength and creative spirit of the Soviet people towards peace and the task of ensuring a world where nations could live in amity. His initiatives towards détente enabled the community of nations to overcome many difficult crises. The history of the last two decades bears his impress.

“I have had the privilege of knowing him for many years. Indo-Soviet friendship and co-operation grew and achieved maturity during President Brezhnev’s time. He showed consistent understanding of our problems and stood by us in our moments of need. He had a strong personality and was imbued with sturdy realism.

“To the Government and the people of the Soviet Union I offer the profound sympathy and condolences of the Government and people of India.”

62. Mr. ROA KOURÍ (Cuba) (*interpretation from Spanish*): The Chairman of the Group of Latin American States, the representative of the Republic of Argentina, has already conveyed the condolences of our group to the delegation of the Soviet Union on the death of comrade Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev. Allow me, however, to add the voice of Cuba on this sad occasion.

63. With the passing of comrade Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, the Soviet people, the international Communist movement and all the progressive and peace-loving peoples have lost one of the most outstanding figures in the world.

64. Born into a working family, himself a worker from adolescence, a militant member of the Communist Party from a very early age, a distinguished soldier of the Red Army in the hard and decisive years of the fight against fascism and nazism and a tireless rebuilders of his country in the post-war period, he held, because of his achievements, the highest posts in the Soviet Party and State, to the service of which he devoted all his energies in the last 18 years of his life.

65. Because of his loyalty to the ideas of Marxist-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, his political activities were not limited solely to the struggle for the welfare of the various peoples which 60 years ago founded the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The national liberation movements and the young independent States of Asia, Africa and Latin America had a friend in him, a comrade ready at all times to give them the assistance and support they needed. He was the expression of his people and his Party, worthy continuers of the work begun 65 years earlier when the canons of the cruiser *Aurora* sounded the call for the creation of a new world based on the Leninist policy of peace, which he so firmly championed at the head of his Party and State.

66. The death of comrade Brezhnev is for the Cuban people a cause of profound sorrow. For many reasons, we shall always remember him with affection and gratitude. I personally had the privilege and honour of meeting him and speaking with him on a number of memorable occasions, the last being during his visit to Cuba.

67. Our condolences to the Soviet delegation carry the full weight of the great sincerity and fraternity which characterize the relations between our peoples, parties and Governments.

68. In paying a posthumous tribute to the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, comrade Brezhnev, we can perhaps paraphrase José Martí and say that when life's purpose has been achieved there is no real death, and we may repeat, in the words of the poet Nicolás Guillén, this burning epitaph:

“The way was long and the road was steep.

“A tree was nurtured with the blood from my wounds.

“A bird sings from it a song of life,

“Heralding the breaking of a new dawn.”

69. Mr. YONDON (Mongolia) (*interpretation from Russian*): The Mongolian delegation learned with great sorrow of the death of the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, comrade Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev. On this sad occasion, we wish to express to the delegations of the Soviet Union, the Byelorussian SSR and the Ukrainian SSR and to all our Soviet comrades and friends our deep sympathy and condolences.

70. The passing of Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev is an irreparable loss for the Soviet people and the peoples of the socialist countries and all progressive mankind. He was an eminent leader of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Soviet State and a true successor to the great ideals of Lenin. His activities spanned almost two decades, during which he occupied the senior post, and he made an invaluable contribution to both the theory and the practice of constructing a new society and enhancing the progress and affluence of his people. The great commendations of comrade Brezhnev's activities and the deep gratitude which he had earned from the people constitute a recognition of his great services to the Soviet people.

71. Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev was an experienced internationalist and a militant who always favoured strengthening the unity and solidarity of all revolutionary forces for the national liberation of peoples. The name of comrade Brezhnev and his multi-faceted activities are closely associated with the struggle of peoples for peace and security and for the prevention of the threat of war. He was a very distinguished politician and statesman of these times, and he made constant efforts and showed great statesmanship and political realism in international affairs. He consistently struggled to consolidate friendship and co-operation among States. He favoured détente, and

he confirmed the principles of peaceful coexistence. The name and activities of Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev are closely related to the major foreign policy initiatives of the Soviet Union designed to guarantee durable peace in the world, the discontinuance of the arms race, the bringing about of disarmament and the prevention of the outbreak of a nuclear holocaust. The gigantic efforts he made on behalf of peace won widespread recognition and approval throughout the world and earned him deep respect.

72. The passing of comrade Brezhnev is a grievous loss to the Mongolian people; Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev was a true friend of our people. He always lent a kindly ear to what was said by Mongolia, and he made an invaluable personal contribution to developing and strengthening friendship and comprehensive co-operation between our two fraternal countries, between the Mongolian and Soviet peoples. Our people will always recall what was said by comrade Brezhnev: “For the Soviet people, friendship with the people of Mongolia is a matter of honour and international duty”.

73. My delegation bows its head and pays tribute, with great respect, to the memory of comrade Brezhnev. His bright image will always remain in the hearts of the Mongolian people.

74. Mr. VO ANH TUAN (Viet Nam) (*interpretation from French*): The delegation of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam learned with deep sorrow of the passing of comrade Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

75. It is extremely difficult to describe in a few words the enormous work done by Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev. The name of comrade Brezhnev, as a worker, soldier and statesman, is inextricably linked with the great achievements of the construction of the communist society in the Soviet Union, the strengthening of relations of friendship and co-operation among peoples, the struggle of peoples for national independence, the common struggle of the international community for international peace and security, disarmament and détente and the prevention of a nuclear holocaust. In the United Nations, the initiatives of President Brezhnev represent an inestimable contribution to the realization of the purposes and principles of the Charter as a whole and to the cause of decolonization in particular. The voice of President Brezhnev was always raised in support of the just causes of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America fighting against oppression, exploitation and foreign domination and in favour of national liberation and the safeguarding of the independence and sovereignty of nations.

76. Comrade Brezhnev was always a fervent champion of solidarity and co-operation of all kinds between the Soviet Union and Viet Nam. During the years of hard struggle against wars of aggression and for our national liberation, as well as during the period of post-war national reconstruction, the Vietnamese people always found in comrade Brezhnev a source of encouragement and benefited from his very valuable and effective assistance.

77. The passing of comrade Brezhnev is an irreparable loss to the peoples of the Soviet Union and their friends throughout the world. With the death of President Brezhnev, the Soviet Union has lost an outstanding, highly respected and beloved leader. The international community has lost a tireless champion of peace and détente. The Vietnamese people have lost a great and much respected friend.

78. On this sad occasion, the delegation of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam wishes to convey to the delegations of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, as well as to all our Soviet comrades, our most heartfelt condolences. Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev is gone, but his noble cause and his great ideals of peace remain immortal and will undoubtedly be crowned with success.

79. Mr. MUÑOZ LEDO (Mexico) (*interpretation from Spanish*): My Government received with the deepest sorrow the news of the death of Leonid Brezhnev, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of that nation.

80. Mexico was the first country of the American continent to establish diplomatic relations with the Soviet Republic immediately after the revolution. We had just ended our own revolution, and we were seeking to affirm the sovereignty of our decisions through the establishment of international relations of co-operation and sincere friendship. Ever since, for almost 60 years, we have maintained cordial and developing relations of mutual respect with the Soviet Union.

81. Today, we join in the sorrow of a people who are our friends. Leonid Brezhnev was an outstanding figure of contemporary history. Throughout a long life devoted entirely to the service of his country, he defended with perseverance and loyalty the causes that he believed in. He thus earned the respect of his people and the recognition of the international community.

82. During the State visit by the President of Mexico to the Soviet Union in May 1978, my President paid a tribute to President Brezhnev's work for international détente and friendship between people.

83. In the message of condolence which President José López Portillo addressed today to the First Vice-President of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, on behalf of the Government and people of Mexico, he said:

“The historic and unflagging struggle of President Brezhnev in favour of the noble cause of peace, and the work that he did to strengthen the old ties of friendship which bind our peoples, give the Mexican nation cause for special regret at the death of this distinguished statesman.”

84. I wish to convey to the Soviet delegation, and to reiterate to this Assembly, that expression of deep solidarity.

85. Mr. FONSEKA (Sri Lanka): Mr. President, my delegation associates itself with the sentiments of condolence which you have so eloquently expressed

this afternoon on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations.

86. I wish to place before the Assembly the text of the message of condolence which has been addressed to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics by my President, Mr. J. R. Jayawardene, which reads as follows:

“It is with great sorrow that I have learned of the passing of President Leonid Brezhnev. During his stewardship of the Soviet Union for almost two decades, we followed with admiration his untiring efforts to achieve an international climate devoid of the fear of war. His contribution towards the successful conclusion of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe and the Helsinki Final Act that resulted has been widely acknowledged as a significant contribution towards better understanding among nations. His far-reaching proposals on disarmament have also been notable contributions to world peace. We have admired the efforts he has made as the leader of the Soviet nation to strengthen the nation's economy and improve the welfare of its people.

“The relations between Sri Lanka and the Soviet Union have grown and have been further strengthened during his period of office. The world has lost a great statesman, and the Government and people of Sri Lanka join me in extending our sincere sympathies to Mrs. Brezhnev and her family and to the leaders of the Soviet Government and the Soviet people in their great loss.”

87. May I, on behalf of my delegation and on my own behalf, convey our personal condolences to Mr. Troyanovsky and his colleagues in the Permanent Mission of the Soviet Union.

88. Mr. GOLOB (Yugoslavia): We of the delegation of Yugoslavia would like to convey our deepest condolences to the peoples and Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the delegation of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the delegation of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the great loss they have suffered by the passing of Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. We are fully aware that this is a great loss sustained by the friendly people of the Soviet Union.

89. We highly esteem the contribution that President Brezhnev made to the continuous development and improvement of Yugoslav-Soviet relations while he was at the helm of the Soviet Union. Mutual respect, independence, equality, non-interference and other principles established by the Yugoslav-Soviet Declarations of Belgrade in 1955 and of Moscow in 1956 served as the stable basis of our relations. During that period, they were reaffirmed time and again, and they were the solid ground for mutually beneficial relations.

90. We are paying tribute to President Brezhnev as, among other things, a veteran of the Second World War and one of the outstanding statesmen of the second half of this century. Speaking in this Hall today, it is fitting to remember the importance President Brezhnev attributed to the role of the United Nations.

It is fitting to remember as well his role as a participant in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe and the fact that he was one of the signatories to the Helsinki Final Act.

91. We in Yugoslavia have paid great attention to and shown deep appreciation for a number of initiatives taken by President Brezhnev that were aimed at the lessening of tensions and the strengthening of détente in international relations. The present state of affairs in the world is going to require more initiatives of this kind.

92. Mr. IBRAHIM (Ethiopia): The Ethiopian delegation expresses its profound sorrow to the delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and, through it, to the people and Government of the Soviet Union at the passing of President Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev. As one of the greatest statesmen of our time, and a leader who dedicated his entire life to the cause of peace and disarmament, the pursuit of détente and co-operation among peoples of the world, President Brezhnev has towered over the international scene. Thus, he passes away leaving an indelible imprint upon it.

93. President Brezhnev not only was an indefatigable leader who was committed to ensuring that the Soviet Union, together with the other members of the socialist community of States and progressive, democratic and peace-loving forces the world over, remained ever vigilant as the bulwark of peace, but was also in the forefront of those who exerted strenuous efforts to promote genuine freedom, equality and justice for all peoples. By his death, therefore, not only the people of the Soviet Union but all peace-loving and freedom-loving peoples have lost a great leader who consistently championed international peace and security through practical measures of disarmament; a true statesman who, in the overriding interests of the survival of mankind and its civilization, always sought dialogue over confrontation. By his death, Ethiopia has lost a true and respected friend, the Soviet Union, a great leader and the world, an indefatigable champion of peace.

94. I should like to say to the delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics that not only the Ethiopian delegation, but also the Government and the entire people of socialist Ethiopia join the fraternal people of the Soviet Union in their deep sorrow over their grievous loss.

95. Mr. SUJA (Czechoslovakia) (*interpretation from Russian*): The delegation of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic would like to express its very sincere and profound sorrow at the passing of the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, comrade Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev. He devoted more than half a century of fruitful activity to the cause of the progress of mankind and to efforts to preserve and strengthen peace throughout the world and to increase international security and détente in international affairs and comprehensive and fruitful co-operation among peoples.

96. The name of Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev will for ever be linked with the great initiatives in the inter-

est of peace taken by the brotherly Soviet people, aimed at curbing the arms race, achieving tangible progress towards disarmament and preventing a nuclear catastrophe, which have all considerably enriched the activities of the United Nations. His name is directly linked with the programme for peace which emanated from the XXIVth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and was further developed by the XXVth Congress, and also with the Programme of Peace for the 1980s adopted by the XXVIth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

97. Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, who took a personal and active part in the war against Hitler's fascism and in the liberation of Czechoslovakia, was a true friend of the Czechoslovak people and enjoyed well-deserved authority and widespread respect in our country. He made a tremendous contribution to strengthening the close ties of friendship and brotherly co-operation between our two countries. In him we have lost someone who devoted all his energy to the cause of strengthening friendship among all peoples of the earth. All progressive mankind has lost an outstanding figure in the international workers' movement, where his personal contribution is quite properly universally recognized. His approach, as a far-sighted statesman with a very acute sense of responsibility and reality, will occupy an important place in the pages of contemporary human history.

98. I should like, on behalf of the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and the entire Czechoslovak people, and on behalf of the Czechoslovak delegation at the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly, to express our sincere and deeply felt condolences to the delegations of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and, through them, to the Soviet Government and all our Soviet comrades and friends.

99. The name and memory of Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev will remain for ever in our hearts.

100. Mr. SAHNOUN (Algeria) (*interpretation from French*): The Algerian delegation joins with previous speakers in expressing the profound sorrow with which it learned of the death of Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. On this painful occasion, the Algerian delegation conveys its sincere condolences and deepest sympathy to the delegation of the Soviet Union.

101. The universal tribute that is being paid today to the memory of President Brezhnev bears witness both to the outstanding qualities of the man and to the immensity of his work. The man who has departed from among us, President Brezhnev, was truly an outstanding figure. He was a brave soldier in the Second World War; he fought nazism and fascism with exemplary heroism. He retained a horror of war which explained his actions as a statesman. He was an inspired leader; he was able to impose respect for his country in the international arena while working for



peace and friendship among peoples. Among the activities of this outstanding statesman, it is that role in working for peace that history will best remember. His name will, of course, be associated with the pursuit of the policy of *détente*, for on repeated occasions he made constructive proposals which had the merit of perpetuating dialogue and preventing conflict and confrontation. The world will remember his efforts to bring about genuine disarmament and to bring peace in the Middle East, initiatives welcomed at the time by many non-aligned countries, for the non-aligned countries know from experience that they are the first victims of situations of tension and crisis.

102. For us, the Algerians, President Brezhnev was also the leader of the country which consistently and effectively supported the just struggle of peoples for their freedom. The Algerian people, which has not forgotten and will never forget the effective assistance which the Soviet Union gave it at all times from the very beginning of its liberation struggle, pays a solemn tribute to the memory of the Head of State of that friendly country.

103. The Government and people of Algeria bow their heads at this great loss and convey their deepest condolences to the Government and people of the Soviet Union.

104. Mr. NATORF (Poland) (*interpretation from Russian*): The Polish delegation wishes to associate itself with the words of deeply felt condolence which have been addressed to the delegations of the Soviet Union, the Byelorussian SSR and the Ukrainian SSR on the passing of Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

105. The Soviet people, together with all of progressive mankind, have suffered a grievous loss. The life of Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, all his activities in the many responsible posts he occupied, and his active participation in the Great Patriotic War for the liberation of peoples and for peace on earth were all devoted to the interests of the workers, for whom he lived and in whose eyes he was a model communist. Occupying senior posts in the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and in the highest bodies of the Soviet State, Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, to his dying day, devoted all his energy and strength, his wisdom and experience, to socialist communist construction, to the further development and strengthening of the economy of the Soviet Union, and to ensuring a better life for all Soviet citizens.

106. The life and work of Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev had a specific and beneficial influence on the international scene. Dialogue among States, international co-operation, *détente*, and their symbol, the Final Act of the Helsinki Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, are inextricably linked with Mr. Brezhnev's name and with his indefatigable struggle to implement Lenin's idea of peaceful coexistence.

107. Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev devoted all his efforts to ensuring peace and security throughout the world and to bringing about disarmament and preventing the threat of nuclear war. He was an unflinching champion of disarmament negotiations, even on the most

difficult topics. We recall his message to the recent second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, in which the Soviet Union promised not to be the first to use nuclear weapons.

108. For the Polish People's Republic, Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev was not only an eminent leader of our ally, the fraternal Soviet State, but also a close friend of the Polish people. He frequently visited Poland and, I should say, had a full understanding of the feeling of our daily lives and of our problems. He joined with us in celebrating our successes and sympathized with us and gave us assistance in our country's difficult days. His services in helping to free Poland during the Second World War and his good work in building up co-operation between the Soviet Union and Poland earned him signal honours in the Polish People's Republic.

109. In this difficult hour, we should like to assure all our Soviet friends that we share their grief. Once again, we express our deeply felt condolences.

110. Mr. SRITHIRATH (Lao People's Democratic Republic) (*interpretation from French*): It is with deep emotion and profound sorrow that the Lao delegation learned of the death of comrade Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The death of Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, a great statesman, a great thinker and an eminent personality in the international labour movement, is an irreparable loss not only for the Soviet Union and the entire socialist community, but also for all the peace-loving peoples of the world.

111. As the consistent follower of the Leninist policy of peace, Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, throughout his life, and above all since he assumed the leadership of the Party and Soviet State, never ceased to fight for peace, peaceful coexistence, *détente* and disarmament. His many messages and proposals for peace addressed to the United Nations still resound in this Hall.

112. An ardent champion of peace, justice and social progress, Leonid Brezhnev always supported the causes of the oppressed peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America in their struggle for national liberation and independence, while devoting his energies at the domestic level to work for scientific and technological progress, as well as the welfare of the Soviet people.

113. It was thanks to the inestimable and effective assistance of the brotherly Soviet people under the enlightened guidance of comrade Brezhnev that the Lao people were able to accomplish their national democratic revolution. The Lao people owe to Leonid Brezhnev and to the great fraternal Soviet people their most profound thanks. My delegation wishes to take the opportunity, on this sad occasion, to convey to the delegation of the Soviet Union, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic its most sincere condolences.

114. Mr. MARINESCU (Romania) (*interpretation from French*): It is with a feeling of deep grief that we learned the sad news of the death of the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, President of the Presidium

of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev.

115. A distinguished leader of the Communist Party and of the Soviet State, a distinguished figure in the international labour and Communist movements, Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev devoted his entire life and his revolutionary activities to the noble ideals of socialism and peace. His life and his tireless activities are closely associated with the major achievements won by the Soviet people under the leadership of the Communist Party and the Soviet State. He assumed great responsibilities in the leadership of the State and the Party of that country and played an important part in developing the economy, science and technology and in enhancing the material and spiritual well-being of the workers. At the same time, President Brezhnev made an outstanding contribution to the introduction of a climate of peace, détente and international co-operation in the struggle for disarmament and international security.

116. The Romanian Government and people highly esteem the contribution of President Brezhnev to the ongoing development of friendly relations and co-operation in many areas between Romania and the Soviet Union to the benefit of both our peoples and for the cause of peace and international co-operation. On this sad occasion, the delegation of the Socialist Republic of Romania would like to convey its profound and sincere condolences to the delegation of the Soviet Union, as well as to the delegations of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, and would like to assure them of its full sympathy and its feelings of friendship.

117. Mr. SEWRAJSING (Suriname): It is with profound grief that I extend, on behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Suriname, condolences to the Government and people of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the sudden death of their great leader, Leonid Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

118. President Brezhnev led his nation for almost two decades, during which he brought prosperity and development to his people. In the same period, President Brezhnev distinguished himself as a true leader for world peace and détente and helped shape a world in which all nations would have a fair chance for development and progress. His policy for co-operation with all nations, especially with the third world, has achieved tangible results and will always be remembered.

119. President Brezhnev, as the principal leader of the East, has substantially contributed to the furthering of the peace process, not only between the East and West, but also in other parts of the world. He never lost sight of realities, and this distinguished him as an outstanding and responsible leader of our contemporary world.

120. The sudden death of President Brezhnev will be felt as a great loss, not only by the people of the Soviet Union, but also by the world. His achieve-

ments will remain as a landmark and will serve as a source of inspiration for his successor.

121. The Government and people of Suriname wish to express their solidarity with the Government and people of the Soviet Union in this hour of grief and sorrow.

122. Mr. TREIKI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) (*interpretation from Arabic*): The representative of Kenya, as Chairman of the Group of African States, and the representative of Morocco, as Chairman of the Group of Arab States, have already expressed the condolences of the two regional groups to which my country belongs. In spite of that, I hope the Assembly will permit me, in my personal capacity and on behalf of the people of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, to express our sympathy.

123. We have learned with great sadness of the passing of President Leonid Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. On behalf of my delegation, I wish to convey our sincerest condolences to the delegation of the Soviet Union and those of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and to the Government and the people of the Soviet Union.

124. The Soviet Union and the whole world have lost a distinguished hero and an outstanding statesman who devoted himself to the cause of world peace and the independence of peoples and placed his life at the service of his own people. His death represents a great loss not only to the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, but also to the whole world and all peoples that love peace and freedom.

125. My country, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, a socialist and people's country, maintains relations of friendship and co-operation with the Soviet Union. The leader of our Revolution, Colonel Qaddafi, was linked with President Brezhnev by ties of personal friendship. During President Brezhnev's tenure, ties of friendship were established between our two countries based on respect and friendship as well as for the mutual benefit of our two peoples.

126. At this time, when we share in the sorrow of the Soviet Union, we are profoundly saddened. We are convinced that the policy of the Soviet Union, which opposes imperialism and supports the freedom of peoples, will continue to follow the same course laid down by President Leonid Brezhnev—that of peace, justice and international détente.

127. I had the honour to meet the late President Brezhnev during Colonel Qaddafi's visit to the Soviet Union. When I was in the Soviet Union as a special envoy, I got to know President Brezhnev well and saw him at close quarters. I was able to admire his total dedication to peace, détente and independence throughout the world. His passing is a great loss for the United Nations and the international community as a whole.

128. I would ask the Soviet delegation to convey our deepest and most heartfelt condolences to the family of President Brezhnev and to the Government and the people of the Soviet Union.

129. Mr. PASTINEN (Finland): Today, the United Nations, the General Assembly and its Committees are all paying homage to the memory of Leonid Brezhnev, President of the Soviet Union.

130. The news of the death of President Brezhnev has been received with shock and sorrow not only in the Soviet Union, but by other States Members of the United Nations as well.

131. For almost 20 years, President Brezhnev led the destinies of the peoples of the Soviet Union. At the same time, his role in shaping Soviet foreign policy made him one of the most important statesmen in our time. The impact of his policies on international relations was profound. His name will remain closely linked with the policies of détente, particularly in Europe, culminating in the signing of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe at the Summit Meeting held in 1975 at Helsinki. In the field of disarmament, which is an integral part of détente, it was during his term of leadership that the signing of the two SALT agreements on the limitation of strategic nuclear arms between the two leading nuclear Powers accomplished.

132. Finland is a neighbour of the Soviet Union. Our relations are based on peaceful coexistence between States with different economic, political and social systems, as expressed in the Treaty of Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance between our countries. At times, those relations, based as they are on mutual respect, have been called a model of friendly relations between a small country and a great Power.

133. President Brezhnev took a keen personal interest in Finnish-Soviet relations and made a great contribution to the stability and further development of those relations to the mutual benefit of our two countries. He will therefore have a lasting place in the history of Finnish-Soviet relations.

134. The Finnish delegation wishes to take this opportunity to convey its profound condolences to the leadership of the delegation of the Soviet Union and, through it, to the Government and the peoples of the Soviet Union at the grievous loss they have sustained.

135. Mr. MAITAMA-SULE (Nigeria): The Representative of Kenya, as Chairman of the Group of African States, has already conveyed the condolences of that group to the Government and the people of the Soviet Union.

136. However, I wish to add the sentiments of my delegation on behalf of the Government and the people of Nigeria. On this sad occasion of the death of President Brezhnev, I wish to convey, on behalf of the Nigerian delegation to the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly, sincere and heartfelt condolences to the Government and the people of the Soviet Union.

137. President Brezhnev was a vigorous and staunch supporter of the struggle against *apartheid* in South Africa and of all forms of racial discrimination the world over. To our oppressed brothers and sisters in southern Africa, President Brezhnev was a true comrade-in-arms in their fight against colonialism and for self-determination and independence. It is an acknowledged fact that the successful armed liberation

struggle in southern Africa and the attainment of independence by Angola, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and Zimbabwe have been made possible only through the steadfast and tireless support and material assistance given by the Soviet Union, under the dynamic leadership of President Brezhnev. A towering figure in the world's search for peace, his singular dedication and commitment to détente for well over a decade has been a guiding light in the global effort to ensure and preserve international peace and security.

138. We mourn the death of that great champion of world peace, an indefatigable fighter for the freedom of the oppressed, a great advocate of human dignity and, indeed, a humanitarian whose record of achievement both in his country and beyond will ever be remembered. President Brezhnev will be greatly missed by the international community and peace-loving peoples all over the world.

139. Mr. ZARIF (Afghanistan): The world has learned with deep sorrow of the sad demise of a very outstanding leader, Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

140. The representative of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, in his capacity as Chairman of the Group of Asian States, has spoken on behalf of that Group to express our condolences. However, the delegation of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan would like to add its own voice on this very sad occasion.

141. President Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, a staunch fighter for the cause of peace and détente, devoted his entire life to the service of the great land of the Soviets and in support of all just causes of the peoples of the world. Under his wise and consistent leadership, the Soviet people achieved steady and remarkable successes in the field of socio-economic development of their country. As a responsible and courageous leader, he guided the struggle of the people of the Soviet Union in defending peace in the world and promoting disarmament and co-operation. As initiator of the major peace plans and proposals, he greatly contributed to the reduction of tension in international relations and the strengthening of the security of small nations.

142. The people of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan have lost a great friend and a loyal comrade. They share in the grief of the Soviet people and are determined to maintain and strengthen further the bonds of friendship and fraternity which characterized the relations between our two nations during the tenure of office of President Leonid Brezhnev.

143. On behalf of the people and Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and its delegation to the thirty-seventh session, we express our heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the Permanent Missions of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic to the United Nations, to their delegations to the thirty-seventh session and to the Government and people of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

144. Mr. RACZ (Hungary) (*interpretation from French*): I should like to associate myself with the sentiments just expressed by the representative of Bulgaria, Mr. Tsvetkov, on behalf of a number of countries from my region. I should like to tell the Assembly how grief-stricken we were to learn of the death of Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. The cause of peace, understanding and mutual co-operation for détente in international relations have all suffered a grievous loss with the passing away of President Brezhnev.

145. In his lifetime, Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev devoted much energy and very close attention to international affairs, never losing sight of the most crucial tasks of the present day, that is, maintaining peace and the vital need to make progress towards disarmament. The peace programmes adopted at previous congresses of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union bear eloquent witness to that.

146. We Hungarians are particularly saddened at the death of comrade Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, because that eminent Soviet statesman was always a great friend of the Hungarian people. He made a number of trips to Hungary, which were always characterized by his particular interest in the tasks of socialist construction within Hungarian society. He followed with unflinching attention the results of that difficult work. The large-scale co-operation that grew between our two countries and the high-level meetings between Soviet and Hungarian leaders were always important occasions, very beneficial and useful for the exchange of ideas and experiences and for strengthening the links of friendship between our two peoples of socialist States.

147. We have in our memory the image of Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev as he was: a far-sighted politician, the leader of a powerful peace-loving State, and one who appreciated and understood the particular problems involved in the complex work of building a new society.

148. Once again, I should like to express to the Soviet delegation, as well as to the delegations of the Ukrainian SSR and the Byelorussian SSR, and through them to all the peoples of the Soviet Union, our profound feelings of condolence and solidarity.

149. Mr. HYERA (United Republic of Tanzania): The United Republic of Tanzania has received with deep grief the sad news of the passing of President Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. My Government has already expressed, both in Dar es Salaam and in Moscow, its deep sorrow and that of the people of Tanzania on this irreparable loss.

150. The representative of Kenya, Chairman of the Group of African States, has already spoken on behalf of African delegations. However, allow me on behalf of my delegation to express our heartfelt condolences to the delegation of the Soviet Union, now with us in the General Assembly.

151. The death of the President of the Soviet Union, President Brezhnev, has robbed the people of the Soviet Union and the world at large of a statesman. Indeed, no words can adequately describe the role that President Brezhnev played both in the strengthening and the consolidation of the Soviet Union and the struggle for peace in the world. President Brezhnev dedicated his entire life to the welfare of the people, to justice and the dignity of man, to world peace and international friendship and co-operation.

152. When the Soviet Union was invaded by the Fascist forces during the Second World War, through his patriotism and exemplary commitment to freedom, he joined forces with his countrymen in a protracted struggle against the forces of oppression. He rose through the ranks of the Party and was later to assume its leadership. It was because of his genuine commitment to the ideals for which he so ardently fought and to which he dedicated his entire life that President Brezhnev continued unwaveringly to mould the Soviet nation into a positive force in the struggle for peace, freedom, equality and social justice.

153. Consistent with the underlying philosophy of the equality of peoples within and among nations, the Soviet Union, under the leadership of President Brezhnev, was in the forefront of the support for national liberation. The fight against the forces of injustice and domination, together with the Soviet Union's consistent support for liberation in the world, characterized his personal commitment to these ideals. For those fighting against archaic systems of racism and colonial domination, especially in Africa, the Soviet Union has been not only a supporter in material and diplomatic terms but also a real buttress in the struggle and a constant source of encouragement.

154. During his leadership, the Soviet Union was instrumental in ushering in at the international level the policy of détente. This policy, which redeemed the world from the darkness of the cold war, has continued to offer a viable framework within which peaceful relations among the nations of the world, and especially the nuclear Powers, can be consolidated. Détente, as a policy of partnership in the consolidation of peace in the world, has over the years been the only protection against the resurgence of the politics of cold war and possible world disaster. President Brezhnev will therefore be remembered for the role he played in the strengthening of that policy.

155. In referring to the role President Brezhnev played in the search for and maintenance of peace—indeed, the avoidance of a possible world disaster—I can do no better than use the words of my President in his message of condolence to the Government and people of the Soviet Union. He said:

“When history comes to be written by our descendants, much credit will go to comrade Brezhnev for the avoidance of that disaster. The Peace Prize he was awarded in 1973 was an expression of appreciation and also an expression of the longing for peace which gripped peoples everywhere.”

156. At the bilateral level, my country, the United Republic of Tanzania, has, since President Brezhnev

assumed leadership, continued to enjoy steady and mutually advantageous relations with the Soviet Union. Our relations, which are based on the mutuality of interests between our two nations, has found expression in our partnership in the furtherance of the ideals of freedom and independence in the world.

157. The Government and people of the United Republic of Tanzania will always remember the valuable co-operation that has existed between the Soviet Union and my country during President Brezhnev's leadership in the pursuit of these common interests and shared ideals.

158. As we join the delegation of the Soviet Union, and through it the bereaved family, Government and people of the Soviet Union, in this sombre moment of mourning his death, we believe we can offer no better eulogy to him than a reaffirmation of our determination to uphold the ideals to which he dedicated his entire life and for which he will ever be remembered.

159. Mr. MOUSHOUTAS (Cyprus): On behalf of my President, Mr. Spyros Kyprianou, and the Government and people of Cyprus, I wish to express heartfelt condolences to the representative of the Soviet Union on the death of President Leonid Brezhnev, a valued friend of the people of Cyprus.

160. The passing of this great statesman and world leader leaves a vacuum that will be difficult to fill, not only in the Soviet Union, but in the world at large, for he strove for the advancement of his people and for peace and friendship in the world.

161. His loss will be deeply felt in Cyprus, for he was a supporter of a peaceful solution of our problem on the basis of the principles of the Charter of the last week, the President of Cyprus paid an official visit to the Soviet Union and met the Soviet President in an expression of the friendship and mutual respect that characterizes the relations between the two Governments and peoples.

162. I should be grateful if the representative of the Soviet Union would convey our condolences to the Government and people of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, as well as to the family of the deceased, on their great loss.

163. Mr. GAYAMA (Congo) (*interpretation from French*): The delegation of the Congo wishes to convey its most sincere and heartfelt condolences to the delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the death of Leonid Brezhnev, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

164. Having learned the sad news, the President of the People's Republic of the Congo, Denis Sassou Nguessou, sent to the people, the party and the Soviet Government a message expressing the feelings of the Congolese people and Government on this sad occasion and expressing the consternation felt in my country at the death of one of the greatest leaders of the second half of the twentieth century, Leonid Brezhnev.

165. President Brezhnev was very well known to the Congolese people, of whom he was a friend, all the more so since his accession to office roughly coincided with the Congolese revolution. Ever since that time,

our two countries have maintained relations of co-operation covering a broad field and based on mutual interest, solidarity and respect for each other's independence and sovereignty. The delegation of the Congo accordingly wishes to express here its sincere appreciation of the personal contribution made by Leonid Brezhnev to the efforts at the international level in general, and in the United Nations in particular, for the creation of a more just, more equal and more peaceful international society.

166. It has often been said, quite rightly, that the fate of peace in the world depends on the personal qualities of a few statesmen. Leonid Brezhnev was among them. History undoubtedly will recognize that he had the indispensable qualities needed to bring détente, even though in a qualified form, into the world of today. In this connection, we wish to mention in particular the continued support given by the Soviet Union to the initiatives for the establishment of a new international economic order, the elimination of colonialism, racism and *apartheid*, as well as the difficult work of bringing about disarmament and peaceful coexistence.

167. If the Soviet people have lost a leader of great worth, the Congolese people have lost a friend, since our countries have gone through dramatic periods together, in both their bilateral and international relations, particularly in the spheres of peace, détente and co-operation both in Africa and throughout the world.

168. In this hour of great sadness and on the occasion of this event which a large part of the world mourns, we wish to extend our deep sympathy to the family of Leonid Brezhnev, to his closest friends, and to the great people of his country, the Soviet Union.

169. Mr. SOGLO (Benin) (*interpretation from French*): It is with great emotion and sadness that I speak, on behalf of the delegation of the People's Republic of Benin, to pay a tribute to the illustrious memory of comrade Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

170. President Brezhnev has just passed away and the Soviet people have just lost an outstanding leader of historic stature. The progressive world can never shed enough tears for comrade Brezhnev, who, at the head of the Soviet people, was always in the vanguard in the fight for the liberation and emancipation of oppressed peoples. Mankind will never forget that architect of peace, whose wisdom more than once saved mankind from the final catastrophe.

171. Many of the speakers that have preceded me have already pointed out, in eloquent and emotional terms, the exceptional qualities of President Brezhnev. I would only emphasize here his passion for peace, his passion for progress. The highest authorities in my country have already conveyed the condolences of the militant people of Benin to our friends, the people of the Soviet Union. My delegation wishes to join with all the other delegations in expressing profound sympathy and sincere condolences to the delegations of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

172. May the memory of Leonid Brezhnev guide and inspire the debates of the General Assembly so that we can save future generations from the scourge of war, and establish effective and lasting peace among all the peoples of the world.

173. Mr. GLEISSNER (Austria): It was with deep sorrow that we learned of the passing away of Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. With his demise, the Soviet Union has lost a great leader and an outstanding statesman of historic stature whose personal commitment to the policy of détente has been a major factor in world politics and has had a particular influence in our part of the world.

174. On the occasion of the death of President Brezhnev, we wish to pay tribute to his great contribution to the development of friendly relations between the Soviet Union and our country, which has been duly recognized and appreciated by the Austrian Government and people. This was highlighted in particular by the visit of President Brezhnev to Vienna and the recent visit of the Federal President of Austria, Mr. Kirchschräger, to the Soviet Union. We should like to express our feelings of sympathy and to convey to the Soviet delegation and to the Government and peoples of the Soviet Union our deep condolences on their great loss.

175. Mr. EL-FATTAL (Syrian Arab Republic) (*interpretation from Arabic*): I wish to associate myself with what was said by the representatives of the Group of Arab States and the Group of Asian States, who have eloquently expressed what we feel. However, I wish to take this opportunity to express our deep sorrow at the news today of the death of President Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. His death greatly saddens us, because we know that he was a wise leader, determined not only to build a better life for his people but to create the international conditions to enable the other peoples of the world, and particularly the peoples of the third world, to achieve economic and social progress.

176. President Brezhnev dedicated his life to improving international relations and to building them up on the basis of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. Because of his leadership, the world saw an expansion of friendly relations with many countries, and he opened up new prospects for international détente and for disarmament and arms reductions.

177. We shall not forget that the Soviet people, under the leadership of President Brezhnev, supported the struggle of peoples for their sovereignty, freedom, independence and progress. The existing friendly relations between the Syrian Arab Republic and the Soviet Union developed under his direction until they became relations of deep friendship and co-operation in many fields, to the mutual benefit to our peoples.

178. We extend our sincere condolences to the delegation of the Soviet Union, and through it to the people and Government of the Soviet Union and to the President's family.

179. Mr. TAYLOR (Grenada): In my own name and in the name of the Grenadian delegation, I wish to convey heartfelt condolences to the peoples of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the sad passing of Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev.

180. Leonid Brezhnev was one of the greatest leaders of our time. As a soldier in the Red Army, he personified the tenacity and heroism of the Soviet peoples. As a worker, he was a model of proletarian morality. As President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union for nearly two decades, he remained faithful to the noble principles that guide the policies of the Soviet Union.

181. Leonid Brezhnev was an indefatigable crusader for peace, détente and co-operation. In the hearts of millions of progressive and peace-loving peoples the world over, his name will be linked for all time to the cause of peace, justice, social progress and national liberation.

182. Mr. TERZI (Palestine Liberation Organization): In the name of the representatives of the national liberation struggles of the militant peoples of Namibia, South Africa and Palestine—the South West Africa People's Organization, the African National Congress of South Africa and the Palestine Liberation Organization—I have the privilege of addressing this solemn meeting on the occasion of the passing of President Brezhnev.

183. President Brezhnev dedicated his efforts and the joint efforts of the peoples of the Soviet Union to attaining peace, peace based on justice and the elimination of all forms of racism and colonialism. We recall with pride that it was thanks to the efforts of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and other peace-loving peoples that the General Assembly adopted resolution 1514 (XV), a landmark in the history of the United Nations and of humanity. This position of principle has been coupled with concrete, material support of the liberation movements.

184. The Arab people, and particularly the Palestinian people, will remember with gratitude and great esteem President Brezhnev's initiative towards peace in the Middle East, which was welcomed by our National Council.

185. Brother Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization [PLO], today addressed the following message to the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party and to the Supreme Soviet Council:

“The masses of the Palestinian people and our militants will not forget the principled stands of the great leader. President Brezhnev supported the aspirations of the Palestinian people to their right to self-determination, repatriation and the establishment of an independent State. The late leader guided the development of Soviet-Palestinian relations for many years until they reached the distinguished stage they are at now.

“People struggling for freedom and a world governed by justice will mourn the loss of comrade Brezhnev, a faithful friend and a strong militant, who supported freedom for all peoples and who

supported peace and justice for all humanity. We are confident that the Soviet Communist Party, the Soviet Government and the friendly Soviet masses will continue to abide by the same humane and just principles as our dear comrade promoted. He stood for the principles of international solidarity with all militants struggling for right and justice.

“On behalf of the PLO Executive Committee and our armed forces and on behalf of the militant masses of our people, I convey our deep condolences to the Party, Government and peoples of the friendly Soviet Union on the loss of our common comrade. His memory will always be alive in us—a memory which will be strengthened by the friendship of our peoples and by the joint struggle and solidarity until freedom, justice and peace prevail in our world.”

186. Mr. TROYANOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (*interpretation from Russian*): The delegations of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic are extremely grateful and beholden to you personally, Mr. President, and to the Secretary-General, the representatives of the regional groups of States Members of the United Nations and all the other representatives who have extended their condolences on the death of the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev. We are deeply touched by the sentiments that have been expressed here.

187. We have suffered a grievous loss. A major politician and statesman of our time has passed away, a continuer of the great Leninist cause and a distinguished champion of the cause of peace and friendship between peoples. All the many-faceted activities and the personal destiny of Leonid Brezhnev are inseparable from the most important stages of the history of our State. He made an enormous contribution to the Soviet Union's economic development, to raising the living standards of its people and building a

Communist society. He played the leading role in the formulation and pursuance of our foreign policy, a policy of peace, peaceful co-operation, détente, disarmament, the prevention of nuclear catastrophe, support for national liberation movements and firm opposition to the policy of aggression and war.

188. Quite recently, in fact in September of this year, during the visit of the Secretary-General to Moscow, Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev spoke of the important role of the United Nations and of the urgent need to intensify the efforts to achieve its principal goal, the elimination of the threat of war. He pointed out that mankind faced as never before the urgent need to put an end to the arms race and to proceed to measures of real disarmament. Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev emphasized that the Soviet Union supports the United Nations in its efforts towards strengthening peace and international security and developing co-operation among States, pursuant to the Charter of the United Nations.

189. The message issued today by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union to the Communist Party and the Soviet people reads as follows:

“The domestic and foreign policy of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union formulated under the guidance of Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev will be pursued in future with consistency and with firmness. The unswerving will of the Soviet people is for peace. It is not the preparation for war, dooming peoples to a senseless squandering of material and intellectual resources, but the strengthening of peace which is the key to the future. This noble idea permeates the Peace Programme for the 1980s, and all foreign policy activities of the Party and of the Soviet State. The policy of peace reflects the deep-seated and vital interests of mankind, therefore in it lies the future.”

*The meeting rose at 6.25 p.m.*