

TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Permanent Headquarters site, New York, on Monday, 24 October 1949, at noon.

President: Carlos P. RÓMULO Philippines.

Corner-stone ceremony at the permanent Headquarters

1. The PRESIDENT stated that the United States had given much to the United Nations. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the greatest American of recent history, had been one of the founding fathers of the United Nations. His concept of the four freedoms had defined, in terms of mankind's need for indivisible unity, the basic human aspirations which had subsequently been embodied in the Charter of the United Nations.

2. The United Nations had from the outset chosen the United States of America as its permanent home. In December 1945, the United Nations Preparatory Commission had recommended that the permanent Headquarters should be situated in the United States¹. By its resolution 25 (I) of 14 February 1946, the General Assembly had decided to establish the interim headquarters in New York City and the permanent headquarters in a suitable site in Fairfield or in Westchester County.

3. In the meantime, the City of New York, under the able administration of Mayor O'Dwyer, had spared neither effort nor expense to provide a temporary home for the United Nations, first in Hunter College and later in the New York City building at Flushing.

4. In October 1946, during the second part of the first session, which had been held in New York, the General Assembly had reopened the question of the choice of a site for its permanent home. The cities of New York, Philadelphia, Boston and San Francisco had been considered.

5. Finally, on 10 December 1946, Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., had made his generous offer of a donation, with which the greater part of the permanent site had been purchased. That generous act had been matched by the City of New York, which had donated additional land and had undertaken the improvement of the area adjacent to the headquarters.

6. Upon the recommendation of President Truman, the United States Congress, in one of the most heartening acts in implementation of its bipartisan policy in support of the United Nations, had granted a loan without interest for the construction of the buildings. The first allocation of 25 million dollars from that loan had been made available by Congress in 1948 after agreement between President Truman and Governor Dewey. Thus the United States Government, by the symbolic act of giving the United Nations a permanent home on United States soil, had yielded a part of its sovereignty to the world Organization.

7. The ground of the new site, a part of the United States, belonged henceforth to the world. It was dedicated ground, and upon it would rest the visible structure of the United Nations, the instrument whereby humanity hoped to attain peace with all its blessings.

8. Two priceless documents—the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights—were to be encased in the slab of granite that was to form the corner-stone of that visible structure. The President wished that other documents hardly less historic and universal in their appeal could receive the same reverential treatment, for instance, General Assembly resolutions 41 (I) of 14 December 1946, 191 (III) of 4 November 1948 and 192 (III) of 19 November 1948, calling for the control of atomic energy and the prohibition of atomic weapons and other weapons of mass destruction; resolution 110 (II) of 3 November 1947 condemning all forms of propaganda for a new war and encouraging the dissemination of information designed to give expression to the undoubted desire of all peoples for peace; and resolution 190 (III) of 3 November 1948, introduced by Mexico, appealing to the great Powers to renew their efforts to compose their differences and establish a lasting peace.

9. Those solemn declarations, repeated each year since the birth of the United Nations, bore witness to humanity's insatiable yearning for peace. The President proclaimed them anew on behalf of all the plain and humble people of all lands, and prayed that their voice would be heard before it became too late.

10. Stone and steel alone would not give permanence to the home of the United Nations. The edifice that was rising on that site would stand as a symbol of man's hope for a better life in a better world only so long as the nations gathered under its roof worked together in unity and understanding. Stronger than steel, more durable than granite, good will was the real cornerstone of the United Nations.

11. If the United Nations did not make its permanent home the House of Peace, it would have failed in its supreme duty to mankind.

12. In 1861 a great President of the United States had addressed a nation rent by civil war in the following words:

"We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearth-stone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our natures."

13. Lincoln's words still bore a timely significance. It was true that the nations of the world could not afford to be enemies. Out of the ancient wisdom of the East had come the saying: "All men are brothers, members of the human family". At one time it might have been possible to brush aside those words as an idle expression of idealism, but that time was no more. With the terrible weapons that had recently been furnished by human ingenuity, war had become a luxury which the world could no longer afford, and peace an indispensable necessity.

¹ *Report of the Preparatory Commission of the United Nations*, chapter X.

14. The iron circle of war and peace had been broken. Brotherhood was no longer an outmoded tenet of religion but the very price and condition of man's survival.
15. The United Nations was the last sacred temple for the rediscovery of human brotherhood. The world would have to remain at peace or perish.
16. Mr. AUSTIN (United States of America) said that the ceremony which was taking place called to his mind many conferences and consultations in which he had participated as Chairman of the Headquarters Advisory Committee. All those efforts were at last bearing fruit, and the home of the United Nations was rising impressively on its East River site in New York.
17. Two points might add to an understanding of the achievement marked by the ceremony: first, that men and women of good will had demonstrated their interest in the United Nations by very substantial acts of generosity; secondly, that home-building enterprise had been carried out with remarkable unanimity among the Members of the United Nations.
18. It had been difficult to reach agreement on the general location and specific site for the headquarters of the world Organization. The United Nations was grateful to Mr. John D. Rockefeller Jr. for his magnificent benevolence, which had settled that emotional controversy and had supplied the site. His practical and generous idea had been enthusiastically accepted. Mayor O'Dwyer, the members of the Citizens' Committee and the officials of New York City had acted promptly, generously and with vision to support the United Nations home-building enterprise. They had provided 20 million dollars to build the approaches and had made a 2 million dollar grant to start the work. They, together with New York State officials under the leadership of Governor Dewey, had facilitated in every way the execution of the agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, even to the extent of waiving taxes on the valuable property.
19. The United Nations had then faced the infinitely difficult problem of obtaining plans for the buildings. A Board of Design Consultants, composed of ten famous architects from ten countries, representative of all the regions of the earth, had begun meeting in March 1947. From some fifty basic schemes and about one hundred secondary designs, they had unanimously chosen the blueprints according to which the buildings under construction were taking shape. That concurrence by those architects of many countries had been a milestone on the road to agreement. No less than statesmen, they had had strong opinions and vital differences to harmonize and they had done so unanimously.
20. They had designed the unique house of the nations which had more window surface than any other building in the city of New York. While its façades on the north and south were of marble, both the east and west side were open to the light—a happy symbol of the hopes of peace-loving people everywhere.
21. Not only had the architects reached unanimous agreement, but the Headquarters Advisory Committee and the General Assembly had settled every important question by unanimous agreement. Having achieved that unanimity on the plans for its home, the United Nations was determinedly seeking agreement on security and well-being for the members of the household.
22. The United Nations building was not merely a home to house the workers in the cause of peace and world progress. It was an instrument for harmony. It was a symbol in steel, marble and glass of unanimous effort and agreement in the cause of peace and world progress.
23. As the United Nations dedicated the cornerstone on its anniversary day, it rededicated itself to the high purposes for which the buildings had been erected. It realized that, in order to achieve those purposes, men of good will should continue to demonstrate their confidence and continue to harmonize their differing views in the search for universal accord.
24. Mr. O'DWYER, Mayor of New York City, stated that he was proud to be Mayor at a time when the great Headquarters building was being dedicated to its great purpose.
25. The people of New York City had worked hard to induce the United Nations to select that city for its Headquarters. No event of greater importance had ever happened in the history of the city than its selection as the permanent home of the world Organization.
26. The great city of New York, with its eight million inhabitants, was the product of the brain and brawn of men and women from every corner of the earth, of every race and creed, of every colour and every national origin, of every alien culture, habit and prejudice.
27. Their united effort had produced no Tower of Babel, but a city, a monument to the success of man's ability to get along with his fellow man. In the long run, as had been proved, the basic unity of human beings, the basic likeness of human beings, was more vital, more important than their differences. Of course, all injustices had not yet been wiped out. The process was difficult; but headway was being made to better standards of living and a better way of life.
28. On looking back into history, civilization could be seen to spring up where men were brought into association with each other, and it could be seen to disappear as that united effort was broken up.
29. Two terrible world wars had been fought in one generation. The futility of war as a solution of anything was obvious. People were beginning to realize that progress and improvement in international relations became possible when representatives met in peaceful association; the closer the association, the greater the possibilities of improvement.
30. If wars were to be forever abolished, the men and women of the world must devote their hearts and minds to the task of bringing the family of nations together and settling, by discussion and calm consideration, the differences which warfare never dissolved. The differences which existed among the various nations and races of the world had always been overemphasized. They were more superficial than real.
31. The base upon which all nations rested and depended was the human being. He was common

to all nations. His basic needs, ambitions, joys and hopes were the same throughout the world. It was the sincerest hope of mankind that that great truth would be demonstrated day after day at United Nations Headquarters. People were not impatient with the United Nations because it had failed immediately to solve all the problems of the world. It was known that progress was a slow process and that the chosen representatives of the nations had to devote their hearts and minds to the task of bringing the human family together.

32. Mayor O'Dwyer expressed the hope that the efforts of the United Nations might be crowned with success and that it might grow into an enduring establishment for world peace and security. He wished the United Nations a long life, believing that, with the help of God, it would indeed live long.

33. Mr. DEWEY, Governor of New York State, said that it was a great pleasure to participate in the ceremony of the corner-stone laying of the United Nations Headquarters.

34. It was a great pleasure to welcome to the State of New York not only the President of the United States, but representatives from all the nations of the world, who were taking part in the most important task of all—preserving and building the peace.

35. New York City, which had become the most cosmopolitan in the world, represented the fairest meeting ground for the associations, the views and aspirations of all people of the world.

36. It had been Mr. Dewey's privilege to aid in procuring the extraordinary but necessary legislation in New York State and, a little more than a year previously, in influencing the granting of the money to construct the buildings. Everyone present had done his part in one way or another; but none would have been present had it not been for one great and good man, whose generosity and quick action had saved the United Nations for New York and New York for the United Nations. Those present—and the peoples of the world—were all profoundly indebted for the very existence of the building to the generosity of Mr. John D. Rockefeller Jr.

37. At the corner-stone laying, it seemed appropriate also to pay a tribute to the permanent staff as well as to the representatives of Member States for their labours in the common cause. It was not always pleasant to be uprooted from home and transported thousands of miles to a strange city. It was often decidedly unpleasant to sit through many hours of debate and to keep tempers in hand, subordinating everything to the cause of justice and peace. It was fair to say that the people of every nation owed to the representatives of Member States their gratitude in bountiful measure for peace to the extent to which they enjoyed it.

38. Many weary miles and millions of hours of drudgery lay ahead. Yet, from a fragile beginning, through perilous tests, the United Nations had weathered every storm. It was stronger than ever before. It was Mr. Dewey's hope, and the hope of all, that those mighty buildings would symbolize the growing might of the United Nations in the best cause of all, the cause of peace on earth and good will to all men.

39. Mr. TRUMAN, President of the United States of America, stated that the buildings of the permanent Headquarters of the United Nations, the corner-stone of which was about to be laid, were the most important in the world, for they were the centre of man's hope for peace and a better life, and the place where the nations of the world would work together to make that hope a reality.

40. The occasion was a source of special pride to the people of the United States, who were deeply conscious of the honour of having the permanent Headquarters of the United Nations in their country. At the same time, they knew how important it was that the peoples of other nations should come to know at first hand the work of the world Organization. It was therefore appropriate that the United Nations should hold meetings from time to time in other countries when that could be done, for the United Nations must draw its inspiration from the people of every land; it must be truly representative of and responsive to the peoples of the world whom it had been created to serve.

41. The ceremony marked a new stage in the growth of the United Nations. It was fitting that it should take place on United Nations Day, the fourth anniversary of the date the Charter had come into effect. During the four years of its existence, the United Nations had become a powerful force for promoting peace and friendship among the peoples of the world. The construction of the new Headquarters was tangible proof of the steadfast faith of the Members in the vitality and strength of the Organization, and of their determination that it should become more and more effective in the years ahead.

42. The Charter embodied the hopes and ideals of men everywhere. Hopes and ideals were not static. They were dynamic, and they gave life and vigour to the United Nations. President Truman looked forward to a continuing growth and evolution of the Organization to meet the changing needs of the peoples of the world. He hoped that eventually every nation on earth would be a fully qualified and loyal Member.

43. Those who were close to the United Nations sometimes forgot that it was more than the procedures, the councils and the debates through which it operated. They tended to overlook the fact that the Organization was the living embodiment of the principles of the Charter—renunciation of aggression and joint determination to build a better life for the whole world.

44. If that fact were overlooked, the strength and power of the United Nations would not be realized; and the true nature of the new force that had been created in contemporary affairs would not be understood.

45. The United Nations was essentially an expression of the moral nature of man's aspirations. The Charter clearly showed the determination that international problems must be settled on a basis acceptable to the conscience of mankind.

46. Because the United Nations was the dynamic expression of what all the peoples of the world desired, because it set up a standard of right and justice for all nations, it was greater than any of its Members. The compact that underlay the United Nations could not be ignored, neither could it be infringed or dissolved.

47. The people of the United States, in the course of their own history, had learned what it meant to set up an organization to give expression to the common desire for peace and unity. The Constitution had expressed the will of the people that there should be a United States. And through toil and struggle the people had made their will prevail.

48. In the same way the Charter and the Organization served by the Headquarters buildings expressed the will of the people of the world that there should be a United Nations.

49. That did not mean that all the Member States were of one mind on all issues. The controversies which divided them went very deep. It should be understood that the buildings were not a monument to the unanimous agreement of nations on all things; they signified one new and important fact, however, namely, that the peoples of the world were of one mind in their determination to solve their common problems by working together.

50. Success in the United Nations would be measured not only in terms of the ability to meet and master political controversies. It had been learned that political controversies grew out of social and economic problems. If the peoples of the world were to live together in peace, they must work together to establish the conditions that would provide a firm foundation for peace. For that reason, the success of the United Nations would also be measured by the extent to which the rights of individual human beings were realized and by the extent of their economic and social progress.

51. Those fundamental facts were recognized both in the language of the Charter and in the activities in which the United Nations had been engaged during the previous four years. The Charter plainly made respect for human rights by nations a matter of international concern. The Member States had learned from bitter experience that regard for human rights was indispensable to political, economic and social progress. They had learned that disregard of human rights was the beginning of tyranny and, too often, the beginning of war.

52. The United Nations had therefore devoted much of its time to fostering respect for human rights. The General Assembly had adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. Other important measures in that field were under study.

53. President Truman was confident that that great work would go steadily forward. The preparation of an international covenant on human rights by the Commission on Human Rights was a task with which the United States was deeply concerned. The United States believed strongly that the attainment of basic civil and political rights for men and women everywhere — without regard to race, language or religion — was essential to the peace it was seeking. President Truman hoped that the international covenant on human rights would contain effective provisions regarding freedom of information. The minds of men must be free from artificial and arbitrary re-

straints, in order that they might seek the truth and apply their intelligence to the making of a better world.

54. Another field in which the United Nations was undertaking to build the foundations of a peaceful world was that of economic development. At least half of mankind lived in dire poverty. Hundreds of millions of men, women and children lacked adequate food, clothing and shelter. Permanent peace and prosperity in the world could not be achieved until the standard of living in under-developed areas was raised.

55. It was for that reason President Truman had urged the launching of a vigorous and concerted effort to apply modern technology and capital investment to improve the lot of those peoples. The under-developed areas needed a large expansion of investment and trade. For that to take place, scientific knowledge and technical skills must be applied to their basic problems, namely, production of more food, improvement of health and sanitation, utilization of their natural resources and education of their people.

56. To meet those needs, the United Nations and its agencies were preparing a detailed programme for technical assistance to under-developed areas. The previous summer, the Economic and Social Council had defined the basic principles which should underlie that programme.¹ The General Assembly was at the moment completing and perfecting the initial plans. The fact that the Second Committee of the Assembly had voted unanimously for the draft resolution on technical assistance² showed that that was a common cause which commanded united support. Although differences might arise over details of the programme, President Truman fervently hoped that the Members of the United Nations would remain unanimous in their determination to raise the standards of living of the less fortunate members of the human family.

57. The United States intended to play its full part in that great enterprise. It was already carrying on a number of activities in that field. President Truman would urge the Congress, when it reconvened in January 1950, to give high priority to proposals which would make possible additional technical assistance and capital investment.

58. There was one other problem which was of major concern to the United Nations, namely, control of atomic energy.

59. Ever since the first atomic weapon had been developed, a major objective of United States policy had been a system of international control of atomic energy that would ensure effective prohibition of atomic weapons and at the same time promote the peaceful use of atomic energy by all nations.

60. In November 1945, Mr. Atlee, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Mr. Mackenzie King, Prime Minister of Canada, and President Truman himself had agreed that the problem of international control of atomic energy should be referred to the United Nations. The establishment of the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission by resolution 1 (I) of 24 January 1946, had been one of the first acts of the first session of the General Assembly.

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council*, Fourth Year, Ninth Session, Supplement No. 1, resolution 222 (IX).

² See *Official Records of the fourth session of the General Assembly*, Second Committee, 98th meeting.

61. That Commission had worked for three years on the problem. It had developed a plan of control which reflected valuable contributions by almost every country represented on the Commission. That plan of control had been overwhelmingly approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 191 (III) of 4 November 1948.
62. The plan was good; it was a plan that could work and, more important, it was a plan that could be effective in accomplishing its purpose. It was the only plan so far developed that would meet the technical requirements of control, that would make prohibition of atomic weapons effective and at the same time promote the peaceful development of atomic energy on a co-operative basis.
63. The United States supported the plan and would continue to support it unless and until a better and more effective one was put forward. The task of ensuring that atomic energy would be devoted to man's welfare and not to his destruction constituted a continuing challenge to all nations and all peoples. The United States was, and would remain, ready to do its full share in meeting that challenge.
64. Respect for human rights, promotion of economic development and a system for control of weapons were requisites for the kind of world that was sought. Those problems could not be solved overnight, but they must be worked at everlastingly if the goal was to be reached.
65. No single nation could always have its own way, for those were human problems, and the solution of human problems was to be found in negotiation and mutual adjustment.
66. The challenge of the twentieth century was the challenge of human relations, not of impersonal natural forces. The real dangers confronting mankind had their origins in outmoded habits of thought, in the inertia of human nature and in preoccupation with supposed national interests to the detriment of the common good.
67. As a Member of the United Nations, the United States was convinced that patience, the spirit of reasonableness and hard work would solve the most stubborn political problems. It was convinced that individual rights and social and economic progress could be advanced through international co-operation. Its faith was in the betterment of human relations. Its vision was of a better world in which men and nations could live together, respecting one another's rights and co-operating in building a better life for all. Its efforts were made in the belief that men and nations could co-operate and that there were no international problems which men of good will could not solve or adjust.
68. The laying of the corner-stone was an act of faith, the unshakable faith that the United Nations would succeed in accomplishing the great tasks for which it had been created.
69. But faith without works was dead. Member States must make their devotion to the ideals of the Charter as strong as the steel in the Headquarters building. They must pursue the objectives of the Charter with resolution as firm as the rock on which the building rested. They must conduct their affairs four-square with the Charter, in terms as true as the corner-stone,
70. If they did those things, the United Nations would endure and would bring the blessings of peace and well-being to mankind.
71. The PRESIDENT announced at the laying of the corner-stone the Secretary-General would be escorted by Mr. Harrison, Director of Planning.
72. The SECRETARY-GENERAL said that he dedicated the corner-stone of the Permanent Headquarters of the United Nations with a profound sense of the historic significance of the occasion.
73. The Charter of the United Nations began with the words: "We, the peoples of the United Nations". In the name of those peoples of the United Nations, he placed for deposit in the corner-stone, to be preserved for all time, an exact copy of the original Charter signed at San Francisco. He hoped that the United Nations Charter would be the foundation for as strong and true a structure of world peace as the building which rose high above those present at the ceremony.
74. He also placed for deposit in the corner-stone a true copy of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as adopted by the General Assembly on 10 December 1948. That declaration set a standard for Governments to which men and women of every race, language, colour, and belief could appeal whenever their rights were violated. It was a standard round which they could rally the support of world public opinion for the fuller realization of the rights set forth therein.
75. Finally, he placed in the corner-stone a copy of the programme of the ceremony of dedication.
- At that point the Secretary-General laid the corner-stone of the permanent Headquarters of the United Nations.*
76. Continuing, Mr. Lie said that the point at which the corner-stone rested would mark the south site of the permanent Headquarters buildings once they had been completed.
77. It had been possible to make that progress in the building of the permanent Headquarters only because of the devotion to the United Nations of thousands of men and women in every walk of life.
78. He could not name all the people he wished to thank. At his side was Mr. Harrison, the Director of Planning whose genius was responsible for so much; a little farther were the workers who had been swarming round the girders, the marble and the glass of the building only an hour previously and who would return to their uncompleted task after the conclusion of the ceremony. Many others were present, and some were not: the architects and engineers and consultants, other members of the United Nations Headquarters staff and the Secretariat, the contractors, the city officials, Mr. Rockefeller and, of course, Mr. Austin and the members of the Headquarters Advisory Committee, Mayor O'Dwyer, and Governor Dewey.
79. To President Truman the Secretary-General wished to express the gratitude of the United Nations Secretariat for the many things which the United States, as the host country, and he, as its President, had done for the United Nations.
80. The United Nations was grateful for the strong words of support which President Truman and the other speakers had brought to it on United Nations Day.

81. The world needed words of inspiration and faith in the United Nations by the statesmen of the great Powers and of the other Member States. Such words were not meaningless; they counted for much. Throughout history they had rallied humanity to great causes. The world needed acts as well as words, acts of statesmanship and courage by the Member Governments in support of the United Nations.

82. It was his profound belief that only the success of the United Nations could prevent a third world war and achieve everlasting peace. The United Nations had not yet succeeded, nor had it failed. It was an unfinished structure. Many years would be needed to complete it. The United

Nations would succeed if the peoples of the world, acting through their Governments, insisted upon unwavering support for the United Nations Charter, both in deeds and in words, and upon using the machinery of the United Nations to its full capacity, not only part of the time, but all the time.

83. The world would have peace in proportion to the amount of hard work and strong faith the peoples of the world gave to making the United Nations work. It should be the purpose and duty of all to make every day in the year a United Nations Day until the peace of the world had been made secure.

The meeting rose at 1.5 p.m.

TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTY-EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York, on Wednesday, 2 November 1949, at 2.30 p.m.

President: Carlos P. RÓMULO Philippines.

Tribute to the memory of the late Edward R. Stettinius

1. The PRESIDENT announced that he had that morning attended, as the representative of the General Assembly, the funeral service held in memory of Edward R. Stettinius, former Secretary of State of the United States of America and one of the four Presidents of the United Nations Conference in San Francisco. He invited the representatives to rise and observe a minute's silence as a tribute to the memory of Mr. Stettinius.

The General Assembly stood in silence for one minute.

Measures for the completion of the work of the General Assembly: report of the General Committee (A/1053)

2. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the report of the General Committee (A/1053), which read as follows:

"In order to expedite the progress of the work of the fourth session of the General Assembly, the General Committee, at its 68th meeting held on 28 October 1949, decided to make the following recommendation to the General Assembly:

"That the following items, now on the agenda of the First Committee, be withdrawn from that Committee's agenda and re-allocated to the *Ad Hoc* Political Committee for consideration and report:

"Report of the Security Council (item 10).

"Palestine (item 18):

(a) Proposals for a permanent international régime for the Jerusalem area: report of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine;

(b) Protection of the Holy Places: report of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine;

(c) Assistance to Palestine refugees: report of the Secretary-General.

"Question of Indonesia (item 20)."

3. He put the recommendation of the General Committee to the vote.

The General Committee's recommendation was adopted without discussion.

Statement by the representative of the Netherlands regarding Indonesia

4. Mr. VAN HEUVEN GOEDHART (Netherlands) wished to inform the General Assembly of some facts of paramount importance. He took the greatest pleasure and satisfaction in announcing to the Assembly that the Round Table Conference at The Hague had ended in complete agreement between the parties concerned and that the documents establishing that agreement had been signed by the parties in a final meeting of the Conference that very morning.

5. Since the United Nations had for some time taken an active part in dealing with the difficulties which had arisen between the Netherlands and the Republic of Indonesia, it seemed appropriate to give the great and good news to all representatives at the earliest possible moment. During the difficult negotiations between the delegations of the Netherlands, the Republic of Indonesia and the Federal Consultative Assembly — which represented all the federated areas — the United Nations Commission for Indonesia had been assisting the parties with its good advice on all the matters regarding which decisions had to be taken. As, moreover, the delegation of the Netherlands had noticed during the previous six weeks the deep interest of many delegations in the progress of the Round Table Conference, it could not fail to report the happy ending of the Conference to the highest organ of the United Nations.

6. Needless to say, the success of the Conference had not been achieved without serious difficulties. In the opinion of the Netherlands delegation, it would be contrary to the interests of all parties and persons concerned to do other, at that juncture, than look forward to the new times that were beginning — new times marked by the fact that the period of strife had ended and the period of rehabilitation and reconstruction in entirely free co-operation between two sovereign States