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PLENARY MEETING**

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CONTENTS

Agenda item 75:

Question of Southern Rhodesia: report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (continued) Report of the Fourth Committee (part II) . . .

Page

1

Agenda item 20:

Agreement between the Republic of Indonesia and the Kingdom of the Netherlands concerning West New Guinea (West Irian): report of the Secretary-General

3

Agenda item 56:

Financial reports and accounts for the financial year ended 31 December 1962, and reports of the Board of Auditors:

- (a) United Nations;
 - (b) United Nations Children's Fund;
 - (c) United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East;
 - (d) Voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- Report of the Fifth Committee*

7

Agenda item 61:

Appointments to fill vacancies in the membership of subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly:

- (a) Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;
 - (b) Committee on Contributions;
 - (c) Board of Auditors;
 - (d) United Nations Administrative Tribunal;
 - (e) United Nations Staff Pension Committee
- Reports of the Fifth Committee*

Organization of work 13

*President: Mr. Carlos SOSA RODRIGUEZ
(Venezuela).*

AGENDA ITEM 75

Question of Southern Rhodesia: report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (continued)*

REPORT OF THE FOURTH COMMITTEE (PART II)
(A/5564/ADD.1)

1. Mr. MARSH (Jamaica), Rapporteur of the Fourth Committee: The second part of the report of the Fourth Committee [A/5564/Add.1] was adopted at its

1455th meeting on 23 October 1963. Operative paragraph 3 of the French text of the draft resolution contained in paragraph 9 of the report has been amended to conform with the usages of the French language, and I hope that this meets with the approval of the French-speaking representatives. Operative paragraph 9 of the draft resolution contained in paragraph 9 of the report asks the General Assembly to keep the question of Southern Rhodesia on the agenda of its eighteenth session.

Pursuant to rule 68 of the rules of procedure, it was decided not to discuss the report of the Fourth Committee.

2. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): In accordance with the decision adopted, statements will be confined to explanations of vote. I give the floor to the representative of Ghana on a point of order.

3. Mr. YOMEKPE (Ghana): I do not wish to challenge the report which has just been given by the Rapporteur of the Fourth Committee, but a number of the co-sponsors of the draft resolution have asked me to make one or two corrections in the report. These refer to operative paragraph 7 of the draft resolution which is recommended by the Fourth Committee in its report [A/5564/Add.7, para. 9] for adoption by the General Assembly. This is an attempt to improve that paragraph and make it read better. As it stands now, it is not very clear and there is likely to be some misunderstanding.

4. We propose that this paragraph should be amended to read as follows:

"Urges all Member States, and in particular those having the closest relations with the United Kingdom Government to use their influence to the utmost" —instead of "to use their utmost influence"—"with a view to ensuring the realization of the legitimate aspirations of the peoples of Southern Rhodesia" —instead of "with a view to realizing the legitimate aspirations of the peoples of Southern Rhodesia."

I regret that this correction could not be made earlier than today, but this is the only opportunity we have had since the adoption of the draft resolution in the Committee to make this correction. I hope, Mr. President, that you will permit the acceptance of this simple correction in the draft resolution.

5. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): The Assembly has heard the suggestion made by the representative of Ghana. It involves a minor change; nevertheless, it is a change in the draft resolution as it appears in the report of the Fourth Committee [A/5564/Add.1]. Before this change can be accepted, therefore, at least one third of the Members of the Assembly must consent to a consideration of the report and the adoption of this change. However, in order to shorten the proceedings, if I hear no objection from the Assembly, this will mean that the

* Resumed from the 1241st meeting.

small change proposed by Ghana is accepted unanimously.

6. Since there is no objection, the suggestion made by the delegation of Ghana is accepted and the English text of operative paragraph 7 of the draft resolution recommended in the report under consideration will be changed in the manner now suggested by the representative of Ghana.

It was so agreed.

7. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): I now give the floor to the representative of Nigeria for an explanation of vote.

8. Mr. MONGONO (Nigeria): I have asked for the floor in order to clarify the position of my delegation with regard to the draft resolution, because we expressed reservations with respect to one of the paragraphs of the preamble when the draft resolution was under consideration in the Fourth Committee [A/5564/Add.1, para. 9]. In spite of our reservations, and in conformity with our consistent policy of African solidarity in the liberation of the continent of Africa, my delegation will vote in favour of the draft resolution.

9. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): We shall now proceed to vote on the draft resolution recommended by the Fourth Committee in its report [A/5564/Add.1, para. 9]. The delegation of Liberia has requested a separate vote on operative paragraphs 5 and 6. A roll-call vote has been requested.

10. The representative of Liberia has the floor on a point of order.

11. Miss BROOKS (Liberia): Mr. President, I have asked for a joint roll-call vote on the two operative paragraphs, 5 and 6 together.

12. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): That was the understanding of the Chair, and that was precisely the import of my announcement. Paragraphs 5 and 6 will be voted on jointly.

13. I give the floor to the representative of Liberia on a point of order.

14. Miss BROOKS (Liberia): I have just had an appeal not to have these two paragraphs put to a separate vote. I was told that the purpose has been achieved in the Fourth Committee. I therefore withdraw my request.

15. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): As the representative of Liberia has withdrawn her request for a separate vote on operative paragraphs 5 and 6, I put to the vote, as a whole, the draft resolution contained in the report of the Fourth Committee [A/5564/Add.1, para. 9], with the minor changes in the English text of operative paragraph 7 put forward by the representative of Ghana and accepted by the Assembly.

The vote was taken by roll-call.

Haiti, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jamaica, Jordan, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tanganyika, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda,

Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Ceylon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo (Brazzaville), Congo (Leopoldville), Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea.

Against: Portugal, South Africa.

Abstaining: Iceland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United States of America, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece.

*The draft resolution was adopted by 73 votes to 2, with 19 abstentions.***

16. Mr. KING (United Kingdom): For reasons which have been explained on a number of occasions, my delegation did not participate in the vote which has just been taken on the draft resolution concerning Southern Rhodesia, contained in the report of the Fourth Committee.

17. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): In view of the United Kingdom representative's statement that his delegation did not participate in the vote which has just been taken, I wish to make the following statement to the Assembly.

18. At the 1241st plenary meeting, when objections were raised to a delegation's having stated that it was not participating in the vote, I said:

"... despite the wording of rule 89 of the rules of procedure, that is an accepted usage in this Assembly. As far as the counting of the votes is concerned, it is considered that such a delegation is absent." [1241st meeting, para. 79.]

19. I subsequently held a meeting with the Chairmen of the Main Committees and the Secretariat with a view to establishing a standard criterion in this matter. The procedure agreed upon at that meeting and already announced by the Chairman of the Fourth Committee at its 1457th meeting, is as follows. Firstly, a delegation which wishes its non-participation in a vote to be recorded in the summary or verbatim record of the relevant meeting should make a statement to that effect either before or after the vote. Secondly, when such a statement is recorded in the summary or verbatim record of the meeting, it will also appear in the Committee's report to the General Assembly if the delegation so desires, subject to the Committee's approval. Thirdly, during the roll-call, the names of all delegations including those absent will be called, even if any delegation has already stated its intention not to participate in the vote. Fourthly, as far as the counting of the votes is concerned, those delegations which answer the roll-call by stating "not participating" will be considered as absent and their names will not be entered either in the summary or verbatim records or in the Committee's report to the General Assembly.

20. In other words, the results of the vote will contain only the names of those delegations which adopt one

** The representatives of Burundi, Dahomey, Gabon, the Ivory Coast, Mauritania and Senegal subsequently informed the Secretariat that, had they been present during the voting, they would have voted in favour of the draft resolution. The representative of Ireland informed the Secretariat that, had he been present, he would have abstained.

of the three courses mentioned in rule 89 of the rules of procedure in the case of plenary meetings, and rule 128 in the case of committee meetings—that is to say, those which vote in favour, vote against, or abstain. There will be no heading "Present and not voting"; but the statement of any delegation which has expressly requested that its non-participation in the voting should be recorded will appear in a note to that effect in the verbatim record of the relevant meeting.

21. In the specific case of this meeting, and in accordance with this method of interpreting the rules of procedure, the statement just made in this connexion by the United Kingdom representative will appear in the record of this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 20

Agreement between the Republic of Indonesia and the Kingdom of the Netherlands concerning West New Guinea (West Irian): report of the Secretary-General

22. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): As I understand it, the only decision required of the General Assembly in connexion with the Secretary-General's report [A/5578] is to take note of the report.

23. Mr. SCHURMANN (Netherlands): When, on 1 May 1963, the United Nations Administrator, Mr. Djalal Abdoh of Iran, transferred to Indonesia the administration of West New Guinea (West Irian), which since 1 October 1962 had been carried out by the United Nations Temporary Executive Authority (UNTEA), the first and second phases contemplated in the Agreement of 15 August 1962^{1/} between the Netherlands and Indonesia were completed. These two phases concerned the rights and obligations of five parties.

24. First of all, there were the inhabitants of West New Guinea, who were guaranteed fully their existing rights, including the right of free speech, freedom of movement and of assembly, the maintenance of existing laws and regulations and the right of their representative councils to be consulted on any new legislation.

25. Secondly, there was the Kingdom of the Netherlands, which was to hand over the administration to UNTEA, to repatriate its armed forces, to assist the United Nations Administrator by allowing such Netherlands officials as were required to serve UNTEA, and to pay half of the costs of UNTEA.

26. In the third place came the Republic of Indonesia, which was to hold its armed forces in the territory at the disposal of the Secretary-General, to provide such civilian personnel as the United Nations Administrator might require, to take over the administration when UNTEA's term should expire and to pay the other half of UNTEA's costs.

27. The fourth party was the Secretary-General of the United Nations, whose task was to establish UNTEA, to appoint the Administrator, to provide UNTEA with security forces, and to report to the General Assembly.

28. And finally, there was among the parties the General Assembly itself, which, in resolution 175 (XVII) had taken note of the Agreement of 15 August 1962 and authorized the Secretary-General to carry out the tasks entrusted to him therein.

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventeenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 89, document A/5170, annex.

29. Of those five parties whom the Agreement concerned there is one whose active participation in events in West New Guinea has now ended. The Netherlands has fulfilled all the obligations incumbent on it under the terms of the Agreement, and its role in the remaining, as yet unfulfilled, part of it is reduced to that of watching with close interest the performance of the other four parties. For these other parties the Agreement contains a full and important programme or rights and obligations and of work still to be carried out.

30. This programme is laid down in Articles XIV to XXII of the Agreement which stipulate:

First, for the inhabitants of West New Guinea, that, after the transfer of full administrative responsibility to Indonesia, Indonesian national laws and regulations applicable in the territory shall be consistent with the rights and freedoms guaranteed to the inhabitants; that their representative councils will continue to be consulted; that they will be allowed to participate in local government through periodic elections; and that, before the end of 1969, they will be given the opportunity to exercise self-determination and freedom of choice as to whether they wish to remain with Indonesia or to sever their ties with that country;

Second, for Indonesia, that it shall intensify the education of the people of West Irian and the advancement of their social, cultural and economic development; that it shall make the appropriate preparations for the act of self-determination, have this act completed before the end of 1969, and abide by its results;

Third, for the Secretary-General, that, at the time of transfer of full administrative responsibility to Indonesia, he shall designate a number of United Nations experts, to remain in the territory in order to advise and assist in the preparation for carrying out the provisions for self-determination; that at a later date, he shall appoint a United Nations representative together with a staff of experts to assist and participate in arrangements for the act of free choice one year prior to the date of self-determination; and that he shall report to the General Assembly on the conduct of the act of self-determination and the results thereof; and

Fourth, for the General Assembly, that it shall receive the reports on the act of self-determination, which implies, of course, that the General Assembly has the right and the duty to see to it that the Agreement is fully and faithfully carried out.

31. Concerning the part of the Agreement that has already been accomplished, I take pleasure in stating that my Government is well satisfied that all concerned have fully done their duty. The UNTEA was set up with great speed and ability and it carried out its difficult assignment with tact and competence. For the important parts they played in rendering the two peaceful transitions, from the Netherlands to UNTEA and from UNTEA to Indonesia, possible, we wish to pay a tribute and express our gratitude to Secretary-General U Thant, to Mr. Djalal Abdoh, to the Secretary-General's Military Adviser, Major-General Inda Jit Rikhye, to the members of the Secretariat, C. V. Narasimhan and José Rolz Bennett, and all the international staff that worked for them, and to Major-General Said Uddin Khan and his 1,500 Pakistani troops who so admirably maintained law and order in the territory.

32. Let me add that it was a pleasure to us to find that our liaison mission to UNTEA was able to co-operate in a friendly fashion with the Indonesian liaison mission.

33. Although our responsibility for the happenings in West Irian has now merged into the collective responsibility of the Members of the General Assembly, the feelings we entertained in the Netherlands for the Papuan people have not ceased. It was these feelings, so generally shared among the people of my country, that caused our Government to offer to the Secretary-General an annual payment of \$10 million, to begin with for three years, to be used by him for the benefit, the development and the advancement of the inhabitants of West Irian. As indicated in the last paragraph of Chapter II, section 15 of his report [A/5501], the Secretary-General has used this money to establish a United Nations Development Fund for Irian Barat, and in that report has expressed the hope that many other Governments will contribute liberally to this Fund. My Government shares that hope.

34. I would end this brief intervention by saying a few words about the future. As I mentioned before, part of the Agreement of 15 August 1962—and, in the view of my own as well as of many other Governments, the most important part—still remains to be carried out. The responsibility for the performance of that part rests in the first place with Indonesia, which has the obligation to keep faith with the inhabitants of Irian Barat as well as with its co-signatory on the promise of free choice which it has made to them. On the shoulders of the Secretary-General has been placed the obligation of assisting and participating in the preparation for the act of self-determination, and with the General Assembly of the United Nations rests the duty to ensure that the Papuan people will be able to decide its own future and exercise all its rights under the Agreement.

35. The first step envisaged in Article XVI of the Agreement has already been taken by the Secretary-General, who has appointed six United Nations experts, who, under the supervision of Mr. Narasimhan and Mr. Rolz Bennett, will visit Irian Barat in groups of two or three at intervals of approximately six months and report to the Secretary-General on the implementation of Article XVI of the Agreement.

36. My Government trusts that the remaining parts of the Agreement will be carried out by all concerned as smoothly and correctly as has been the case in respect of the first two phases. When that time comes, we shall rejoice with the Papuan people, with Indonesia, with the Secretary-General and with the United Nations in the consciousness that a practical solution has been found and applied to a difficult problem, and that the United Nations has proved once more that, when all parties co-operate in good faith, it can live up to the ideals and the demands of its Charter.

37. Mr. PALAR (Indonesia): To have the report of the Secretary-General on the Agreement between the Republic of Indonesia and the Kingdom of the Netherlands concerning West Irian [A/5578] before us is for us a reason for rejoicing and gratification, for the conclusion of the Agreement between the Republic of Indonesia and the Kingdom of the Netherlands on 15 August 1962 marked the end of a long-standing dispute, which had strained relations between the two countries to the breaking point. Today we are happy to return to this rostrum with the assurance that the

United Nations, given the proper understanding and co-operation of the parties concerned, can provide a most useful instrumentality in the cause of peace. On 24 October 1962, on the eighteenth anniversary of the United Nations, our Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Subandrio, had occasion to state that:

"Relations between our country and the United Nations have also become closer as a result of the existence of a co-operation in endeavours to bring back peace and order in various parts of the world. In our own country, the return of West Irian to the authority of the Republic of Indonesia marked the completion of one stage of such co-operation, which was aimed at the prevention and elimination of a very dangerous situation in South-East Asia."

38. The United Nations can indeed take pride in having contributed to an encouraging state of affairs prevailing in West Irian. First of all, the solution of the West Irian dispute in a peaceful manner, satisfactory to all parties concerned, was expedited by the timely initiatives and energetic efforts of Secretary-General U Thant. In this respect, the Secretary-General was most fortunate in having had the services of Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker. As the personal representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Bunker was particularly helpful in the difficult negotiations which led to the successful conclusion of the agreement of 15 August 1962. We thank Mr. Bunker for his valuable assistance.

39. The report of the Secretary-General informs the General Assembly of the manner in which the United Nations Temporary Executive Authority carried out its mandate during the seven months of its existence. The period from 1 October 1962 to 1 May 1963 in effect witnessed a unique form of co-operation, highly successful, between UNTEA, the Indonesian Government and the gradually diminishing number of Dutch officials.

40. The long anticipated return of West Irian to our national life generated an enthusiastic surge among the Indonesian people, both in the territory of West Irian and throughout the rest of Indonesia. Apart from the security forces, hundreds of Indonesia's sons and daughters joined in the UNTEA effort as teachers, scientists, doctors, nurses and civilian administrators. Right from the beginning, the Indonesian Government actively assisted UNTEA in the opening of many new schools and in other public projects in the territory, such as agricultural and scientific projects, in co-operation with other United Nations organs concerned. Such remote areas as the Baliem Valley have received increasing attention from the authorities, both during the UNTEA period and, especially thereafter. Reconstruction projects in all fields of human endeavour are being initiated and continued by the Indonesian Government at an ever-increasing rate. The population of West Irian enthusiastically participates in the process of development, which also includes their partaking in the executive and legislative bodies, both in West Irian and in the central government, in Djakarta. Just a few hours after the UNTEA period ended, the Indonesian Government appointed a native son of West Irian to the high post of Governor of the province.

41. We may take this opportunity to acknowledge the valuable services of UNTEA's international staff, as well as of personnel of other United Nations organs who have been involved in these various development projects. We thank them all for their interest in, and

their contributions to, the welfare of the people of West Irian.

42. Indonesia's one hundred million people and its Government are indeed greatly thankful and extremely appreciative of the dedicated efforts of the Secretary-General and his staff for the exemplary manner in which they fulfilled the tasks entrusted to them in the Indonesia-Netherlands Agreement on West Irian and authorized by the General Assembly. The role of the United Nations as temporary administrator over this territory is also an indication that the United Nations can be expected to play a major role in the implementation of the final stages of decolonization, in assisting dependent territories as they pass from their dependent status to that of independence. The part played by Secretary-General U Thant and the United Nations Temporary Executive Authority has been instrumental, not only in the preservation of peace and order, but also in the strengthening of friendly relations between Indonesia and the Netherlands. In this regard, Indonesia should like to thank and congratulate Mr. Djalal Abdoh of Iran for his distinguished services as Administrator of the UNTEA. Our gratitude also goes out to Mr. C. V. Narasimhan, to Mr. José Rolz Bennett and to Major-General I. J. Rikhye, of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, for their goodwill and commendable efforts in laying the ground-work for a successful implementation of the Agreement. To the Governments of Brazil, Ceylon, India, Ireland, Nigeria and Sweden, we express our thanks for having agreed to provide officers in the initial period of United Nations involvement in West Irian. Likewise, we should like to acknowledge the services of the Governments of Canada, the Philippines and the United States, within the framework of UNTEA, and to thank them for it. To the United Nations security forces as a whole, and in particular to the large Pakistani contingent under the over-all command of Major-General Said Uddin Khan, we convey our gratitude and admiration for their performance in the furtherance of law and order in West Irian. We wish also to express our great appreciation for the understanding the Government of Australia has shown in the implementation of the Agreement on West Irian.

43. Lastly, on behalf of my Government, I should like to express our sincere appreciation and thanks to the Government of the Netherlands for its whole-hearted co-operation in helping to ease the task of the Secretary-General in the smooth implementation of the Agreement. The Indonesian Government has every confidence that, with the continued co-operation of the Secretary-General and the Netherlands, the full implementation of the Agreement can be carried out in a manner satisfactory to all parties concerned.

44. Mr. STEVENSON (United States of America): In urging adoption of the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly entitled "Agreement between the Republic of Indonesia and the Kingdom of the Netherlands concerning West New Guinea (West Irian)" [A/5578], my Government wishes once again to commend the Netherlands and the Indonesian Governments for the peaceful settlement of this dispute. We wish likewise to commend the Secretary-General for the manner in which he has discharged the tasks entrusted to him under the Agreement, and we wish to express our appreciation to the Administrator of the United Nations Temporary Executive Authority, Mr. Djalal Abdoh of Iran, and the United Nations Temporary Executive Authority personnel who served under him,

as well as the security force under the command of Major-General Said Uddin Khan of Pakistan, for the very efficient manner in which they carried out their respective tasks. We wish especially to express our appreciation and respect to the people of the territory for the patient and orderly manner in which they co-operated with the United Nations Temporary Executive Authority.

45. My Government is gratified that it was able to contribute to this successful operation by the provision of support and assistance to the Temporary Executive Authority of this Organization.

46. We note with pleasure the Secretary-General's report that, in conformity with the spirit of the Agreement, the Netherlands as the first important contributor, and Indonesia as the recipient Government, have both given their agreement to the establishment of a United Nations Fund to assist Indonesia in the economic and social development of the territory.

47. My Government looks forward to the implementation of the remaining part of the Agreement, particularly the exercise of self-determination by the people of the territory by the end of 1969 and the appointment by the Secretary-General of a United Nations representative and appropriate staff to assist and participate in the arrangements for self-determination.

48. We look forward to the remaining part of the Agreement being carried out by the parties concerned in the spirit of co-operation which has marked this unique undertaking thus far.

49. Mr. HAY (Australia): The Secretary-General's report [A/5578] contains only a very modest indication of the valuable work performed by him and by the United Nations Temporary Executive Authority in West Irian, following on the Agreement of 15 August 1962 between Indonesia and the Netherlands. However, in his annual report [A/5501, chapter II, section 15] the Secretary-General has included a more detailed account of the principal aspects of the implementation of the Agreement, including the carrying out of the cease-fire arrangements and the activities of the United Nations Temporary Executive Authority.

50. Australia has followed with particularly close interest the events described in those documents. For, though not a party principal to the dispute which was resolved by the Agreement, or to the Agreement itself and its subsequent arrangements, Australia had and continues to maintain a close interest as the neighbour of one of the parties, as the wartime ally of the other, and as a friend of both.

51. The United Nations undertook a novel role in the assistance which it gave towards the success of the means which were found for resolving the dispute, and even more in its subsequent provision of a temporary administrative authority for the territory. In order to provide a temporary administration for this large territory, the United Nations had to face and overcome difficulties of a kind which I think deserve mention and recognition: physical difficulties presented by the nature of the territory itself, its lack of communications and its climate; difficulties of language; difficulties arising from the necessity of gathering together and putting into the field a large team of United Nations administrators, at short notice and in a manner for which the previous experience of the Organization offered no precedents. The success of the Secretary-General and his advisers in over-

coming these difficulties and the manner in which the United Nations representatives from many countries, both civilian and military, performed their tasks in the territory between 1 October 1962 and 1 May 1963, when Indonesia assumed the administration of the territory, deserve and have our recognition and appreciation.

52. Australia hopes that the remaining responsibilities of Indonesia under the Agreement of August 1962, as well as the responsibilities accepted by the Secretary-General in relation to the Agreement and confirmed by the General Assembly in resolution 1752 (XVII), will be as successfully discharged.

53. Representatives will recall that the Agreement recognizes and provides for the exercise by the people of the territory of the right to an effective opportunity to decide their future for themselves, in particular their future international associations. The Agreement also provides for the advancement in the meantime of their social, cultural and economic development. The provisions of articles XIV to XXIII of the Agreement, relative to these points, have been described in detail by the representative of the Netherlands in his statement. The representative of Indonesia has also referred to those aspects of the Agreement relating to the future, expressing the confidence of his Government that full implementation of the Agreement can be carried out to the satisfaction of all concerned.

54. The continuing responsibility of the United Nations in respect of West Irian and its people is an important one. We accordingly welcome the statement in the Secretary-General's report [A/5578] that:

"the United Nations stands ready to assist the Government of Indonesia in the implementation of the remaining part of the Agreement, relating to the act of free choice by the inhabitants of the territory."

We trust that the future implementation of the Agreement will continue to be the subject of full co-operation between Indonesia and the Secretary-General.

55. Mr. CHAKRAVARTY (India): Last year my delegation, among others, welcomed the Agreement between the Republic of Indonesia and the Kingdom of the Netherlands concerning West Irian. For many years this dispute had bedevilled the relations between the two countries and had been a threat to peace in South East Asia. At the seventeenth session we congratulated the leaders of the two countries on their statesmanship and wisdom in terminating a situation which had been an unhappy one on both sides. We also paid a tribute then to the Secretary-General and his representatives for being instrumental in bringing about a peaceful settlement of this long-standing dispute.

56. In his annual report on the work of the Organization [A/5501, chapter II, section 15] and in his report on the implementation of the Agreement [A/5578], the Secretary-General has given us a full account of the manner in which the task entrusted to him was discharged. We congratulate the Secretary-General and his devoted band of international civil servants for the successful implementation of the Agreement. We must also express our deep appreciation to the Governments of Indonesia and the Netherlands for extending close and effective co-operation, without which the transfer of administration could never have been so smooth and peaceful.

57. Looking back over the years, we may derive some satisfaction from the fact that the delegation of India, from the very beginning, had recognized the dispute for what it was, namely, a remnant of the colonial problem. Year after year we have represented that West Irian is an integral part of Indonesia. Despite opinions held to the contrary, my delegation had always held the view that when, by the Round Table Agreement of 1949,^{2/} the Kingdom of the Netherlands unconditionally and irrevocably transferred complete sovereignty over Indonesia to the Republic of Indonesia, what was transferred was complete sovereignty over the whole of the former Netherlands East Indies. Sovereignty over West Irian, which was an integral part of the Netherlands East Indies therefore also passed on to the Republic of Indonesia. The administration of West Irian remained with the Netherlands pending a determination of the question of its political status, not of its sovereignty, through subsequent negotiations.

58. After years of fruitless negotiations, it is therefore a matter of gratification that an agreement was at least reached in August 1962 through the efforts of the Secretary-General and his personal representative, Ambassador Bunker.

59. With the implementation of the Agreement, all those territories which once formed part of the Netherlands East Indies have now been transferred to Indonesia. The revolution which began years ago is now complete.

60. The other most welcome development that has taken place, as a result of this implementation, is the complete normalization of the relations between these two countries, with both of whom we have the most friendly relations. The implementation of the Agreement led to the almost immediate resumption of diplomatic relations between Indonesia and the Netherlands. It is our sincerest hope that this restoration of friendly relations will pave the way for a new era of co-operation between the two countries.

61. Mr. CORNER (New Zealand): The item under discussion is by no means merely a formality or an occasion for simple tributes. But not the least of its advantages is the opportunity it provides to recall the work of the United Nations Temporary Executive Authority and to record our appreciation of the way in which this unique experiment in international administration has been carried out.

62. When the Temporary Executive Authority was established a year ago, few of us, I think, had any illusions as to the difficulties with which it would be confronted. It was instructed to assume the control of a territory whose terrain is admitted to be one of the most difficult in the world. While maintaining administrative standards it was to complete a fundamental change in the very administration itself. All this was to be done within six months. It is only just that we in the Assembly who created such a challenging task, should now acknowledge its successful completion. Within that bare six months and with few precedents for guidance, the United Nations Administrator and his staff have not merely been successful in maintaining standards; they have enhanced the prestige, and indeed the capabilities, of the United Nations itself.

63. This achievement could not, of course, have been possible without the willing co-operation of the former

^{2/} United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 69 (1950), No. 894.

administering Power, the Netherlands, and of the Government of Indonesia. Their respect for the United Nations and desire to promote the paramount interests of the people of West Irian were of considerable assistance, as the Secretary-General's reports make clear, in smoothing the transfer of the administration. The United Nations Temporary Executive Authority began as an experiment in international administration; it has ended, inevitably perhaps, as one in international co-operation. The re-establishment of diplomatic relations between Indonesia and the Netherlands, and the working liaison which grew up between the two countries in the course of the transfer have borne further fruit. The United Nations Fund for the development of West Irian, to which the Netherlands has become the first contributor, is another example of co-operation with very practical benefits for the people of the territory.

64. The United Nations Temporary Executive Authority has been wound up and a United Nations development fund created. But the United Nations responsibilities to the people of West Irian are not yet completed. The United Nations is itself a party to the Agreement on West Irian, and it retains specific responsibilities until the act of free choice, as provided in the Agreement, has been made by the inhabitants of the territory and endorsed by this Organization. The Secretary-General had indicated in the report now before us that the Organization stands ready when called upon to fulfil its responsibilities in West Irian.

65. The settlement of international problems is usually slow and painful, and we have few opportunities in which to stand back and point to a success. It is worth recalling in the case of West Irian, therefore, that the United Nations has fostered a comprehensive agreement in which each of this Organization's main interests plays its part. It has kept the peace by averting an outbreak of hostilities between two Member States; it has promoted an Agreement which safeguards the wishes and aspirations of the people concerned; and it has made provision for their continuing economic and social development. As a neighbouring country in the South West Pacific region, New Zealand recognizes this achievement and salutes it.

66. Mr. SEYDOUX (France) (translated from French): My delegation has studied carefully the Secretary-General's report [A/5578] on the implementation of the Agreement of 15 August 1962 between the Republic of Indonesia and the Kingdom of the Netherlands concerning West New Guinea.

67. The French delegation, though it appreciated the efforts being made at the time to restore tranquillity in that part of the world, was nevertheless unable to vote in favour of the resolution [1752 (XVII)] adopted last year, in which the General Assembly took note of the agreement reached and authorized the Secretary-General to carry out the tasks entrusted to him under that agreement. We abstained as did a number of African delegations, so as to indicate that in our view there were certain essential prerequisites for the application of the principle of self-determination which in the particular case of West New Guinea did not appear to obtain. My Government believes that the right of self-determination is one of the foundations of contemporary international society. It is universally valid, and its application cannot be confined exclusively to those colonial problems in which the Western Powers are involved. Whether in Asia,

Europe, or elsewhere, the right of self-determination must be preserved. This attitude has the further advantage of being in keeping with the Charter which governs our Organization.

68. With regard to the role played by the United Nations Temporary Executive Authority in New Guinea, and subject to the remarks I have just made, my delegation gladly acknowledges that the functions entrusted to the United Nations under the Agreement of 15 August 1962 have been performed objectively and according to the plan agreed upon in advance by the two parties—the Netherlands and Indonesia.

69. Without wishing to minimize the positive aspects of the operation, as described to us by the Secretary-General, my delegation wishes to emphasize that the main task still lies ahead. Indonesia, which now exercises full administrative powers in New Guinea, has to ensure that the articles of the Agreement relating to self-determination are implemented in such a way that the people of New Guinea are genuinely able to perform the act of free choice expressly promised to them by the signatories of the Agreement and guaranteed by the United Nations.

70. These are the points of concern to my delegation, which does not doubt that the Government of Indonesia will appreciate the moral and political gain that must accrue to its country through the implementation, without reservation and in a democratic spirit, of those provisions of the Agreement of 15 August 1962 which relate to self-determination for the people of West New Guinea.

71. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): The Assembly has heard the statements made by the speakers on this item. These statements will appear in the records relating to the General Assembly's consideration of the question. May I now take it that the General Assembly takes note of the Secretary-General's report [A/5578]?

The Assembly took note of the report.

AGENDA ITEM 56

Financial Reports and accounts for the financial year ended 31 December 1962, and reports of the Board of Auditors:

- (a) United Nations;
- (b) United Nations Children's Fund;
- (c) United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East;
- (d) Voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/5596)

AGENDA ITEM 61

Appointments to fill vacancies in the membership of subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly:

- (a) Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;
- (b) Committee on Contributions;
- (c) Board of Auditors;
- (d) United Nations Administrative Tribunal;
- (e) United Nations Staff Pension Committee

REPORTS OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/5591 AND CORR.1, A/5592, A/5593, A/5594, A/5595)

72. Mr. BOUDJAKDJI (Algeria), Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee: I have the honour to submit to the

General Assembly six reports of the Fifth Committee. The first of these refers to agenda item 56, financial reports and accounts for the year 1962 [A/5596]. The remaining five reports, [A/5591, and Corr.1, A/5592 to A/5595] refer to agenda item 61, appointments to fill vacancies in the membership of subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly.

73. None of these reports, I believe, calls for detailed comments on my part, for I hope that each one of them is self-explanatory.

74. Nevertheless, I should be failing in my duty if I did not draw particular attention to the report dealing with the recommended appointments to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. Paragraph 5 of that report records in a few lines the very warm sense of gratitude which the Fifth Committee expressed to Ambassador Thanassis Aghnides, the retiring Chairman of the Advisory Committee.

75. It would be presumptuous on my part if I attempted the eulogy of one who is so well known to every delegation, whose international career goes back to the year 1919 and whose outstanding services to the United Nations since 1945 have been so widely acclaimed.

76. Yet, as Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee, I cannot refrain from mentioning that Mr. Aghnides served as Chairman of the Sixth Committee at the Preparatory Commission in 1945—that Committee, as you know, was the predecessor of the Fifth Committee. Subsequently he served as Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee at the two parts of the first session of the General Assembly, and from November 1946 Mr. Aghnides has served continuously as the Chairman of the Advisory Committee.

77. His work in the Advisory Committee and his contributions to the Fifth Committee deliberations have been of inestimable value, and I know that I interpret the feelings of every representative in the Committee when I say that he will be greatly missed.

Pursuant to rule 68 of the rules of procedure, it was decided not to discuss the reports of the Fifth Committee.

78. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): If no member of the Assembly wishes to explain his vote, we will take a vote on the four draft resolutions in the report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 56 (a) to (d) [A/5596, para. 8]. If there are no objections, I shall take it that the Assembly approves draft resolutions I to IV.

Draft resolutions I to IV were adopted.

79. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): This completes our consideration of agenda item 56. We will now consider agenda item 61; the Fifth Committee has submitted five separate reports on the sub-items (a) to (e), each containing a draft resolution.

80. If there are no objections, I shall take it that the Assembly approves the draft resolution contained in the report on agenda item 61 (a) [A/5591, para. 6].

The draft resolution was adopted.

81. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): If there are no objections, I shall take it that the Assembly approves the draft resolution in the report on agenda item 61 (b) [A/5592, para. 5].

The draft resolution was adopted.

82. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): If there are no objections, I shall take it that the Assembly approves the draft resolution in the report on agenda item 61 (c) [A/5593, para. 5].

The draft resolution was adopted.

83. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): If there are no objections, I shall take it that the Assembly approves the draft resolution in the report on agenda item 61 (d) [A/5594, para. 5].

The draft resolution was adopted.

84. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): If there are no objections, I shall take it that the Assembly approves the draft resolution in the report on agenda item 61 (e) [A/5595, para. 5].

The draft resolution was adopted.

85. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): Before closing the discussion of agenda item 61, I will give the floor to a number of speakers who have requested it.

86. Mr. STEVENSON (United States of America): I have asked for this opportunity to pay my respects and the respects of my Government to an old and distinguished friend, Ambassador Thanassis Aghnides. I must confess that this affords me one of the greatest pleasures I have experienced in my position here as representative of the United States. When I speak of Thanassis Aghnides as an old friend, I go back to the days of the United Nations Preparatory Commission in London in 1945, eighteen years ago. I remember vividly his wise counsel and the extraordinary contributions that he made to the formation of the Charter and to the structure of this Organization.

87. I remember also his first appointment as Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, because in those first years of our Organization I served as my country's representative on the Fifth Committee, the Administrative and Budgetary Committee. Thanassis Aghnides was a conspicuous and important figure in the infancy of the United Nations, and his service to this Organization has increased in importance, in scope and in value ever since.

88. I think that no one should be misled by the long period of his tenure as Chairman of the Advisory Committee into the belief that administrative and budgetary questions are the measure of his interest in international affairs. This is far from the truth. His knowledge of international politics has been almost universal, as the extraordinary record and the variety of the depth of his interest and contributions in the field of international relations demonstrate. He has held such posts as the Director of the Disarmament Section of the League of Nations, Under-Secretary-General of the League of Nations, Secretary-General of many important international conferences, Ambassador of Greece to London, Chairman of the Greek delegation to the United Nations Preparatory Commission and the Preparatory Commission of UNESCO, a Member of the Curatorium of the Academy of International Law at The Hague, and I could go on and on.

89. The most significant fact about our distinguished friend has been, not the number and variety of the posts that he has held, but rather the independence and the integrity of his character and his respect for the concept of an international civil service which

has been demonstrated in all his endeavours, and particularly as Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

90. Added to this has been great wisdom and a rare and special understanding of human beings, of history, of international politics and all of history's experiments with international organizations. He has made an impact on the United Nations which has been valuable and constructive and which I believe will never be forgotten.

91. I am sorry that Ambassador Aghnides has decided not to accept re-election to his present post. I am happy, however, that he is leaving us in good health and in full vigour, a fact that leads us to hope that we may be able to call upon him for additional service to this Organization in the coming years. The sincere thanks and the very best wishes of my delegation go with him when he leaves the United Nations at the end of this year.

92. Mr. SEYDOUX (France) (translated from French): It is with great feeling that the French delegation today joins in the tribute to Mr. Aghnides who, with incomparable integrity, tact and authority, has for so many years guided the destinies of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, whose work becomes more important year by year.

93. It is seldom given to men to render distinguished service both to their country and to the cause of all mankind. It is even more rarely that these two ideals are so intimately fused in the mind of the person who serves them that they become identified; yet such was Mr. Aghnides' achievement. The course of his career is sufficient proof of this, and we all join with his country, Greece, and with the great United Nations family, in sincere admiration.

94. The French delegation regrets the departure of one of the men who, by their wisdom, humanity and high-mindedness, in the League of Nations and later in the United Nations, contributed very effectively to the rebirth of Europe and to international co-operation. France, whose culture owes much to that of Greece, rejoices at any token of esteem bestowed upon the sons of that home of an ancient civilization; it has often had the privilege of welcoming them to its soil, and I should like to recall here that Mr. Aghnides was a brilliant student in Paris at the Faculty of Law and incidentally at the National Conservatory of Music, before the First World War.

95. Mr. Aghnides was a great figure in the League of Nations, where he occupied high posts, and since helping to lay the foundations of the United Nations in 1945 at the San Francisco Conference,^{3/} where I had the honour to meet him for the first time, he has for eighteen years played an eminent role, first as Permanent Representative of Greece, and later as Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. The international world will cherish the memory of this outstanding figure, who will remain an example and a symbol of the virtues which made him a great servant of his country and of the community of nations.

96. Mr. QUIJANO (Argentina) (translated from Spanish): The Latin American delegations, through my delegation, wish to add their tribute to the eloquent words that have just been spoken regarding the forth-

coming retirement of Mr. Thanassis Aghnides from his post as Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions which he has occupied with high distinction ever since the first session of the General Assembly.

97. During these eighteen years, the United Nations has had to build up its administrative and budgetary procedures and methods and adapt them to the new requirements resulting from the dynamic growth of its activities and programmes and the fortunate situation, created by the steady increase in its membership. The contribution which Mr. Aghnides has made to this process, with his knowledge, wisdom, diplomatic tact and experience is invaluable, and it is reflected in every important decision that the Assembly has taken on these matters. As founding Members of the United Nations, our delegations have had an opportunity of seeing at close hand the uninterrupted labour which Mr. Aghnides has put in ever since the Organization came into being and therefore, now that his retirement has been announced, we should like to express, from this rostrum in the most important of the United Nations organs, our gratitude for the work that he has done.

98. As the worthy representative of his native land, Greece, the cradle of civilizations, as an international civil servant in the League of Nations and as a highly qualified and impartial adviser of the United Nations Assembly in his position on the Advisory Committee, Mr. Aghnides has had a remarkable career and one which has brought him many honours. At the same time, his warm personality and his broad-mindedness have won him many friends. Fully sharing the feelings expressed, the Latin American delegations wish to take this opportunity to express their admiration and friendship for Mr. Aghnides, and their regret at his departure from his present post; but they hope that his relationship with the United Nations will continue, though in a different form, for the benefit of the Organization.

99. Sir Patrick DEAN (United Kingdom): On behalf of the delegation of the United Kingdom, I desire to express our profound appreciation of the services rendered to the United Nations by Ambassador Aghnides. I do so on behalf not only of my own delegation but also on behalf of the Australian, Canadian and New Zealand delegations.

100. Mr. Aghnides' experience in the service of international organizations can, I believe, hardly be matched in either length or variety. So far as the United Nations is concerned, he is one of the founders, and, in addition to other services, has from the very beginning guided the deliberations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

101. The task of that Committee is, I believe, one of the most difficult of all the component parts of our Organization. The success with which it has discharged that task and the respect the Committee has always enjoyed are in very large measure due to his skilful leadership and wise and enlightened judgement.

102. At one stage in his career Mr. Aghnides served as the Ambassador of his country to the United Kingdom at a time when conditions were distinctly unpleasant, not to say dangerous, during the bombardment of London by many varieties of missiles, from bombs to V-2s. I think I am right in saying that this experience of shared danger has been in no way

^{3/} United Nations Conference on International Organization, held from 25 April to 26 June 1945.

detrimental to Ambassador Aghnides' friendship for my country and it has certainly deeply enhanced our respect for him.

103. Towards the Ambassador's native land the people of my country have for generations entertained feelings of the warmest admiration and respect. To the great debt which Western civilization as a whole owes to Greece must now be added our gratitude for the unrivalled contribution which its distinguished and beloved son, Ambassador Aghnides, has made for so many years to the cause of peace and humanity. In the delegations for which I am speaking we all deeply regret that he feels the time has now come to withdraw from the work he has for so long carried out for all of us with the greatest distinction, honour and ability. We express to him our profound gratitude and our good wishes for a long and happy retirement in which to enjoy many memories he can look back on and the honour which he has so thoroughly earned.

104. Mr. PAPAGOS (Greece): The Greek delegation wishes to present its sincere congratulations to the four members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and to those who have been elected or re-elected by an overwhelming majority to the Committee on Contributions, the United Nations Administrative Tribunal, the Board of Auditors and the United Nations Staff Pension Committee. Their elections or re-elections are a compliment not only to the loyalty of their respective countries towards the United Nations but also to the acknowledged ability and integrity of the new members of our choice.

105. I wish now to pay tribute to Ambassador Thanassis Aghnides, who will soon be relinquishing the Chair of the Advisory Committee after having dedicated eighteen years of his life to the service of the United Nations and, prior to the creation of this Organization, having served the international community through the League of Nations. I beg his forgiveness if I cannot do so without wounding his innate modesty.

106. The Advisory Committee is a microcosm of the United Nations. In it are represented and given expression all the tendencies, political and otherwise, which make for the variety and universality of our Organization. Each and every action of the various organs and bodies of the United Nations has its financial implications and comes eventually under the scrutiny of the Advisory Committee. The criteria according to which each action is examined there go far beyond purely financial and administrative considerations. It is, therefore, a matter of wonder that as a rule the Advisory Committee has always been able to reach a consensus of opinion, which in turn explains why the reports of the Committee have rarely been challenged.

107. Only those familiar with the workings and intricacies of the United Nations can fully appreciate how difficult it must have been to establish such a record of achievement. I can think of no greater tribute to the prestige acquired by the Advisory Committee than the fact that invariably the most effective interventions in the debates of the Fifth Committee have been firmly grounded on the reports of that organ. In this manner the Advisory Committee lays the groundwork for the debates of the Fifth Committee and has become a sort of clearing-house for all United Nations business. Its efficiency has the virtue of greatly benefiting the functioning of the entire

Organization. Conversely, any deficiency in its functioning would be an intolerable impediment. Therefore, he who occupies the Chair of the Advisory Committee is given a unique opportunity to serve this world organization in a key position.

108. I venture to think that I express the general feeling of this Assembly when I say that during his long term of office Mr. Aghnides has been instrumental, in fact essential, in giving the Advisory Committee the high status which it now enjoys and which, I am certain, it will maintain.

109. Ambassador Aghnides has brought to the United Nations an immense experience acquired during a long and distinguished career with the League of Nations. After the War, as Greek Ambassador in London, he put his ability, his wisdom and his profound knowledge, not only of international affairs but also of human nature, at the service of his country in one of the most responsible and sensitive posts of our Foreign Service. His ability to appreciate all sides of a complex and controversial problem and his high moral standing have made him a particularly persuasive diplomat. Even more than a diplomat, he is a statesman. In fact he belongs to that rare breed, the international statesman. He has dedicated his whole life to the ideal of international co-operation, often at great personal inconvenience and even sacrifice. That is why, at a time in life when many successful diplomatists are content to retire, to enjoy their prestige and well-deserved leisure and to reminisce, Ambassador Aghnides took on a very tough job indeed. In performing his duties, even when disagreeing occasionally with his associates, he has always been able to keep their friendship and esteem.

110. It is fitting that a man of such stature should have come to the United Nations from a country dedicated to its loftiest ideals. Greece takes great pride in his achievements. We Greeks feel particularly touched by the warm words many delegations have addressed to him on his retirement. We thank all of them and we congratulate once more Mr. Aghnides. Our best wishes will accompany him in what we are sure will be an ever productive and rewarding private life.

111. Mr. KITTANI (Iraq): The delegations of the Arab countries of Algeria, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Republic and Yemen have given me the honour of speaking on their behalf on this memorable occasion.

112. For the past seven years my delegation has been closely associated with the work of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions through the privilege of having two of its nationals serve in this important Committee of the United Nations, first, Mr. Khalaf and then myself. This afforded us the rare opportunity of observing at close range the unique contribution of Mr. Aghnides to the outstanding record and high prestige of that Committee. Indeed, many people in this building know the Advisory Committee as the "Aghnides Committee". His career in the service of the United Nations goes back to the days of the Preparatory Commission in 1945. But even then, Mr. Aghnides had two distinguished careers to his credit: one in the service of the League of Nations, and the other in the diplomatic service of his country, Greece.

113. Every year for the past eighteen years the members of the Advisory Committee have elected

Mr. Aghnides as their Chairman and have authorized him to participate on their behalf in the meetings of the Fifth Committee. Members of the Fifth Committee would, I am sure, readily testify that his contribution in the latter capacity to the work of the Fifth Committee has been invaluable indeed.

114. We are sad to witness the departure of Mr. Aghnides from the Advisory Committee. As for the Committee itself, we are sure that it will never be the same. Nevertheless, under Mr. Aghnides it has built up a rich and respected tradition which will ensure its future and its integrity. As for Mr. Aghnides, our sadness at his departure is softened by our certain knowledge that he leaves with a deep sense of satisfaction and fulfilment.

115. May I conclude by associating myself with the hope expressed by previous speakers that this Organization will continue to draw upon the unmatched talents of Mr. Aghnides in the future.

116. Mr. ZAFRULLA KHAN (Pakistan): I deem it an honour and a privilege to associate myself personally, as well as on behalf of my delegation and the Asian members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and the Asian States Members of the United Nations, with the well-deserved tributes that have been paid to Mr. Aghnides by those who have spoken before me.

117. Mr. Aghnides has the distinction of having been the first Chairman of the Advisory Committee. He has presided over the deliberations of that Committee with great ability and wisdom and has set up a tradition and a record which will serve as a guide and a challenge for his successors, in which he himself can take just pride and on which he can look back with deep satisfaction. Indeed, Mr. Aghnides' name has become synonymous with that of the Advisory Committee. But he has not only presided over the Committee with distinction; he has also presented the views of the Advisory Committee to the Fifth Committee faithfully and with complete integrity.

118. He has now chosen voluntarily to go into retirement after a long career filled with honourable achievement in the service of his great country, in the service of the League of Nations, and in the service of the United Nations.

119. If I might be permitted to add a word of personal tribute on this occasion, I would wish to recall my very happy association with Mr. Aghnides, now extending over a period of more than twenty years, which began at a time in the middle of the war when he had the distinction of being his country's representative to the United Kingdom. He has been a gracious, wise and staunch friend and I owe him a deep debt of gratitude for the many kindnesses which I have received from him. I have admired his many great qualities, but more particularly his sober judgement, his sturdy good sense, his admirable tact and his gentle, but persistent, persuasiveness.

120. On behalf of those for whom I have the honour to speak, as well as on behalf of Pakistan and myself, I wish Mr. Aghnides many happy years of health and enjoyable retirement.

121. May I offer also on this occasion my respectful felicitations to all those who have been elected to serve on the various bodies connected with the Fifth Committee, more particularly my good friend Mr. Bannier, who presided with such ability and wisdom

over the Fifth Committee during the seventeenth session and the fourth special session of the General Assembly.

122. Mr. ADEBO (Nigeria): In 1962 it was decided to enlarge the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions by two; and at that point two African countries, Sudan and Nigeria, were appointed to that Committee. That gave Africa the opportunity of learning what happens in the Committee, and it gave the representatives of Africa the opportunity of learning at first hand who this great man Aghnides was. We have all been enriched by that experience.

123. In the name of Africa, I wish to say how sorry we are that Mr. Aghnides is going away now. I speak not only in the name of the African countries; the country of Malaysia has also paid me the compliment of asking me to speak for it on this occasion.

124. I happen to have been employed in a modest way on financial work in my own country, and I therefore know at first hand how unpopular financial work is both to those who perform it and to those who are at the receiving end of financial decisions. People who work on financial matters are never popular, or so it seemed to me until I arrived here and found that the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions was, in spite of its delicate work, one of the most popular committees of this Organization. I asked myself how this had come about, and my representative on that Committee told me that a great deal of that distinction was owed to the magnificent Chairmanship of Ambassador Aghnides. I want to congratulate Mr. Aghnides for having transformed an unpopular task into a very popular one. He has achieved what I would call the almost impossible. It may be that he still has a lot more to do for us in certain impossible areas of United Nations activity.

125. We are very proud of Ambassador Aghnides, not only because of his past United Nations experience, not only because he was a founding member of this Organization, not only because he possesses a knowledge that would be difficult to match, but more importantly because of his objectivity and complete impartiality. I think it is those qualities which have endeared him to all those who have worked with him in the Committee and it is owing to those qualities that he has had no difficulty in the past in being re-elected to the office of Chairman.

126. I want, on behalf of those who have asked me to represent them, to pay my respects to Ambassador Thanassis Aghnides and to assure him that the tradition that he established in the Committee is one which those of us who are newcomers to this Organization will always remember and will always try to emulate. I join those who have spoken before me in wishing him a happy retirement from this particular assignment and join them in the prayer that if we should ask him to help us again in any other field, he will very gladly do so.

127. Mr. HSUEH (China): I wish to associate my delegation with the high tribute paid to Ambassador Thanassis Aghnides of Greece by the speakers preceding me this morning. Throughout these eighteen years since the beginning of the Organization, Ambassador Aghnides has continuously served the United Nations with great ability and distinction. By his wisdom, experience and devotion to duty he has made a unique historic and monumental contribution to our Organization. Although he will be leaving us now, a

fact which we regret very much, he will always be fondly and gratefully remembered by all of us.

128. In bidding him farewell, I wish to extend to Ambassador Aghnides, on behalf of my delegation, my best wishes for a very happy future and the very best of health.

129. Mr. BANNIER (Netherlands): When speaking in the Fifth Committee in my personal capacity of duly elected member of the Advisory Committee, I had the opportunity of expressing my fond admiration of the great qualities of Ambassador Thanassis Aghnides, who, after an unprecedented career as international civil servant, in the very best sense of that expression, has indicated his desire to resign from the membership, and thereby from the chairmanship, of the Committee of which for eighteen years he has been the personification and symbol.

130. Now, speaking on behalf of the Netherlands delegation, it is a great pleasure for me not only entirely to concur in the high praise given to Ambassador Aghnides' integrity, impartiality and independence, but also to say how greatly we—and here I would include the delegations of my country to all the previous sessions—have valued the co-operation and friendship of a man of such outstanding human qualities, qualities of head and heart, including universal knowledge, great experience and high culture.

131. The balanced way in which Ambassador Aghnides as Chairman of the Advisory Committee presented the views of his Committee to the General Assembly, his subtle appreciation of diverging approaches and his exceptional devotion in serving the United Nations to the very best of his very great capabilities, for all these and many other fine characteristics the departing Chairman of the Advisory Committee will never be forgotten.

132. We know that deep in his heart Ambassador Aghnides will always remain with us here. I am certain that what he in his long term of office has achieved, the traditions that he established and the example that he set will last and will constitute treasured assets of the Organization in the years to come.

133. We thank Mr. Aghnides, and we wish him all the happiness he so fully deserves.

134. The SECRETARY-GENERAL: I should like to associate myself with the warm tributes which have been paid to the retiring Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, Ambassador Aghnides.

135. Ambassador Aghnides has presided over the Advisory Committee with distinction for eighteen years, and, if I may say so, his wisdom, objectivity and balanced judgement have contributed in no small measure to the effectiveness of the Committee and the respect we all have for its views. These very qualities have earned him the esteem and affection of us all.

136. But it is not only in his capacity as Chairman of the Advisory Committee that I wish to pay a tribute to Ambassador Aghnides this morning. Long before the days of the Preparatory Commission, he had espoused the cause of international understanding and had made an important contribution to the work of the League of Nations and a number of other international organs. After becoming Chairman of the Advisory Committee, he also served concurrently for several

years as Chairman of the International Civil Service Advisory Board. Throughout his long and distinguished career, Ambassador Aghnides has been an example and an inspiration to all those who have had the privilege of knowing him. As he relinquishes his heavy responsibilities, I wish to convey to him, on behalf of myself and my colleagues, our sincere appreciation of his unique services to the United Nations.

137. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): In my capacity as President of the General Assembly and on behalf of the whole Assembly, I should like to add my voice to those of the distinguished representatives who have already paid tributes to the outstanding contribution which Mr. Thanassis Aghnides, Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, has made to the United Nations. Indeed, Mr. Aghnides has made a contribution not only to the United Nations but also to the whole development of international co-operation over the past forty-four years.

138. As the previous speakers have already said, Mr. Aghnides began his career with the Secretariat of the League of Nations immediately after the First World War, in 1919.

139. In 1930 he was made Director of the Disarmament Section of the League of Nations. He served as Secretary-General of several important international conferences and in 1932 he became Under-Secretary-General of the League of Nations.

140. During the Second World War, Mr. Aghnides returned to the service of his own country, and in 1945 he represented Greece at the United Nations Conference on International Organization, at San Francisco. He headed the Greek delegation to the United Nations Preparatory Commission, and he also served as Chairman of the Sixth Committee. In 1946 he was the Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly and in the same year he was elected to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. Since that time he has served with distinction as Chairman of the Advisory Committee; and it is in this capacity that he has made his outstanding contribution to the development of international co-operation. His wide experience, his great gifts of diplomacy, his wisdom and his devotion to the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations have enabled him to make a unique contribution to the development of the greatest institution the world has yet seen in the field of international co-operation.

141. The structure of the budget of the United Nations is, as it were, the skeleton of the Organization and its finances, without which it would have been impossible for the United Nations to reach its present stature in world affairs. There is not a single activity of the United Nations which does not bear a strong imprint of the keen analytical intelligence of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee.

142. All the States Members of the United Nations—particularly those that have achieved independence in the last few years and have taken their place within a world organization ready to receive them as equals and to give them an international platform from which they can make their voices heard throughout the world—all Member States I say, without exception, owe Mr. Aghnides a profound debt of gratitude. Words are powerless to describe the extent of the debt. All

we can do on behalf of the Assembly is to acknowledge it, not attempt to measure it.

143. On behalf of the General Assembly of the United Nations, I therefore have the honour to express to Mr. Thanassis Aghnides the deep gratitude which the entire world community feels towards him for his devotion, his mature wisdom, his knowledge and experience, and his tact. In thanking him for his many years of distinguished service, I extend to Mr. Aghnides our warm good wishes for many years of health and happiness.

144. I now call on Mr. Aghnides.

145. Mr. AGHNIDES (Chairman, Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions): I listened with deep emotion to the statements made by—and I shall use the chronological order—Mr. Boudjakdji of Algeria, the Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee; Mr. Adlai Stevenson, the head of the United States delegation; Mr. Seydoux, the head of the French delegation; my friend, Mr. Raul Quijano of Argentina; Sir Patrick Dean, the head of the United Kingdom delegation; Mr. Papagos of Greece, my old and trusted friend, who helped me during those critical days in the London Embassy; Mr. Kittani of Iraq, my colleague in the Advisory Committee; Mr. Zafrulla Khan of Pakistan, a respected old friend of mine; Mr. Adebo, the remarkable man who represents Nigeria so brilliantly in the United Nations; Mr. Hsueh, the representative of China; Mr. Banner, my friend who represents the Netherlands here; the distinguished Secretary-General; and the distinguished President of the eighteenth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

146. The warmth of the speeches made compel me irresistibly to reply to each one of you, as you deserve. But it would be immodest of me to do so. It would take your time and it is already late. As I listened to your words, I thought I was living a dream. It was an exalting experience to go through and I wish to acknowledge these commendations with gratitude and humility.

147. I take your plaudits to be mainly a tribute to my country; for the best in us comes from the legacy we receive from the numberless generations that preceded ours. In the discharge of my functions, I never asked, nor was given, any instructions from my own or from any other Government and yet my chief source of inspiration has consistently been the sense of measure and the inexhaustible fund of human experience bequeathed to the world by the wise men of Greece. Alas, I have not always succeeded in my efforts to imbibe their wisdom.

148. We all live under the critical and vigilant control of a double censorship: the one springing from the depth of our own conscience and the other exercised by our fellow creatures. As was the case today, kindness and generosity may prompt the latter to be magnanimous, but the former, that is to say the voice of our conscience, relentlessly gnaws at us. I, for one, had always the corroding thought that what I had done could be improved on, and that feeling often pursued and saddened me. It revived in my conscience the stinging words of a Shakespearean personage: "But man, proud man, Dress'd in a little brief authority, Most ignorant of what he's most assured ...". I fear that your handsome assessment

of my record in the United Nations is due to your generous impulse towards a man whose performance was not on a level with the ambitious goal he had set to himself.

149. Even supposing that my action was in some way beneficial to the Organization, I can assure you, Mr. President, that this is mainly due to the balanced judgement of my colleagues in the Advisory Committee, and not to any personal merit of mine. I was fortunate to have won their friendship and confidence.

150. There are many reasons why I should be thankful: to the General Assembly for having elected me for six successive terms; to the Fifth Committee for granting me at every session the freedom of the floor; to the Advisory Committee for having elected me as their Chairman every year uninterruptedly; to Secretary-General U Thant, his unstinted assistance and kindness to me gave a congenial complexion to the unpopular exercise of reviewing the budget of the United Nations. I am happy to pay him, in this solemn setting, a sincere tribute. I am thankful to my old friend the Controller, Mr. Turner, to the Director of General Services, Mr. Vaughan, to the Director of Personnel, Sir Alexander MacFarquhar, to the Under-Secretary of Conference Services, Mr. Nosek—indeed, thankful to the whole Secretariat, and in particular to the able Secretary of the Advisory Committee and to his assistants and the interpreter.

151. It was not difficult to perform the task of Chairmanship of the Advisory Committee with the support and advice of my colleagues and of the competent officials of the Secretariat to whom I have just referred. It was a great honour and a rewarding experience to serve the Organization for eighteen years. This is a long interval and a change was overdue. I am satisfied that the Advisory Committee will be in good hands. I can therefore retire with an easy conscience, the more so since I gather from the statements made at this meeting that I have earned your confidence, friendship and esteem. I shall treasure your heartwarming feelings.

Organization of work

152. The PRESIDENT (translated from Spanish): Before adjourning this meeting, I should like to make a short statement about the organization of our work.

153. To speed up the work in the Committees and to enable them to make as much headway as possible with their consideration of the various items before them, there will be no plenary meetings for the rest of this week, and next week there will be only two: one, on Monday 11 November at 3 p.m. and the other on Wednesday 13 November in the morning.

154. At the afternoon meeting on Monday 11 November, which will be our next plenary meeting, we will deal with the following items: the report of the Second Committee on item 12, the discussion of which was postponed earlier, as you will recall; the report of the Special Political Committee on item 31, and item 25.

155. At Monday's meeting, I will announce the items to be taken up at the subsequent plenary meetings; but for information, and to enable representatives to prepare their work, I think that at the plenary meeting on 13 November, we shall probably deal with the following topics: the report of the Sixth Committee on item 69; the report of the Sixth Committee on item 70;

the report of the Third Committee on the social and human rights sections of item 12; the report of the Third Committee on item 43; and the reports of the Third and Fifth Committees on the part of item 12

relating to a session of the Commission on Human Rights in 1964.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.