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**President: Mr. Muhammad ZAFRULLA KHAN
(Pakistan).**

AGENDA ITEM 12

**Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapter VII,
section III) (continued)**

1. The PRESIDENT: Before taking up the other items on the agenda for this afternoon and if there is no objection, I would like to call upon the representative of Sweden, who wishes to make a statement in connexion with the Assembly's consideration, at our last meeting, of agenda item 12 (Report of the Economic and Social Council).
2. Mr. AMAN (Sweden): With the President's kind permission, I should like to make a short statement relating to section III of chapter VII of the report [A/5203] of the Economic and Social Council referring to resolution 912 (XXXIV) adopted by the Economic and Social Council on international co-operation in the field of seismological research. The objective of this resolution is to call upon our assistance in strengthening the watch against the recurring scourge of earthquakes. The collaboration of UNESCO and WMO in preparing the report^{1/} on seismology and earthquake engineering has proved to be very fruitful. Not least, the annexes to the report on the seismological survey missions to South-East Asia, South America, the Mediterranean and the Middle East, make very interesting reading indeed. The whole documentation demonstrates the facility with which our inter-governmental organizations can move to enlist the co-operation of scientific experts for important international tasks across all kinds of frontiers, physical and political alike.
3. When the Swedish delegation asks to speak in this context it is, however, not directly in order to underline the value of the resolution in connexion with the problem of earthquakes. What has moved us is rather the need to point out how eminently important and, in fact, very appropriate, these recommendations are also from the point of view of another set of interests which have been by far more dominant in this Assembly's debates and actions, namely to strengthen the watch against man-made nuclear explosions.
4. During all the four years of discussions about a nuclear test ban, the problem of monitoring possible clandestine tests has been in the foreground. When the nuclear Powers are now of one and the same view that no special international control arrangements are necessary in relation to possible tests in the atmosphere, underwater and in outer space, it leaves the residue of problematics concentrated on underground tests. And for detection and identification of under-

^{1/} Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-fourth Session, Annexes, agenda item 14 (c), document E/3617 and Add.1.

ground tests, the seismological recordings are of cardinal importance. What we have been looking for in the debates on the suspension of nuclear tests at Geneva and in the First Committee at this session of the General Assembly is being offered to us in the report and the recommendations in the resolution just mentioned.

5. At one time the nuclear Powers were even agreed on setting up a separate monitoring system at the astronomical cost of \$2,500 million in initial outlay and a running cost of \$500 million annually; Sweden and the other non-aligned countries at the Geneva Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament have persistently held that we should instead rely on the normal exchange of data, motivated by scientific fervour and unhampered by political sideglances. And here it is, I need only quote from operative paragraph 3 of Economic and Social Council resolution 912 (XXXIV), which "Requests the Secretary-General and invites the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Meteorological Organization and other agencies concerned to continue to promote actively international co-operation in the study of the origin and mechanism of earthquakes...".

6. If we go to the more detailed and constructive recommendations in the report, of which the resolution "takes note with appreciation", we find *inter alia* that UNESCO should assist scientific groups, "in the planning and organization of an international seismological centre and of subsidiary regional centres for the collection, analysis and diffusion of seismological data".^{2/}

7. This is exactly the kind of scientific base organization we have been clamouring for when blue-printing the international test monitoring system. It even points to the actual crossroads, where we can bring the two sets of interests to meet and join in planning improvement in the services, namely, at an international inter-governmental conference on the subject, which UNESCO is asked to convene in 1963 or 1964. From the point of view of the politically most imperative of our interests in seismological development, namely, that of monitoring a test ban, it should be highly welcomed that this conference meet sooner rather than later.

8. The support for this resolution implies positive action on our part in other inter-governmental organizations of which we are members. It does, above this, make even more definite calls on us.

9. Among other things, the report recommends that for "Member States which may have difficulties in modernizing their seismological services so as to complete the global coverage by such stations, technical assistance should be made available, in multilateral or bilateral form "to assist Member States, on their request, in their efforts to increase the number and improve the quality of their seismological observatories, as part of the general endeavour to establish a satisfactory world-wide network of such observatories".^{3/}

10. If this is conscientiously carried out, a task in which even the Special Fund may be called upon to help, we will be able to remove this matter once and for all from the cleavage between one system for science and one for "policing" to the realm of free, united, international scientific co-operation.

11. It should not be overlooked that operative paragraph 1 of the resolution also issues a call to all of us

nationally to proceed to the perfecting of our services for seismological observations. In the report this is spelled out to include, among other duties, the one to "facilitate the use of modern means of communication to speed up the exchange of seismological data between individual observatories and the international and regional centres for data analysis, as well as between observatories in different countries".^{4/}

12. The Swedish delegation has seen it appropriate, not to say imperative, to draw the attention of all delegations to the very timely and important recommendations in this resolution, as part of a truly international, objective, co-operative effort to handle not only the problem of earthquakes but, in the same stroke, one of the most burning political issues of our day.

AGENDA ITEM 60

Financial reports and accounts for the financial year ended 31 December 1961, 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/5288)

AGENDA ITEM 66

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) Investments Committee: confirmation of the appointments made by the Secretary-General;
- (e) United Nations Administrative Tribunal;
- (f) United Nations Staff Pension Committee

REPORTS OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/5291, A/5292, A/5293, A/5294, A/5295, A/5296)

AGENDA ITEM 62

Budget estimates for the financial year 1963 (continued)*

INTEGRATED PROGRAMME AND BUDGET POLICY

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/5328)

MAJOR MAINTENANCE AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AT UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/5334)

COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE SYSTEM OF PAYMENT FROM UNITED NATIONS FUNDS OF TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE EXPENSES IN RESPECT OF MEMBERS OF ORGANS AND SUBSIDIARY ORGANS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/5327)

^{2/} *Ibid.*, document E/3617, chap. IX.

^{3/} *Ibid.*

^{4/} *Ibid.*

*Resumed from the 1174th meeting.

) AGENDA ITEM 71

Report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board

REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/5329)

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

13. Mr. QUAO (Ghana), Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee: I have the honour to present to the General Assembly eleven reports of the Fifth Committee, covering four agenda items. I venture to introduce these reports collectively in order to save the time of the Assembly and also because many of them are of a non-controversial character: for example, the six reports under item 66 [A/5291, A/5292, A/5293, A/5294, A/5295, A/5296] dealing with appointments to fill vacancies in the membership of subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly.

14. The report on item 60 [A/5288] records the principal points that were raised in the Fifth Committee on the several financial reports and accounts for the financial year ended 31 December 1961. It is, I hope, self-explanatory.

15. As regards item 62, the Fifth Committee presents three reports. In the report relating to the integrated programme and budget policy [A/5328] you will find a draft resolution which reflects the concern which the Fifth Committee has felt for very many years over what it regards as the absence of an adequately strict system of priorities in the sphere of economic and social activities. The Committee is, of course, well aware that its concern is fully shared by the Economic and Social Council, which adopted at its thirty-fourth session two resolutions on this particular subject—resolutions 909 (XXXIV) and 920 (XXXIV).

16. The second report concerns major maintenance and capital improvement at United Nations Headquarters [A/5334] and deals with a matter which directly concerns every delegation in the United Nations, for it affects the conditions under which the work of the General Assembly, whether in plenary meeting or in main committees, is to be carried out. The recommendations of the Fifth Committee have necessarily had to take account of the serious financial situation of the United Nations. The physical arrangements which the Committee has accordingly submitted for your approval are those which it considers reasonable in present circumstances, rather than those which ideally it would have wished to recommend.

17. As regards the third report on item 62, concerning the travel and subsistence expenses of members of organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations [A/5327], it calls, I think, for little comment. The draft resolution is largely based on a comprehensive review which the Secretary-General undertook during this year. It is intended to revise a resolution which dates back to 1956 and which has become obsolete in certain respects.

18. Finally, the draft resolution regarding item 71 [A/5329] incorporates amendments proposed by the Joint Staff Pension Board, in which both the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee have concurred.

19. I hope that the members of the General Assembly will approve these reports and the draft resolutions recommended by the Fifth Committee.

20. The PRESIDENT: Does any representative wish to explain his vote on any of the recommendations of the Fifth Committee in connexion with any of these items?

21. The General Assembly will now proceed to take a decision on the various proposals beginning with the four draft resolutions contained in the report on agenda item 60 (a) to (d) [A/5288]. If there is no request for a vote, I shall consider draft resolution I as adopted by the General Assembly.

Draft resolution I was adopted.

22. The PRESIDENT: Draft resolution II was adopted without objection in the Fifth Committee. In the absence of any objection, I shall take it that the General Assembly also adopts draft resolution II.

Draft resolution II was adopted.

23. The PRESIDENT: In the absence of any objection regarding draft resolution III, which was recommended for adoption by the Fifth Committee, I shall take it that it is also adopted by the General Assembly.

Draft resolution III was adopted.

24. The PRESIDENT: If there is no objection regarding draft resolution IV, I shall consider it as adopted by the General Assembly.

Draft resolution IV was adopted.

25. The PRESIDENT: We shall now consider agenda item 66, on which the Fifth Committee has submitted six reports corresponding to sub-items (a) to (f), and each containing a draft resolution. I shall first invite the Assembly to take a decision on the draft resolution contained in the report on agenda item 66 (a) [A/5291]. In the absence of any objection, I shall take it that the General Assembly adopts the draft resolution.

The draft resolution was adopted.

26. The PRESIDENT: I now invite the Assembly to take a decision on the draft resolution contained in the report on agenda item 66 (b) [A/5292]. In the absence of any objection, I shall take it that the General Assembly adopts the draft resolution.

The draft resolution was adopted.

27. The PRESIDENT: I now invite the Assembly to take a decision on the draft resolution contained in the report on agenda item 66 (c) [A/5293]. In the absence of any objection, I shall take it that the General Assembly adopts the draft resolution.

The draft resolution was adopted.

28. The PRESIDENT: I now invite the Assembly to take a decision on the draft resolution contained in the report on agenda item 66 (d) [A/5294]. In the absence of any objection, I shall take it that the General Assembly adopts the draft resolution.

The draft resolution was adopted.

29. The PRESIDENT: I now invite the Assembly to take a decision on the draft resolution contained in the report on agenda item 66 (e) [A/5295]. In the absence of any objection, I shall take it that the General Assembly adopts the draft resolution.

The draft resolution was adopted.

30. The PRESIDENT: I now invite the Assembly to take a decision on the draft resolution contained in the report on agenda item 66 (f) [A/5296]. In the absence of any objection, I shall take it that the General Assembly adopts the draft resolution.

The draft resolution was adopted.

31. The PRESIDENT: The next report of the Fifth Committee [A/5238] relating to the integrated programme and budget policy, under agenda item 62, contains a draft resolution which was unanimously adopted by the Fifth Committee. If there are no objections, I shall take it that the General Assembly also wishes to adopt it unanimously.

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

32. The PRESIDENT: Also on item 62, the Fifth Committee presents a report concerning major maintenance and capital improvement at United Nations Headquarters [A/5334]. The Members of the Assembly will note that the recommendation contained in subparagraph 8 (a) was adopted unanimously by the Committee, and the various projects referred to in subparagraphs 8 (b) (i), (ii) and (iii) were unanimously recommended in principle by the Committee. If there are no objections, I shall take it that the General Assembly also adopts these recommendations unanimously.

The recommendations were adopted unanimously.

33. The PRESIDENT: I will now put to the vote the recommendation in principle of the Fifth Committee contained in sub-paragraph 8 (b) (iv) of the same report.

The recommendation was adopted by 88 votes to none.

34. The PRESIDENT: I now put to the vote the recommendation in principle of the Fifth Committee in respect of the project referred to in sub-paragraph 8 (c) of the same report.

The recommendation was adopted by 77 votes to 11.

35. The PRESIDENT: The next report of the Fifth Committee on item 62 relates to a comprehensive review of the system of payment from United Nations funds of travel and subsistence expenses in respect of members of organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations [A/5327]. I will now put to the vote the recommendation of the Fifth Committee contained in the report.

The recommendation was adopted by 86 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

36. The PRESIDENT: The last report of the Fifth Committee on which we must now take a decision relates to agenda item 71 [A/5329]. The draft resolution which is recommended was adopted in the Committee without objection. If no one wishes to speak, I shall take it that the General Assembly also adopts the draft resolution without objection.

The draft resolution was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 88

Question of boundaries between Venezuela and the territory of British Guiana

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE
(A/5313)

37. Mr LANNUNG (Denmark), Rapporteur of the Special Political Committee: I have the honour to present to the General Assembly the report of the Special Political Committee [A/5313] on agenda item 88. The question was inscribed on the agenda of the seventeenth session pursuant to a request submitted by

the Government of Venezuela on 18 August 1962 and was allocated by the General Assembly to the Special Political Committee for consideration and report.

38. The Committee took up the examination of the question on 12 November when it heard a full explanation of Venezuela's claim in a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Venezuela. On the following day the position of the Government of the United Kingdom on the matter was fully set forth by the representative of the United Kingdom. The Committee's discussions were then suspended for a few days during which the interested parties and the Chairman of the Special Political Committee held consultations in an endeavour to reach an understanding on the matter. It is to the credit of all concerned that, thanks to the exercise of restraint and high statesmanship, the Committee was informed that the Governments of the United Kingdom and Venezuela had agreed—the first of those Governments acting with the full concurrence of the Government of British Guiana—that the three Governments should examine jointly the documentary material available to all parties relevant to this question.

39. Accordingly, as indicated in its report, the Committee has no recommendation to make on the item to the General Assembly.

40. The PRESIDENT: I take it that it is not the wish of the General Assembly to discuss the report and, since the Committee adjourned its consideration of this item without making any recommendation to the Assembly, I would suggest that the Assembly's action be limited to taking note of the report.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 79

Question of Oman

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE
(A/5325)

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

41. Mr. LANNUNG (Denmark), Rapporteur of the Special Political Committee: I have the honour to present to the General Assembly the report of the Special Political Committee [A/5325] on agenda item 79. The question was inscribed on the agenda of the seventeenth session at the request of eleven Arab States and was allocated to the Special Political Committee for consideration and report. The Committee devoted seven meetings to the discussion of the item, hearing thirty statements in the course of the general debate and granting a hearing to Prince Talib bin Ali Al-Hanai, at the request of the Arab representatives. A telegram dated 25 October 1962 from the Sultan of Muscat and Oman was circulated at the request of the representative of the United Kingdom.

42. The draft resolution which the Special Political Committee has recommended is now before the General Assembly.

43. The PRESIDENT: Interventions will be limited to explanations of vote.

44. Mr. CROWE (United Kingdom): My delegation will vote against the draft resolution which is before us. Our reasons for doing so are well known; they were made clear in the Committee and I do not need to repeat them here.

45. There is one additional reason why my delegation believes that it is right to vote against this draft resolution. It will be recalled that a number of delegations, in the debate in the Special Political Committee, expressed some misgivings about voting on a draft resolution on this subject because they felt that they did not have sufficient facts or information from an independent source on which they could form a balanced judgement on the subject. My Government has conveyed the views expressed in the debate to the Government of the Sultanate of Muscat and Oman. I am now authorized to state, on behalf of the Sultan of Muscat and Oman, that, while preserving his position, which has already been conveyed by his telegram to you, Mr. President, he does not recognize the right of the General Assembly to discuss the internal affairs of his country and, on the understanding that the General Assembly does not take any formal action at this stage, he is prepared to invite on a personal basis a representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to visit the Sultanate during the coming year to obtain first-hand information as to the situation there.

46. In view of this offer, I trust that the General Assembly will not seek to prejudge the issue at this stage by adopting the present draft resolution.

Mr. Rifa'i (Jordan), Vice-President, took the Chair.

47. Mr. ZOLLNER (Dahomey) (translated from French): My delegation has decided to take the floor at this stage of the debate to explain its vote, it is true, but mainly to express, in all good faith, its perplexity and concern now that the General Assembly is about to settle finally, for this session, the delicate problem of Oman. We were already perplexed when the debate on the question opened, at the sixteenth session, in fact, the General Assembly adjourned without having taken a decision on the problem. In the Special Political Committee we heard the various parties concerned expressing their views and now in the plenary meetings of the General Assembly we are still in the same state of uncertainty as we were at the beginning. Moreover, we are concerned because each delegation here present will have to take a stand on the question and throughout the debate hitherto we have only heard two points of view, which are radically opposed to each other.

48. For this reason, my delegation—without in any way prejudging the result of the vote—would like to state that it may have some specific proposals to make.

49. With regard to the draft resolution which the Special Political Committee is recommending for adoption [A/5325], my delegation, which is in favour of self-determination, does not think that the information available to the Committee was such as to enable it, however sympathetically it viewed the struggle of the people of Oman to recover their independence, to take a decision at that stage. My delegation will accordingly abstain from voting on the last paragraph of the preamble and on operative paragraphs 1 and 2. But it will vote in favour of operative paragraph 3, on which it requests a separate vote, as it thinks that a peaceful settlement of the question is the best means of achieving a lasting solution.

50. Mr. NAYERI (Iran) (translated from French): My delegation did not take part in the general debate on the question of Oman in the Special Political Committee at this session because there was no new evidence and no further developments. Apart from a minor change affecting the form rather than the substance, the draft resolution submitted this year to the Committee and

now to the General Assembly is identical with the one the Assembly was asked to adopt at the sixteenth session. My delegation's position in the Committee at this session being the same as it was at the last, we see no reason to depart from it at this plenary meeting of the General Assembly.

51. We are, however, confronted with a new factor which might represent an important advance towards the settlement of the problem with which we are now concerned. I refer to the statement just made by the United Kingdom representative informing the Assembly that the Sultan of Muscat and Oman is prepared to invite a representative of the Secretary-General to visit the area to obtain first-hand information and to report to the Members of the General Assembly.

52. A rather similar suggestion was made in the Special Political Committee at the sixteenth session, but found no support.

53. In the opinion of my delegation, the United Kingdom representative's statement, which we have just noted, may constitute a new step forward in the process of settling the question of Oman. Consequently, in the present state of affairs and in view of this new development, my delegation thinks that it might be appropriate not to make a final decision at this session on the draft resolution as a whole. It will therefore abstain.

54. Nevertheless, I wish to make it clear that my delegation's attitude to the various paragraphs of the preamble and of the operative part remains exactly the same as we defined it during the debates in the Committee.

55. Lastly, we should like to express the hope that the question will be settled in the near future to the satisfaction of the parties concerned.

56. Mr. PAPANOS (Greece) (translated from French): The Greek delegation explained in the Special Political Committee its reasons for abstaining in the debate and the vote on the question of Oman. We did so mainly because, in our opinion, the situation in Oman is rather confused and does not lend itself to an objective decision.

57. After the statement made by the United Kingdom representative we think that there is a new development to be taken into consideration in the discussion of this question and that the Assembly would be better advised not to take a decision which might interfere with this development. Indeed, we attach considerable importance to impartial first-hand information, and we feel that nothing should be left undone to obtain it. While this new factor might have been considered earlier, it is not too late even now to adopt an attitude which will help us take an enlightened view of the question of Oman and possibly reach constructive conclusions.

58. Mr. BERNSTEIN (Chile) (translated from Spanish): The delegation of Chile will abstain from voting on the draft resolution on the question of Oman for the reasons stated in the general debate in the Special Political Committee [355th meeting] which it seems pointless to repeat here. At that time we thought, in the light of the debates in the Committee, that there were many unknown factors and that the completely contradictory and widely divergent information which came to light in the course of the discussion made it impossible to adopt a clear and precise position either in favour of or against the only draft resolution which was submitted. We expressed our wish that, in a matter which was of importance to delegations with which our relations are

friendly, the General Assembly could have objective information which would make it possible to form a correct opinion on the situation in Oman.

59. This afternoon we heard the United Kingdom representative state on behalf of the Sultan of Muscat and Oman his intention of inviting a representative of the Secretary-General to visit the area to obtain first-hand information as to the situation there. We welcome this approach, which will help us to reach a more informed decision if the question of Oman is raised again or becomes more acute. We think that this represents a step forward and a very useful and timely one. We regret that the Sultan's decision was not announced in the Special Political Committee and that it was not transmitted to us until today—which is a little late—in the General Assembly. It has not affected our decision to abstain. But if this information had been available before, the debates in the Committee might have taken another turn and an appropriate solution might have been found.

60. Mr. KURAL (Turkey) (translated from French): We have been discussing the question of Oman for two years and my delegation has always felt compelled to abstain from taking part in the debates and votes on the draft resolutions submitted because we lacked the information necessary to throw light on this somewhat confused problem.

61. The statement which the United Kingdom representative has just made provides an opportunity of remedying this deficiency, and we hope we shall be able to obtain the information we need.

62. Consequently, my delegation will vote against the draft resolution submitted to the General Assembly by the Special Political Committee, because we think we should be able to take advantage of this new development in order to view the problem more clearly in the future.

Mr. Muhammad Zafrulla Khan (Pakistan) resumed the Chair.

63. The PRESIDENT: The General Assembly will now vote on the draft resolution recommended by the Special Political Committee in its report [A/5325]. A separate vote has been requested on each of the three operative paragraphs. Therefore, I shall put to the vote first the preamble:

The result of the vote was 39 in favour, 23 against and 29 abstentions.

The preamble was not adopted, having failed to obtain the required two-thirds majority.

64. The PRESIDENT: A roll-call vote is requested for each of the operative paragraphs. I will now put operative paragraph 1 to the vote.

A vote was taken by roll-call.

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

In favour: Guinea, Hungary, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Niger, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia.

Against: Finland, France, Gabon, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark.

Abstaining: Ghana, Greece, Honduras, India, Iran, Ivory Coast, Laos, Liberia, Madagascar, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Thailand, Togo, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Austria, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Burundi, Central African Republic, Ceylon, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo (Leopoldville), Costa Rica, Dahomey, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya.

The result of the vote was 36 in favour, 25 against and 38 abstentions.

Operative paragraph 1 was not adopted, having failed to obtain the required two-thirds majority.

65. The PRESIDENT: I will now put operative paragraph 2 to the vote.

A vote was taken by roll-call.

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

In favour: Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cambodia, Ceylon, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, Guinea, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Laos, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan.

Against: Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Gabon, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Peru.

Abstaining: Sierra Leone, Thailand, Togo, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Argentina, Brazil, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo (Leopoldville), Costa Rica, Dahomey, Ecuador, Federation of Malaya, Ghana, Greece, Honduras, India, Israel, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Madagascar, Mexico, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines.

The result of the vote was 40 in favour, 26 against and 31 abstentions.

Operative paragraph 2 was not adopted, having failed to obtain the required two-thirds majority.

66. The PRESIDENT: I will now put operative paragraph 3 to the vote.

A vote was taken by roll-call.

The United Arab Republic, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: United Arab Republic, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Brazil, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Ceylon, China, Congo (Leopoldville), Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, Ecuador, Ghana, Guinea, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Against: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Gabon, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Turkey.

Abstaining: Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Argentina, Burma, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, Greece, Honduras, India, Israel, Ivory Coast, Laos, Liberia, Mexico, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Thailand, Togo, Uganda.

The result of the vote was 44 in favour, 23 against, and 30 abstentions.

Operative paragraph 3 was not adopted, having failed to obtain the required two-thirds majority.

67. The PRESIDENT: The draft resolution is not adopted.* I call upon the representatives who wish to explain their votes.

68. Mr. FUKUSHIMA (Japan): During the meetings of the Special Political Committee on the question of Oman, in the view of the delegation of Japan, there was not enough agreement on the facts and events to afford a basis for a clear-cut decision. This was the main reason why my delegation abstained on the draft resolution in the Committee.

69. Prior to the voting at this meeting the representative of the United Kingdom made a statement. If this statement is properly implemented, the United Nations will be provided with an opportunity to approach this problem in a more advantageous perspective. If it is at all possible to gain more objective and realistic information on the subject, my delegation considers it advisable that the General Assembly should wait at least for another year before taking any action on this question. We believe that it would be wise to take advantage of this opportunity to obtain such information through a representative of the Secretary-General to be invited to the territory in question.

70. Having these new elements and factors in mind, my delegation voted against the draft resolution. We should like our vote to be construed as a constructive step forward in the path towards a fair and equitable solution of this problem. In other words, by casting a negative vote, we have, in effect, voted for an alternative to the draft resolution which we felt would hold promise of a more positive approach. At the same time, however, we do not wish our negative vote on the draft resolution to be interpreted as taking a position, one way or another, on the substance, or the merits or demerits of the draft resolution.

71. It is our earnest hope that the Government of the United Kingdom will exert its good offices to have the Sultan's invitation for the Secretary-General's representative to proceed to Oman realized as soon as possible.

72. Mr. GUDENUS (Austria): The Austrian delegation had made a very careful analysis of the debate in the Special Political Committee on the question of Oman. The information submitted to the Special Political Committee on this question did not seem sufficient to enable our delegation to reach a fair judgement on the merits of the question and on how it could best be re-

solved. For this reason, the Austrian delegation voted in the Special Political Committee against the third paragraph of the preamble of the draft resolution but abstained from voting on the operative part and on the draft resolution as a whole.

73. After the voting in the Special Political Committee, efforts were made to find a new approach to obtain the necessary information through an independent source. We note with satisfaction, from the statement made by the representative of the United Kingdom, that these efforts have resulted in an invitation which is to be extended by the Sultan of Muscat and Oman to a representative of the Secretary-General. We believe that such an approach will provide a new element that might facilitate the solution of the question.

74. Therefore, in these circumstances the Austrian delegation, believing that any premature action would endanger these efforts, and after careful consideration, decided to vote against the draft resolution submitted by the Special Political Committee.

75. Mr. GOMEZ ROBLEDO (Mexico) (translated from Spanish): We felt compelled to abstain from voting on the draft resolution as a whole and on each of the paragraphs, not because Mexico has in any way departed from its firm anti-colonialist policy, but simply for lack of information. Without a trustworthy report from an impartial third party, the case is one of impenetrable complexity. We cannot remedy this, at least in my delegation's view, simply by analysing the agreement or treaty of Sib, of which the parties concerned—for whom we have great respect and with whose friendship we are honoured—are presenting two mutually contradictory interpretations.

76. This is certainly another case where it may be seen that legal or political texts only acquire their full meaning, and accordingly their correct interpretation, within their proper historical and sociological context. Now this context is just what we have not yet been able to see clearly enough to enable us to decide in favour of one or the other interpretation.

77. For all these reasons, and because we do not feel convinced that there is any basis for the assumptions underlying the draft resolution, upon which we have just voted, we thought that it was our duty to abstain. On such a serious matter, to have voted for or against would have seemed irresponsible.

78. Mr. GARCIA DEL SOLAR (Argentina) (translated from Spanish): We were extremely pleased to hear the statement made by the representative of the United Kingdom before the vote, announcing that the Sultan of Muscat and Oman had invited a representative appointed by the United Nations to visit the territory under his jurisdiction. We regret that the suggestion came too late to be given full consideration. But we are very glad that the proposal made by the Sultan of Muscat and Oman is in line with a suggestion made in the Special Political Committee by two Latin American representatives, the representatives of Chile and Peru, for the purpose of obtaining clearer and more direct knowledge than we now have about the situation in that territory.

79. We hope, particularly now that the draft resolution has been rejected, that the proposal of the Sultan of Muscat and Oman will be put into effect and hence that, if the item is again brought before the United Nations at a later session, it will be discussed in the light of new evidence, of information less conflicting and

*The representative of Bulgaria, who was absent at the time of the voting, subsequently informed the Secretariat that, had he been present, he would have voted in favour.

obscure than that which compelled us to abstain from voting on this occasion. Only thus can Member States, who are required to consider the question of Oman with an open mind, make any useful contribution towards achieving what should be our fundamental purpose: to prevent the question of Oman from becoming an additional source of tension in the Middle East, and disturb the peace of that region.

Statement by the President

80. The PRESIDENT: This concludes consideration of the last item on the agenda for this afternoon. I would

like, however, to announce that the report of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament, which the General Assembly in its resolution 1762 A (XVII) requested by 10 December 1962, was received yesterday from Geneva. Voluminous documentation is annexed to the report, and because of this it will take some time before the report is circulated. At this point I wish to place on record the fact that the report was received on time.

The meeting rose at 4.40 p.m.