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**President: Mr. Mongi SLIM (Tunisia).**

**Appointment of an acting Secretary-General of the United Nations**

1. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): This morning's Journal of the United Nations announced that the agenda for this meeting would be altered to give priority to any recommendation that the Security Council might make following its meeting this morning.

2. The General Assembly now has before it the following communication, dated 3 November 1961, from the President of the Security Council to the President of the General Assembly [A/4953]:

"I have the honour to inform you that the Security Council, at its 972nd meeting held in private on 3 November 1961, adopted the following resolution:

" 'The Security Council,

" 'Having considered the problem of filling the office of the Secretary-General for the term fixed by the General Assembly, expiring 10 April 1963,

" 'Recommends that the General Assembly appoint Ambassador U Thant as acting Secretary-General of the United Nations for the unexpired portion of the term previously fixed by the General Assembly'."

3. In this connexion, the General Assembly has before it a draft resolution submitted jointly by Ceylon, Liberia and the United Arab Republic [A/L.362]. I call on the representative of Ceylon to introduce this draft resolution.

4. Mr. MALALASEKERA (Ceylon): The Organization was thrown into a state of confusion and deep crisis when, on the eve of the commencement of this session, the tragic news came to us of the death of Dag Hammarskjöld, the late Secretary-General. Not only was the tragedy in itself the cause of great anguish and bewilderment, but also deep down there was among all of us a feeling that the United Nations was faced with a situation of unmitigated crisis, to emerge from which statesmanship and wisdom of the highest order were required.

5. Thus, although during all the days since that event we have gone about our business without allowing that business to be disturbed, we have never lost sight of the critical behind-the-scenes negotiations which were

going on regarding the succession to the office of the Secretary-General.

6. It is a matter of great gratification, therefore to me and to the co-sponsors of the draft resolution before us, to be able to say that after several weeks of consultation a very happy solution has been reached. At this morning's meeting of the Security Council, a unanimous decision was arrived at to recommend to the General Assembly the nomination of His Excellency U Thant, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Burma, for appointment as Acting Secretary-General of this Organization.

7. I am sure that I am not giving away any secrets when I say that it is not often that the Security Council arrives at decisions without prolonged debate. At this morning's meeting, however, not only was there no debate at all and the decision unanimous, but the decision was followed by universal acclaim. This was very largely due to the fact that the qualifications of His Excellency U Thant to the post for which he was nominated were never in doubt. The only point at issue—the manner of his appointment—the procedure to be followed; this too has now been happily solved. It should therefore be for all of us an occasion for great rejoicing.

8. I do not consider it necessary to speak at length on the career of U Thant as scholar, journalist, diplomat, writer, historian and statesman because the facts about him have been widely publicized since his name was first mentioned as a probable candidate for the exalted position of Secretary-General of the United Nations. But I should like, with your permission, to say a few words about the man himself without any attempt to make invidious comparisons. In an age where strength is often equated with the booming voice and the bouncing fist, with aggressiveness and self-assertion, with publicity and drama, U Thant displays a strength of a different kind, the strength of quiet dignity. He combines in himself in a remarkable way the strength of the strong man with that of the diplomat who believes in consultation with others. His is not the strength of a superman but the strength which comes through co-operation with others, which he is able to get because he has the courage to seek advice from others, while at the same time having the capability of making his own decisions and sticking to them. U Thant is a man who is gentle, unobtrusive, soft-spoken and almost self-effacing.

9. His early education was many-sided and his distinguished service in his own country as educator and national executive in Press and radio and later as the chief adviser to his Government in practically all the prominent international conferences, including the conferences at Bandung and Belgrade—all these things have eminently qualified him to be the international diplomat and the first citizen of the world. The qualities of head and heart which distinguish him, however, have been derived very largely from the traditions of

Buddhism in which he was nurtured. In him the legacy of Buddhism is entwined with the practical qualities of the active politician. Buddhism, with its freedom from fanaticism and dogma, has given him tolerance and serenity and the quality of forbearance, the feeling of abhorrence of all forms of violence, whether in deed or word or thought. It has also endowed him with overwhelming faith in the mighty forces latent in the calm spirit of man. It has inculcated in him, above all, a deep, abiding respect for man, for all men, for according to the teachings of his Master, every man is a potential Buddha. Buddhism has also taught him that war, all war, is folly and insanity, that it solves no problems, and that the only worth-while disarmament is the disarmament of the human mind.

10. When we proposed the nomination of U Thant as Secretary-General, we were not sponsoring something in the nature of an experiment. U Thant knows this House and this House knows him. He has been, as it were, born of the loins of the United Nations and cradled in the procedures and activities of this world Organization. His is a personality well known not only in his own country and in this Assembly, but also in many assemblies of the world.

11. The recommendation of the Security Council brings to an end the period of crisis and uncertainty which, as I said earlier, followed the death of the late Secretary-General. We have, as it were, come a long way since then and our Organization has been strengthened by the decision which has been taken. I think it my duty to congratulate all those concerned that, despite the critical conflicts of views on the question of the Secretary-General, they should have been able to come to an agreement on the succession. Here is proof, if proof were needed, that given earnestness and goodwill and a determination to place the interests of humanity and the welfare of mankind above partisan or parochial interests, problems which may appear to defy solution can and must be solved. Failure to do so would only be a confession of our own weakness and our own inadequacy. That is one point over which we might reflect a little.

12. Another point, if I may be permitted to mention it, is that once more a comparatively small nation has been able to produce a man who has been found capable of meeting the situation facing the world Organization.

13. I do not wish to say too much. On behalf of the sponsors of this draft resolution and on behalf of my own Government, I commend this draft resolution to the Assembly with the certainty and the appeal that it should receive overwhelming and unanimous endorsement.

14. We have survived a crisis triumphantly. We shall now have a Secretary-General of our Organization so that no more will the emptiness of a vacant chair make us feel deep anxiety as to the future of our Organization. Let us extend to him our utmost cooperation, our fervent good wishes and our sincerest prayers that he will be equal to the great tasks that will face him.

15. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I now call on the General Assembly to vote on the draft resolution submitted by Ceylon, Liberia and the United Arab Republic [A/L.362]. This draft resolution expresses the substance of the Security Council's recommendation that His Excellency U Thant should be appointed Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations for a term of office expiring on 10 April 1963.

16. In accordance with rule 142 of the rules of procedure, the vote on the draft resolution [A/L.362] will be by secret ballot.

*A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

*At the invitation of the President, Mr. Penteadó (Brazil) and Mr. Caimerom Measkeh (Cambodia) acted as tellers.*

*The result of the voting was as follows:*

<i>In favour</i> . . . . .	123
<i>Against</i> . . . . .	0

*The draft resolution was adopted.*

17. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): The resolution has been adopted unanimously. I accordingly declare that His Excellency U Thant has been appointed Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations by the General Assembly, for a term of office expiring on 10 April 1963.

18. We shall now proceed with the ceremony of installing the Acting Secretary-General. Before doing so, I must inform the Assembly that I have a long list of speakers who have asked for the floor. I appeal to all delegations to keep this list as short as possible and to have only a number of speakers representing bodies of opinion, groupings or regions.

#### Installation of the Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations

*The President of the Security Council, Mr. V. Zorin, the President of the Economic and Social Council, Mr. F. Shanahan, the President of the Trusteeship Council, U Tin Maung, the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly, Mr. Liu Chieh, Mr. Z. Rossides, Mr. Gonzalo Ortiz Martin, Mr. A. Stevenson, Mr. Armand Bérard, Mr. A. Guaison-Sackey, Mr. P. Pipinelis, Mr. Luis Padilla Nervo, Mr. Issoufou Saidou Djermakoye, Mr. C. W. A. Schurmann, Sir Patrick Dean and Mr. Jiří Nosek, and the Chairmen of the Main Committees, Mr. Mario Amadeo, Mr. Yordan Tchobanov, Mr. Blasco Lanza d'Ajeta, Mr. Salvador P. Lopez, Miss Angie Brooks, Mr. Hermod Lannung and Mr. César Quintero, took places on the platform.*

*Mr. Jehan de Noue, Chief of Protocol, conducted U Thant to the platform.*

19. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): Your Excellency, I have the honour to inform you that the General Assembly has appointed you Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations for a term of office expiring on 10 April 1963.

20. I ask His Excellency U Thant to repeat after me the oath of office.

21. U THANT: I, U Thant, solemnly swear to exercise in all loyalty, discretion and conscience the functions entrusted to me as Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations, to discharge these functions and regulate my conduct with the interests of the United Nations only in view, and not to seek or accept instructions in regard to the performance of my duties from any government or other authority external to the Organization.

*The President and U Thant, the Acting Secretary-General, took their places on the podium.*

22. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): Mr. Secretary-General, it is for me a great honour and a great pleasure to be the first to congratulate you

most warmly on the confidence that the General Assembly has just placed in you in appointing you to the high office of Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations.

23. The important functions defined by the Charter which are now entrusted to you carry with them heavy responsibilities. I have every confidence that you will be able to perform those functions with courage, probity and complete impartiality, divesting yourself of your personal tasks in order to devote yourself exclusively, as senior international civil servant, to the great work of the United Nations, and that you will worthily fill the great vacuum left by your lamented predecessor, with all the authority with which the Charter invests your high office. It is my hope that in this you will be able to count on the co-operation of all Members of the United Nations.

24. I now invite His Excellency U Thant to make his first statement as Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations.

25. The ACTING SECRETARY-GENERAL: Speaking for the first time in this hall, not in my familiar role as the representative of Burma but in the new role of Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations, my first thought is to thank my fellow representatives for the honour they have done me and the confidence that they have placed in me in electing me to this high office. May I at the same time thank the President for his very gracious words of welcome, and also the President and members of the Security Council for unanimously recommending my name to the General Assembly for election as Acting Secretary-General.

26. Most of my colleagues present in this hall know me personally. They know that I come from a relatively small country in Asia. They know also that my country has steadfastly pursued over the years a policy of non-alignment and friendship for all other nations, whatever their ideologies. In my new role I shall continue to maintain this attitude of objectivity and to pursue the ideal of universal friendship.

27. Having been the Permanent Representative of my country to the United Nations for the last four years and more, I am not unaware of the heavy responsibilities I am undertaking today. The debates in the General Assembly have already shown that the international climate can hardly be described as sunny. The Organization is also facing a serious financial problem. In the Congo operation, which is one of the major undertakings in the history of the Organization, we continue to encounter serious difficulties which clamour for an urgent solution.

28. If I am to discharge these responsibilities, surmount these difficulties and resolve these problems I shall need, in the first instance, the whole-hearted support, friendly understanding and unstinting co-operation of all my colleagues. I have enjoyed such friendly co-operation from you all for so long as a representative that I would fain hope that in my new role I shall receive it in even greater measure. For my part I shall endeavour to co-operate with you all in every possible way. In addition to your co-operation I shall need also the loyal support of my colleagues in the Secretariat.

29. I know how hard the Secretariat has had to work during the last sixteen months, especially in connexion with the Congo operation. The Secretariat has shown itself capable of meeting all demands made on it so

far, and I count on the continued assistance and team spirit of my colleagues in the Secretariat, especially in the difficult days ahead that we shall face together.

30. In particular it is my intention to invite a limited number of persons who are at present Under-Secretaries, or to be appointed as Under-Secretaries, to act as my principal advisers on important questions pertaining to the performance of functions entrusted to the Secretary-General by the United Nations Charter. In extending this invitation I am fully conscious of the paramount consideration of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, and with due regard to the importance of as wide a geographical basis as possible, as laid down in Article 101 of the Charter. I intend to include among these advisers Mr. Ralph J. Bunche and Mr. Gregory Petrovich Arkadev. It is also my intention to work together with these colleagues in close collaboration and consultation in a spirit of mutual understanding. I am sure that they will seek to work with me in the same manner. Of course, this whole arrangement is without prejudice to such future organizational changes as experience may reveal to be necessary.

31. Once again I thank the President, my fellow representatives in this hall, and the President and members of the Security Council for entrusting me with these heavy responsibilities. In discharging these responsibilities I shall count on the support of all men and women of good will all over the world, whose overriding interest in the peace, security and progress of the world it will be my task to reflect and serve.

32. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I thank the Acting Secretary-General for the important statement he has just made to the General Assembly and I venture to express the hope that the fulfilment of his declared intentions will facilitate the successful performance of the important functions vested in the Secretary-General by the Charter of the United Nations. Now, I have a long list of speakers who have asked for the floor in order to congratulate the Acting Secretary-General. I shall begin by calling on a number of them, in the hope that others will refrain from speaking, so that this meeting may be brought to a close.

33. Mr. STEVENSON (United States of America): First, let me thank the Secretary-General for the important and comprehensive statement which we have just heard. Only last week we celebrated the sixteenth anniversary of the United Nations. It is fitting that we should begin the seventeenth year by putting our house in order with the election of our distinguished colleague, His Excellency U Thant, to the high office of Secretary-General.

34. There is much, it seems to us, to be thankful for here today. First of all, we may rejoice that there was available to us a diplomat of such character, such ability and experience, that he could command the unanimous esteem and confidence of the world Organization. That augurs well for the future. The esteem in which he is held has been earned by a lifetime of public service both at home and abroad. We at the United Nations know at first hand the many contributions that he has made to this institution. We have worked with him in his capacity as Permanent Representative of Burma. We know of his notable contribution to the work of the United Nations Conciliation Commission in the Congo. We know of the great regard in which he was held by the late Secretary-General, Mr. Hammarskjöld, and we are also aware of his stature as educator, scholar and author. Some of you

may not know that almost thirty years ago, when our colleague was a young man of twenty-three, he wrote a book about the League of Nations. Even then he understood this century's profound need for a world organization to keep the peace, and this understanding has grown in him with the years.

35. I must confess that I have sometimes been discouraged during the long weeks of discussion that have preceded today's election. But as we say, all is well that ends well. And this prolonged ordeal has ended brilliantly. Moreover, during these weeks we have often been impressed anew by Ambassador U Thant's independence of mind and spirit, his high intelligence, his energy and idealism, and that becoming modesty which is characteristic of his countrymen and of his co-religionists. We have much to be thankful for today, not only because of the individual who has just been appointed, but equally because of the propitious circumstances in which the General Assembly has appointed him.

36. The sole objective of the United States delegation, which has carried much of the burden of negotiation, has been to protect the integrity of the Charter and the office of the Secretary-General. That has been the purpose of many others who want to see this Organization grow in strength and influence, and that has been accomplished. There will be no veto in the Secretariat and no weakening of the office. The principles contained in Articles 100 and 101 of the Charter have been fully preserved. He will have the full powers and responsibilities of that exalted office. He will appoint his own staff and consult with them as he decides, as he has told us, and in a manner consistent with the Charter.

37. When I say, in passing, that I think there is a valuable lesson in the events that led up to today's action, I have in mind that the quiet path of diplomacy often requires endless patience and perseverance, especially when it encounters the seemingly insurmountable obstacles. As I say, there have been many discouraging moments in our long negotiation. There have been other such moments in the history of the United Nations, and they too have been overcome.

38. My own conviction is that we should always act in the belief that for those who are truly faithful to their ideals, the darkest hour is the time to light the brightest light. Recently I saw in our Press an item about a scientist who was on the brink of an important breakthrough, and when he described his experiments to a gathering of fellow specialists, the newspaper said, a wave of guarded enthusiasm swept through the audience. In the light of everything, I think that we representatives may be permitted a wave of unguarded enthusiasm here today. I am happy to report to you that the President of the United States is one of those who shares our hopes here today. I have just received a telegram from President Kennedy which he has asked me to read to you, and I am happy to do so:

"The election of His Excellency U Thant is a splendid achievement in which the whole world can rejoice. Please express the congratulations of the United States Government to the United Nations membership for their action in electing so distinguished a diplomat to succeed the late Dag Hammarskjöld. In preserving the integrity of the office of the Secretary-General, they have reaffirmed their dedication to the United Nations Charter. To Amba-

sador U Thant, please express my personal congratulations, and assure him on behalf of the people of the United States that as he begins one of the world's most difficult jobs, he has our confidence and also our prayers."

39. Finally, in my own capacity as the United States representative to the United Nations, I should like to say that all of us of the United States Mission feel that we owe a great debt of gratitude to those representatives who have worked so hard and so patiently to solve the problems created by the death of Mr. Hammarskjöld. And to my dear friend and colleague, the new Secretary-General, I should like to say just one more thing. It is written in the Bible that "To whom much is given, of him also much shall be required." There is little doubt that enormous tasks will be required of you, and there is even less doubt that you will fulfil them. God bless you.

40. Mr. ZORIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (translated from Russian): The Soviet delegation is gratified to note the unanimous decision of the General Assembly, adopted on the Security Council's recommendation, to appoint to the post of Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations for the period up to 10 April 1963 Ambassador U Thant, an eminent statesman and public figure of that peace-loving and neutral Asian State, the Union of Burma.

41. The delegations of the States represented in the General Assembly are aware that the decision to appoint Ambassador U Thant is the result of numerous consultations between the various delegations.

42. The Soviet delegation, which in the course of these consultations has invariably striven to secure the achievement of an agreement acceptable to all the parties concerned, is sincerely glad that such an agreement has now been reached.

43. The Soviet Union's position on the subject of the directing of the principal executive organ of the United Nations—the Secretariat—was clearly and exhaustively expounded by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, Nikita Sergeevich Khrushchev, at the fifteenth session of the General Assembly [869th meeting] and by Foreign Minister Gromyko at the present session [1016th meeting]. We are firmly convinced that this position, based as it is on the profound changes which have recently taken place in the international situation and in the correlation of world forces, provides for an equitable solution of the problem of the direction of the United Nations Secretariat on a permanent basis.

44. In view, however, of the necessity of taking speedier action here and now to ensure that the work of the Secretariat is effectively directed, the Soviet Union has agreed to accept a temporary solution of this problem.

45. We would like to point out in this connexion that the provisional character of this solution does not make the task of Ambassador U Thant as Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations either easier or less responsible. It will be his task to direct the executive organ of the United Nations over the whole field of those functions which, under the Charter, are vested in the chief administrative officer of the United Nations.

46. The Soviet delegation considers that Ambassador U Thant, whose intelligence, ability and political experience are well known, will succeed in coping successfully with the serious tasks that lie ahead of him.

47. The statement which has just been made here in the General Assembly by Ambassador U Thant leads us to hope that, following his appointment and the appointment by him of a group of principal advisers to him, genuine international collaboration will be ensured in the United Nations machinery and practical steps will be taken to eliminate one-sidedness in the functioning of the executive organ of the United Nations, exclude the possibility of the United Nations Secretariat acting in the interests of any particular group of States, remove discrimination against individual States and ensure fair geographical distribution in the staff of the Secretariat, as required by the United Nations Charter.

48. We would like to believe that matters will now go better in the United Nations Secretariat—which would be to the advantage of all States and of the United Nations itself.

49. May I, on behalf of the Soviet Government, wish Ambassador U Thant, Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations, every success in his work and in the fulfilment of the important tasks laid upon him by the United Nations Charter.

50. May I express to Ambassador U Thant the hope that his whole activity in the post to which he has been appointed on the recommendation of the Security Council and the unanimous decision of the General Assembly will serve the interests of consolidating world peace and promoting international co-operation.

51. Mr. JHA (India): On behalf of the delegations of Japan and Nepal, by whom I have been requested to speak on their behalf, and on behalf of the delegation of India, I wish to extend to our new Secretary-General, Ambassador U Thant, our warmest and most sincere congratulations and felicitations on his appointment to the high office of chief administrative and executive head of this Organization.

52. We are happy that the Assembly has, after several weeks of negotiations and consultations, just taken the decision to appoint a Secretary-General. This decision helps fill the gap in our Organization caused by the tragedy involving the death of Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld. We are glad that this gap has been filled and that the Organization, which during the last several weeks faced a serious crisis and was without an administrative head, now has a Secretary-General to guide the Secretariat and be the spearhead and chief administrative and executive officer who will carry out the decisions of the Security Council and of the other organs of the United Nations.

53. The appointment of the Secretary-General was overdue if only for the reason that the United Nations is currently engaged in operations of the greatest complexity, magnitude and importance, and the United Nations itself faces delicate and difficult questions of war and peace. These call for maximum efficiency and effectiveness by the United Nations. The appointment of the Secretary-General in the person of Ambassador U Thant ensures that these will be achieved.

54. We are happy again that the great honour of being elected to the high office of Secretary-General has fallen to U Thant. U Thant has been associated with the United Nations for many years. He has many old friends among those who are sitting in this hall today. During these years he has given proof of his rare devotion to the United Nations and its ideals and purposes. Those of us who have had the privilege and pleasure of working with him have acquired a deep

impression of his humility, great ability and objectivity which he combines with imperceptible equanimity and good temper even in situations of the greatest stress and strain. His skill in diplomacy and negotiation has been shown on numerous occasions. In all his actions in the United Nations he has brought to bear the culture and the wisdom of his great and ancient country and of his people, a country with which my own is linked by centuries-old ties of culture, religion and common purpose. We are confident he will fill the high office of the Secretary-General with dignity, ability, honour and impartiality.

55. We are happy also that the new Secretary-General hails from the continent of Asia and from a country which, as I have said, is such a close and friendly neighbour of ours and is tied to us by so many old bonds of culture and civilization.

56. We have a feeling of genuine pride—a pride which we share with Burma—that Burma has helped in the solution of the difficult problem of the selection of a Secretary-General acceptable to all. A cementing factor in the great conflict over this issue which has been facing us for the last few weeks has been found in the person of U Thant, and my country and delegation pledge to give him and the United Nations our fullest support and co-operation.

57. There is much in the manner of the selection and appointment of our new Secretary-General that should give us cause for great satisfaction. We all know how, some weeks ago, this Organization was plunged into a deep crisis. There appeared to be irreconcilable points of view and conflicts. In different quarters suggestions were made to deal with this problem in a fashion which, to say the least, would have been unwise. But wiser counsels prevailed. Negotiations were undertaken and, after very patient and hard work, in which the delegations of the United States and the Soviet Union took the most active part—indeed, we owe a great debt of gratitude to them, and to Mr. Stevenson and Mr. Zorin, in particular—a solution to the problem was found. As the chairman of my delegation said from this rostrum a few weeks ago, that was the only way in which a problem of this nature could be solved; a Secretary-General could not be appointed without the consent of the big Powers, without going through the Security Council and without obtaining the agreement of all Members of the Assembly.

58. It is a matter of great satisfaction indeed and, if I may say so, a source of considerable optimism for the future that that process was undertaken, was assiduously followed and led to a successful conclusion. Not only has the appointment of U Thant as Secretary-General the support of the big Powers; not only has that appointment obtained the recommendation of the Security Council; but, as the voting just now demonstrated, the choice is a truly unanimous one, acceptable to all Members of the United Nations. That is the aspect which pleases us enormously and which gives us hope for the future of the Organization. It is a method which could be used and applied in the solution of other crises and conflicts within our Organization and outside it. For there is no other way. We have to talk; we have to negotiate. The problems of war and peace which are facing the United Nations, and indeed humanity, admit of no other solution; only the method that has been used in the present case can be used in tackling those problems. We hope that the big Powers, who have given great proof of their wisdom

and sense of conciliation, will give a lead in other matters also.

59. We are very happy that the authority of the Secretary-General has been fully maintained. There has been no denigration of the position and of the authority that the Secretary-General has been given under the Charter.

60. This is not the occasion to comment on the first statement just made by U Thant as Secretary-General. Actually, he has not yet filled in the precise details. But we have no doubt that the arrangements that have been worked out will operate to the benefit of the Organization and to the successful functioning of the office of the Secretary-General.

61. Once again, I should like to convey, on behalf of my Government and delegation and of the delegations of Japan and Nepal, which have asked me to speak for them, our warmest congratulations and best wishes to U Thant, and to promise our fullest co-operation.

62. Mr. BERARD (France) (translated from French): The French delegation warmly welcomed the agreement reached between the members of the Security Council which made it possible for the latter to recommend unanimously to the General Assembly the choice of His Excellency U Thant to succeed the lamented Dag Hammarskjöld. My delegation is most happy that the Assembly in its turn has now voted in his favour in such a striking and complimentary manner. It is worthy of mention, moreover, that the difficulties which delayed the election of the new Secretary-General related primarily to the manner of his appointment, the definition of his mandate, and his relations with his colleagues. Agreement was reached very quickly on the name of U Thant and that, I would emphasize, like the vote just taken here, is a particularly encouraging sign for the future.

63. The new Secretary-General, who is thus assuming his functions under the most favourable auspices, is esteemed by all delegations which have had contact with him. My predecessors and I have always maintained the most cordial relations with U Thant. His culture, his courtesy and his experience of international affairs made him an outstanding candidate for election by the General Assembly. We admire his intelligence, his loyalty and his sense of justice. We are confident that his wisdom and moderation, which are acknowledged by all, will make him a particularly able Secretary-General to head our Organization. We extend to him our most sincere and friendly congratulations.

64. Mr. SHUKAIRY (Saudi Arabia): This is a historic moment for the United Nations, and, indeed, a moment of rejoicing for us all. At long last we have found a Secretary-General. I come to this rostrum to extend in the name of all the Arab delegations our sincerest congratulations to our distinguished colleague, U Thant.

65. We are delighted to say that the prolonged delay in choosing a Secretary-General was not related to any controversy over the person of U Thant. Rather, it was related to the intricacies of this problem and to the hopes and aspirations that hang over this high office in the turbulent situation now dominating the world. But the heat and dust have now settled, and we are delighted that our good friend and distinguished colleague has been elected Secretary-General not only unanimously but by acclamation.

66. I shall not refer to U Thant's talents, to his integrity and impartiality. I need not introduce him to the United Nations. He is well known for his talents and his courage. Whenever there has been a struggle for peace, liberty and justice, U Thant has been there. It is with these principles and ideas that he has identified himself and it is because of these principles and ideas that he has distinguished himself in the African-Asian group. It is a source of a great deal of pride and pleasure that the choice has at last fallen upon a distinguished diplomat of that group. Our pride is definitely not because we intend to make of the United Nations an African-Asian organization, but simply because the national existence of the African-Asian people is an embodiment, a true expression and incarnation, of the Charter of the United Nations and of the high principles so sacredly enshrined therein. We take pride in the fact that the choice has fallen upon a distinguished member of our group, but let me assure the President and fellow representatives, let me assure the international community at large, that Ambassador U Thant will be impartial to the last point of human impartiality. From this moment he ceases to be a Burmese, he ceases to be an African-Asian. He will receive no instructions from his Government, or from the African-Asian group. His instructions will come from the General Assembly, from the organs of the United Nations. He will be guided only by the Charter of the United Nations, nothing more and nothing less. This is our hope; this is our prayer; and it is in this spirit, I believe, that he has gained the confidence of the whole United Nations at this critical moment in the international arena. But while assuring you of his impartiality, I cannot assure you of his neutrality. When the cause of the United Nations is at stake there cannot be neutrality. When the cause of the sovereignty of peoples is at stake there cannot be neutrality. When the cause of racial discrimination is at stake there is no neutrality, because the Secretary-General will have to be active, and not neutral. He will have to be dynamic, and not neutral. He will have to put teeth into the resolutions of the United Nations, and give life to its Charter.

67. With neutrality, the Secretary-General would be only a registrar-general, and we do not want a registrar-general, to register the minutes of our proceedings, to keep the records of our proceedings, and resolutions. We want the Secretary-General to live up to his responsibilities and to the principles of the Charter, to make the United Nations an organization, not a mere debating society. It is with these hopes and prayers that we have elected Ambassador U Thant. I believe that he will live up to our prayers and hopes.

68. Mr. UNDEN (Sweden): Speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries—Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden—I take great pleasure in extending our sincere and hearty congratulations to the newly elected Secretary-General, Ambassador U Thant, the successor of Dag Hammarskjöld.

69. The appointment of a Secretary-General enables the Organization to continue its work in accordance with, and on the basis of, the Charter. The new Secretary-General retains the same constitutional powers as his predecessors. We feel confident that he will fulfil his important duties with ability, good judgement and impartiality. Knowing his character and his work here in the United Nations, we are convinced that as Secretary-General he will consider himself, and act, as an international civil servant devoted to the ideals and aims of the United Nations.

70. Mr. GEBRE-EGZY (Ethiopia): On behalf of the Ethiopian delegation, I beg leave to congratulate His Excellency, Ambassador U Thant, on his appointment as Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations, as a result of the unanimous decision of this august Assembly. In our statement in the general debate we had the honour to point out the necessity of appointing as the new Secretary-General a national from the African-Asian region. The materialization of the suggestion is a source of immense pleasure to my delegation. However, the most gratifying aspect of the election that we have just held today does not lie in the geographical region where the particular individual selected was born. The most agreeable aspect of our decision lies in the fact that we have selected the most ideal man for the office of Secretary-General.

71. We are gratified to note that the world is on the threshold of being served by a highly cultured man with an inexhaustible source of patience and tolerance, by a man endowed with clarity of thought coupled with an impressive power of judgement and, most important of all, by a man dedicated to the service of humanity. Having regard to the origin of the United Nations we believe it could not be served better by any other person than the former director of Press and publicity of the Anti-Fascist Peoples Freedom League of Burma. Those who can best serve the United Nations are those who share its purposes.

72. On behalf of the Ethiopian delegation, let me congratulate the General Assembly on its wise selection of an Acting Secretary-General, and wish His Excellency, Ambassador U Thant, himself great success in his new, highly exalted, but formidable, office.

73. Finally, I feel compelled to pay tribute to the senior officers of the United Nations who have carried on the work during the period when the negotiations were undertaken.

74. Sir Patrick DEAN (United Kingdom): On behalf of the Government of the United Kingdom I should like to extend our very warm and sincere congratulations to His Excellency Ambassador U Thant, on his appointment by the Assembly as Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations. U Thant is such a well-known figure here that I need hardly extol his virtues. We all know them very well. His connexion with our Organization goes back to 1952, when he was a member of his country's delegation to the General Assembly.

75. Latterly, as we all know, he has been a colleague of ours in his capacity as permanent representative of Burma to this Organization and leader of his country's delegation at several sessions of the Assembly. Throughout all that period the United Kingdom delegation has found him wise and moderate in his counsels, steadfast in his loyalty to the high principles of this Organization and—on a more personal note—a man whom we have been honoured to count as a friend.

76. None of us here has any doubt about the onerous and exacting nature of the office of Secretary-General. It is no easy task that confronts U Thant as he seeks to follow in the high traditions and impartiality of judgement so firmly established by his predecessor. In this, I am sure he can count on the full support of all delegations in this hall. We believe that U Thant will carry out the functions of this high office with the utmost distinction and success. We have already had a good augury of this in the statement which our Secretary-General made to us immediately after his

election. If I may be allowed to say so, this wise, high-principled and lucid statement is characteristic of the man.

77. In conclusion, I should like, on behalf of the United Kingdom Government, to extend our sincerest wishes to the Secretary-General for every success in the tasks which lie before him. Knowing U Thant as we do, we have every confidence that he will indeed achieve it and that the great heritage of this Organization will be safe in his hands.

78. Mr. WACHUKU (Nigeria): On behalf of my delegation, I want to congratulate His Excellency U Thant on his election this afternoon to the high office of Secretary-General.

79. I want to take this opportunity also to congratulate the two great Powers, the United States and the Soviet Union, on shelving their differences and thinking of this Organization and humanity at large and, in spite of all difficulties, agreeing to listen to the voices of all the delegations at the United Nations and their yearning to find a successor to the late Secretary-General. I think this act, which has been symbolized by the unanimous vote in favour of the new Secretary-General, confirms my belief, and the belief of my delegation and my country, that man, if he wishes, can at any time find a solution to his own problems. I sincerely hope that, in the same manner in which they have succeeded in coming to an understanding here which is very satisfactory to all of us, the great Powers will pursue, with the same diligence and the same patience, a solution of a problem that is now worrying our minds, in order to make the work of the new Secretary-General less onerous than it would otherwise be. I say this because we look forward to the new Secretary-General's taking very firm, positive and active steps in trying to solve some of those pressing problems that are bound to face him in regard to the continent of Africa. I have in mind the Congo operation, the situation in Angola, and the various problems that face the African continent, including the problem of Algeria and others.

80. I listened attentively to the statement of the new Secretary-General. I want to assure him that, as long as he stands by the Charter and works in accordance with the declaration which he made today, my country will give him full co-operation in everything he does, and he will find that my delegation will not be found wanting in rendering assistance so long as it is possible.

81. We are happy today to know that a new Secretary-General has been selected and that this great Organization, which is said by the Press to be under a cloud of pessimism, with questions being raised about the tottering nature of the Organization, will receive new life through U Thant's elevation to this high office. Those of us who are outside the Secretariat will do everything possible to give him the assistance he needs in these trying times.

82. I will say no more, other than that I am very happy to have been present to watch the ceremony of the installation of the new Secretary-General. I would have returned to Nigeria but for the fact that this was one of the events that I wanted to witness, and I stayed here patiently, watching for it to occur. There will perhaps be one or two other items that will delay me here, but I can assure you, Sir, that having witnessed this ceremony today, I can now easily fly back to Lagos, satisfied that the United Nations,

instead of falling to pieces, as some people predicted, is about to have a new lease of life, and your gentle disposition, your patience and your quiet strength of character will help this Organization to grow in strength, develop and march forward.

*Mr. Nosek (Czechoslovakia), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

83. Mr. WIRJOPRANOTO (Indonesia): On behalf of the delegations of Iran, Cambodia, Yugoslavia, Thailand, Laos, Afghanistan and my own delegation, it gives me great pleasure to extend our sincere congratulations to His Excellency, Ambassador U Thant, the representative of Burma, upon his unanimous election as Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations.

84. It is most fitting that a man of such eminent stature should be elected to this high post. The responsibilities of the office he is about to assume are awesome indeed, but the qualities for which he is already so highly esteemed, his capacity for wise judgement and his integrity and dedication to the principles and purposes of the United Nations will stand him in good stead for the formidable task that lies ahead.

85. We are confident that his leadership in the Secretariat of this Organization will be a great contribution to the maintenance and promotion of the peace and security of the world, for the progress of the endeavours the United Nations is undertaking and the promotion of welfare and co-operation among all nations.

86. I should like to take this opportunity to assure the Acting Secretary-General that he will receive the wholehearted co-operation of the delegations on whose behalf I am speaking, and indeed of the Governments they represent. We are sure that under his inspiring guidance the United Nations will continue to stand for the highest hopes and ideals of all mankind.

87. Mr. BROOKS (Canada): On this moving occasion I wish to extend to His Excellency U Thant the congratulations of Australia, New Zealand and Canada on his appointment as the Acting Secretary-General.

88. It will be recalled that the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada stated in this hall that among the eminent representatives participating in this Assembly, a man could be found with the necessary ability and integrity to meet the stringent requirements of this high office. U Thant has been appointed from among our number, and therefore brings with him bonds of friendship and habits of consultation that should be of great comfort to him, as they are to all of us.

89. In his statesmanlike speech of acceptance, he has described what will be required of him in meeting the solemn responsibilities now entrusted to him. The Australian, New Zealand and Canadian Governments have every confidence that he will perform his task with wisdom, tact and skill, and their support is pledged to him in the fullest possible measure during this difficult and testing period in the United Nations history.

90. The choice of an Acting Secretary-General is of even more essential importance to the smaller Powers than to the great Powers, and thus the unanimity of today's vote takes on particular significance and augurs well for the future of our Organization.

91. Mr. ORTIZ MARTIN (Costa Rica) (translated from Spanish): On behalf of the group of Latin American

countries and of my own delegation of Costa Rica, I wish to pay a tribute to the distinguished qualities of His Excellency U Thant—qualities which have made possible his election to the highest international post in the world today.

92. The Latin American countries promise the Secretary-General that they will maintain the co-operation with the United Nations in good causes that they have extended since the founding of the Organization. We express our best wishes for the Secretary-General's success in the difficult tasks which devolve upon him, while we pray to God to illuminate the arduous road he will have to travel.

93. Mr. UYS (South Africa): May I on behalf of the Foreign Minister, who is unfortunately prevented from being here this afternoon, and on behalf of the South African delegation, join those who have spoken before me in welcoming the appointment of His Excellency, Ambassador U Thant as Acting Secretary-General.

94. We wish him all success in the most difficult task ahead. We are confident that, like his great predecessor, he will fearlessly and with impartiality carry out the functions of the Secretary-General.

95. He is assuming these heavy responsibilities at a time when the world is beset by grave, even threatening, problems. He will have the good wishes of millions of people all over the world for a successful term of office.

96. Mr. QUAISON-SACKEY (Ghana): On behalf of the delegations of Guinea, Mali, and Ghana, I wish to express our warm and sincere congratulations to our new Secretary-General.

97. The storm caused by the death of Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld has been weathered. Today our eyes have seen salvation. For the first time in the history of mankind, a man from the African-Asian area has been elected as the representative head of the greatest world Organization mankind has ever devised for the preservation of peace.

98. U Thant, who now occupies the seat of the Secretary-General, possesses all the qualities necessary for the post of the highest executive of the United Nations. For over two years I have had the privilege of being associated with U Thant in various endeavours of the African-Asian group, where he took initiatives in all matters which affected Africa and Asia particularly, and the world generally. He is a man who can be tried by both extremes of fortune but can never be deterred by either. He has walked with destiny.

99. There are important problems facing this world Organization, the most pressing of which is the Congo crisis. His skill, his ability and his equanimity will be required in order to handle this crucial problem which threatens the very efficacy of our world Organization. We know that U Thant will rise to the occasion.

100. U Thant's election to the high office of Secretary-General is indeed a source of immense satisfaction to the delegations of Guinea, Mali and Ghana, particularly as he was the first candidate we ourselves thought of and privately suggested for consideration a few days after the tragic death of Mr. Hammarskjöld.

101. We are especially proud of U Thant's election because he comes from a Member State that is of the third world. He is non-aligned and, as he himself has explained, he is and will continue to be impartial but non-neutral. Could there be a better reason or a sounder justification for his election? From my own



personal experience of him, I have no doubt of the wisdom of the decision the Assembly has just taken. His abilities are well known, as is his diplomatic skill. His tolerance and emotional equilibrium are attested by all. Indeed it is superfluous to offer him congratulations. In our opinion it is to ourselves perhaps that we should address felicitations on the soundness of our choice and the wisdom of our decision.

102. On behalf of the delegations of Guinea, Mali and Ghana, I wish to assure our new Secretary-General of our full support and co-operation. May the United Nations grow from strength to strength and may the unanimous election of the Secretary-General usher in a new era of concord and peace.

103. Mr. COOPER (Liberia): On behalf of the Liberian delegation, I wish to extend my congratulations as well as those of my delegation to His Excellency U Thant on his unanimous election as Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations. The fact of his elevation to this eminent post attests to the high regard in which this distinguished international statesman and diplomat is held. We are very sure that the rich and varied experience which U Thant has acquired over the years eminently qualifies him to shoulder with dignity and efficiency the grave responsibilities involved in the duties of a Secretary-General of the United Nations. The many problems that confront this Organization make U Thant's task a difficult, tedious and onerous one, and his task is also one of the most difficult and most controversial tasks to be found in the whole world. He had been generally classified as the greatest civil servant, but I may also add that he must carry out the wishes and pleasure of 103 bosses. You know how difficult it is to serve one master; we can imagine the problems of U Thant who has to serve 103 bosses. But we are sure that, because of his ability, his integrity and his patience, U Thant will overcome these obstacles. May the great Almighty, whether we know him through the medium of Buddha or through the medium of Christ or through the medium of Mohammed or some other form, continue to guide, bless and keep him. We again wish to extend our congratulations to U Thant, and we can assure him of our unstinted support and wholehearted co-operation.

*Mr. Slim (Tunisia) resumed the Chair.*

104. Sir Muhammed ZAFRULLA KHAN (Pakistan): I have the honour to speak on behalf of Pakistan and also on behalf of the Philippines whose delegation has done me the honour to authorize me to express its sentiments also on this occasion.

105. We wish to give expression to our sense of great relief and satisfaction that this great Organization has once again a worthy chief at its head. This sense of relief and satisfaction is coloured with deep rejoicing that the choice has fallen on U Thant, a man so dear to our hearts and fully deserving in every respect of our esteem and confidence.

106. Asia has yielded up of its best for the service of the United Nations, but U Thant does not belong to Asia alone; he belongs to humanity. In agreeing to accept the very heavy responsibilities of this exalted office, U Thant has acted in conformity with his deep sense of duty and his high courage. We are confident that he will prove more than equal to those responsibilities. He will be true to his trust and to his oath of office.

107. While felicitating U Thant on the assumption of this high office, we wish to assure him not only of

our fullest co-operation, but also of our constant and sincere prayers that he may continue to be accorded the light of guidance and strength that he will need for the due discharge of the sacred trust that he has assumed.

108. The Security Council and the General Assembly are to be congratulated on their unanimous choice of U Thant as chief of this great Organization. I trust that on an occasion like this, one may be permitted to give brief expression to one's personal feeling of gratification and satisfaction also at the consummation that we just witnessed. The frontiers of Burma and Pakistan run together for hundreds of miles, but the appointment of U Thant as Acting Secretary-General is a matter of peculiar joy to me as I had the honour of being Burma's Minister of Education, Health and Lands in 1932 and its Minister of Commerce and Railways from 1935 to 1936. Indeed, my first visit to that lovely land was in my capacity as its Minister and servant.

109. It is a matter of great pride to me to have been accorded the opportunity of felicitating a worthy son of Burma on his assumption of the office of Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations.

110. Mr. CARDOSO (Congo, Leopoldville) (translated from French): On behalf of the delegation of the Congo, I wish to congratulate you most warmly, Your Excellency, on your appointment to a post of very great responsibility. My delegation regretted very deeply the death of the Secretary-General, Dag Hammarskjöld, who remains for us the hero and the martyr of Congolese national unity.

111. So far as the problem of my country is concerned, the task that awaits you, Mr. Secretary-General, is immense and inspiring. We wish you every success in liquidating colonialism in our territory and in achieving national unity. We are confident that, like your predecessor, you will fight for peace in our country and throughout the world.

112. The essential problem of disarmament, as vital as that of the liquidation of colonialism, will, we are sure, mobilize all your energy and devotion. You are assuming very important functions in a world in which fear reigns and hope is timorous. The cold war is in full swing, but now we have added reason to place our hopes in your personal qualities after the statement you have just made. Peace, I do not need to tell you, is a daily thing. It will demand daily efforts on your part for criticism will surely come every day. What gives us hope is the moderation you will display in the decisions you will have to take each day.

113. In conclusion, we should like to tell you that the future of our country, the Congo, is in your hands.

114. In the hope that by your efforts, our country and the world will once again find order and peace, and in the hope also that in the solution of the Congolese crisis our people will give you full support so that its unity and sovereignty may triumph, allow me, on behalf of my country and my delegation, to congratulate you, Mr. Secretary-General, and to wish you complete success in your efforts to bring peace to the world.

115. Mr. ROSSIDES (Cyprus): On behalf of my delegation and the delegation of the Federation of Malaya, I wish to express to His Excellency U Thant our heartiest congratulations on his unanimous election to the high office of Secretary-General of the United Nations. Indeed the United Nations should be felicitated for the happy choice of Ambassador U Thant as Secretary-

General. His clarity of vision, his independence of judgement and his integrity, ability and skill, coupled with his culture and diplomatic skill, vouch for his great success in the performance of his exacting duties in the office of Secretary-General.

116. In carrying out my duties in the United Nations, I have had the privilege of associating with Ambassador U Thant in fruitful co-operation in various fields and have thus had an opportunity to appreciate his rare qualities of mind, heart and character as well as his moderation and his skill in negotiation. My delegation wishes to assure the Secretary-General of our whole-hearted co-operation in the United Nations. In these times of grave crisis in the history of humanity, when the United Nations has a heavy responsibility to lead mankind through the dangers that surround it to peace and progress, it is an act of providence that U Thant has been chosen Secretary-General.

117. Mr. COMAY (Israel): The election of Ambassador U Thant is the most encouraging event to take place at the current session of the Assembly, which was plunged into such gloom at the outset by Mr. Hammarskjold's tragic death. On the question of the Secretary-General, my Government and delegation have from the outset taken a clear position in principle, which was expressed both in public and in our contacts with other delegations. We have staunchly supported the concept of a single, independent Secretary-General elected in accordance with constitutional procedures, consulting at his discretion with deputies and advisers who would primarily be qualified international civil servants, owing their first allegiance to the Organization. It has stirred fresh hope in our minds for the future of the United Nations that an Acting Secretary-General has now been chosen in accordance with these principles.

118. But a Secretary-General is not just an institution; he is a human being. Nothing could have given us greater satisfaction than to see this office being filled by a man who is so highly esteemed, a man of impeccable integrity, moral courage and high intelligence, with these qualities graced by a deep humility and quiet wisdom, derived to a large extent from the humanism and the spirituality of the creed to which he adheres. He is assuming one of the most exacting and complex tasks in the world, and only a spirit of service to mankind could make any man subject himself to these tests or any Government release so valued a representative. Our confidence in him is strengthened by the ties of friendship and co-operation which bind Israel, a small country in Western Asia, to Burma, our sister State in South-East Asia.

119. We proffer to our new Secretary-General our warm congratulations on his election and the assurance that our co-operation is available to him at every step along the road which lies ahead of him.

120. Mr. BITSIOS (Greece) (translated from French): On behalf of the delegations of Austria, Belgium, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Turkey and Greece, I have the privilege and the pleasure of hailing the general agreement which was reached with regard to your selection, Mr. Secretary-General, to succeed Mr. Dag Hammarskjold, your eminent predecessor, and of asking you to accept our most hearty and warm congratulations. Your personality, balanced judgement and objectivity and your profound experience of the United Nations constitute the surest guarantees of success, and that success is closely

bound up with the destiny of this Organization and its mission on behalf of world peace which we all desire.

121. It is our heartfelt wish that such qualities may be useful to Members in their desire to remove the anxiety to which the world is prey at this tragic time when you are called upon to assume your high office.

122. Conscious of the seriousness of the moment and of the grave responsibility you are assuming today, Mr. Secretary-General, the delegations for which I have the honour to speak wish you the most complete success.

123. Mr. MARTINO (Italy): The Italian delegation welcomes the election of U Thant of Burma to the task of directing the United Nations Secretariat as Acting Secretary-General. I am glad to extend to him our warmest wishes for the fulfilment of his important and delicate assignment.

124. U Thant's career, his reputation, his gift for diplomacy, as well as his intellectual accomplishments are the qualities that have enhanced the general esteem for him and made him the best choice for Acting Secretary-General.

125. We are particularly pleased that U Thant was elected unanimously and we take that as a happy omen for future co-operation among States Members of the United Nations. It is also a heartening feature that his election took place in accordance with the rules of the United Nations, thus giving to the new head of the Secretariat all the functions and responsibilities provided for in the Charter.

126. Mr. N'THEPE (Cameroon) (translated from French): The group of the Union of African and Malagasy States, consisting of the Republic of Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Congo (Brazzaville), Dahomey, Gabon, Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Upper Volta, for which I have the honour to speak, joins with the delegations which have spoken before me in congratulating His Excellency U Thant most sincerely on his election as Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations.

127. After the storm, blue skies. After the clouds which darkened the United Nations after the tragic death of the lamented Dag Hammarskjold, the sun has now reappeared. After hearing the statement by U Thant, the group of the Union of African and Malagasy States is delighted at the choice that has been made and congratulates the permanent members of the Security Council on the unanimous decision reached concerning this man whose qualities and modesty are known to us. May there be the same unanimity with regard to the great problems of the day, for the sake of peace and the future of mankind, because it will help to ease the task of our Secretary-General and increase the prestige of our Organization.

128. The Union of African and Malagasy States, through me, wishes to assure His Excellency U Thant of its full co-operation on behalf of peace and for the survival of the United Nations.

129. Your Excellency, your task will not be an easy one. May God guide you and all our prayers go with you.

130. U ON SEIN (Burma): As U Thant until this moment has been one of us, it would not be proper for the Burmese delegation to join in the congratulations and the praises that have been showered upon him so warmly and so kindly by the other delegations, and we shall

venture to say only this about him: U Thant is very dear to us.

131. The Burmese delegation, however, will take this opportunity to express its grateful thanks to all the members of the Security Council and the General Assembly for unanimously agreeing to appoint U Thant to the high office of Acting Secretary-General of this Organization, the United Nations. We take it as a

great compliment to our country, Burma, which has consistently pursued a policy of what we call benevolent neutrality, based on friendship and good will towards all the nations of the world. The Burmese Government and the Burmese people are joyous and happy and grateful that a Burmese has been chosen to be the chief executive of this great world body.

*The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.*