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President: Mr. Salim Ahmed SALIM
(United Republic of Tanzania)

AGENDA ITEM 8

**Adoption of the agenda and organization
of work (continued)***

SIXTH REPORT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE
(A/34/250/Add.5)

1. The PRESIDENT: On documentation the General Committee recommends in paragraph 2 (a) of its sixth report [A/34/250/Add.5] that:

“(i) The General Assembly, including its Main Committees, should merely take note of those reports of the Secretary-General or subsidiary organs which do not require a decision by the Assembly and should neither debate nor adopt resolutions on them, unless specifically requested by the Secretary-General or the organ concerned;

“(ii) The publication of reports of the principal organs and subsidiary organs of the General Assembly and any draft resolutions and amendments should be given priority over that of any individual communications received from Member States;

* Resumed from the 80th meeting.

“(iii) Member States should refrain, to the extent possible, from requesting the circulation of any individual communications as documents of the General Assembly and in lieu thereof, where circulation of such documents is desired, should, as far as possible, request such circulation under the cover of a note verbale in the official languages provided by them.”

2. Members will agree that there is a need to establish guidelines or criteria for coping with the increasingly critical problem of documentation. May I take it that the General Assembly adopts the recommendations in paragraph 2 (a)?

It was so decided.

3. The PRESIDENT: We turn now to paragraph 2 (b), concerning the organization of work. Taking into account the paramount importance of the role of the chairman of a Main Committee and in order to facilitate the work of the General Assembly, the General Committee recommends that:

“(i) Before the conclusion of a session of the General Assembly, regional groups should agree on the distribution of chairmanships among them for the following session;

“(ii) Candidates for the chairmanships of the Main Committees should be nominated as soon as possible.

“Furthermore, the General Committee strongly recommends that nominees for the chairmanships of the Main Committees should have experience in the work of the General Assembly.”

I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to adopt the recommendations in paragraph 2 (b).

It was so decided.

4. The PRESIDENT: We turn now to paragraph 2 (c), concerning resolutions. In order to save time and to make the debates more meaningful, the General Committee recommends to the General Assembly that:

“(i) Subsidiary organs reporting to the General Assembly should make every effort to submit draft resolutions in order to facilitate the consideration of the items;

“(ii) Whenever possible, resolutions requesting the discussion of a question at a subsequent session should not call for the inclusion of a separate new item and such discussion should be held under the item under which the resolution was adopted.”

May I take it that the Assembly adopts the recommendations in paragraph (2) (c)?

It was so decided.

Consequently, the recommendations of the General Committee as set forth in paragraph 2 of its sixth report were approved (see decision 34/401).

5. The PRESIDENT: We turn now to paragraph 3. The important question of subsidiary organs was the subject of considerable discussion in the General Committee. In view of the need for further consultations, the General Committee decided to defer the matter for the time being. May I consider that the General Assembly takes note of paragraph 3?

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 64

Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator:

- (a) **Activities of the Office of the Co-ordinator: report of the Secretary-General:**
- (b) **Assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia: report of the Secretary-General**

REPORT OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE
(A/34/727)

AGENDA ITEM 66

**Examination of long-term trends
in economic development**

REPORT OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE
(A/34/728)

AGENDA ITEM 67

**Unified approach to development analysis and
planning: report of the Secretary-General**

REPORT OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE
(A/34/709)

6. Miss GARCÍA-DONOSO (Ecuador), Rapporteur of the Second Committee (*interpretation from Spanish*): I have the honour to present to the General Assembly the reports of the Second Committee on agenda items 64, 66 and 67. These reports are contained in documents A/34/727, A/34/728 and A/34/709 respectively.

7. The report on the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator contains in paragraph 19 three draft resolutions which the Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly for approval. Draft resolutions I and III, entitled "Assistance to drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia" and "Measures to be taken in connexion with the earthquake in Montenegro, Yugoslavia", were adopted by the Committee without being put to the vote. In the case of draft resolution II, entitled "Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator", paragraph 8 was voted on separately and adopted by 114 votes to 14, with 8 abstentions. The draft resolution as a whole was adopted by 119 votes to none, with 17 abstentions.

8. The report of the Second Committee on the item dealing with the examination of long-term trends in economic development contains two draft resolutions

in its paragraph 11 which were adopted by the Committee without being put to the vote, and it is recommended that the General Assembly should proceed in the same manner. These draft resolutions are entitled "Examination of long-term trends in economic development" and "Health as an integral part of development".

9. Paragraph 6 of the report on the item dealing with a unified approach to development analysis and planning contains a draft decision which the Second Committee adopted without a vote and which it recommends to the General Assembly for adoption.

Pursuant to rule 66 of the rules of procedure, it was decided not to discuss the reports of the Second Committee.

10. The PRESIDENT: We shall consider first the report of the Second Committee on agenda item 64, on the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator [A/34/727]. The Assembly will now take a decision on the three draft resolutions recommended by the Committee in paragraph 19 of its report.

11. Draft resolution I is entitled "Assistance to drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia", it was adopted by the Second Committee without a vote. May I consider that the General Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 34/54).

12. The PRESIDENT: Draft resolution II is entitled "Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator". The report of the Fifth Committee on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution is contained in document A/34/730. I shall now put draft resolution II to the vote. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Burma, Burundi, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire

Against: None

Abstaining: Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Hungary, Israel, Japan, Mongolia, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Draft resolution II was adopted by 120 votes to none, with 15 abstentions (resolution 34/55).¹

13. The PRESIDENT: We turn now to draft resolution III, entitled "Measures to be taken in connexion with the earthquake in Montenegro, Yugoslavia". The Second Committee adopted draft resolution III without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 34/56).

14. The PRESIDENT: We now turn to the report of the Second Committee on agenda item 66 [A/34/728]. The Assembly will now take a decision on the two draft resolutions recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 11 of its report.

15. Draft resolution I is entitled "Examination of long-term trends in economic development". The Second Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 34/57).

16. The PRESIDENT: Draft resolution II is entitled "Health as an integral part of development". The Second Committee also adopted draft resolution II without a vote. May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to do likewise?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 34/58).

17. The PRESIDENT: The General Assembly will now consider the report of the Second Committee on agenda item 67 [A/34/709]. I invite members to turn their attention to the recommendation of the Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The Second Committee adopted the recommendation without a vote. May I consider that the General Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The recommendation was adopted (decision 34/419).

AGENDA ITEM 77

Implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development: report of the Secretary-General

REPORT OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE (A/34/723)

AGENDA ITEM 83

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees: report of the High Commissioner

REPORT OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE (A/34/724)

¹ The delegations of Mauritius and Somalia subsequently informed the Secretariat that they wished to have their votes recorded as having been in favour of the draft resolution.

18. Mr. KOMISSAROV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic), Rapporteur of the Third Committee (*interpretation from Russian*): I have the honour of presenting the two reports of the Third Committee on agenda items 77 and 83.

19. The report on agenda item 77 is contained in document A/34/723. In paragraph 8 of that report, the Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development". That draft resolution was adopted by the Committee without a vote.

20. With regard to agenda item 83, the Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following three draft resolutions. They are contained in paragraph 14 of the Committee's report [A/34/724]: draft resolution I, "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees"; draft resolution II, "Situation of African refugees"; and draft resolution III, "Report of the Secretary-General on the Meeting on Refugees and Displaced Persons in South-East Asia". The three draft resolutions were adopted in the Third Committee without a vote.

21. Mr. KADHIM (Iraq) (*interpretation from Arabic*): Document A/34/724 has not been published in the Arabic language, despite the fact that it has been published in the other official languages of the United Nations General Assembly. This has happened on several occasions in the past. We are duly conscious of the fact that we all must facilitate the work of the General Assembly, but we must request the Secretariat to give serious consideration to this matter. In the future, our delegation may have to request a postponement of the vote on any draft resolution which has not been circulated in the Arabic language.

Pursuant to rule 65 of the rules of procedure, it was decided not to discuss the reports of the Third Committee.

22. The PRESIDENT: The positions of delegations with respect to the recommendations contained in the reports of the Third Committee to the Assembly are reflected in the relevant summary records of the Committee.

23. We turn first to the report of the Third Committee on agenda item 77 [A/34/723]. The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 8 of its report, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development". The Third Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I consider that the General Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 34/59).

24. The PRESIDENT: I now invite members to turn to the report of the Third Committee on agenda item 83 [A/34/724]. We shall now take a decision on the three draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 14 of its report.

25. Draft resolution I is entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees". The Third Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote.

May I consider that the General Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 34/60).

26. The PRESIDENT: Draft resolution II is entitled "The situation of African refugees". The Third Committee adopted draft resolution II without a vote. May I consider that the General Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 34/61).

27. The PRESIDENT: Draft resolution III is entitled "Report of the Secretary-General on the Meeting on Refugees and Displaced Persons in South-East Asia". The Third Committee adopted draft resolution III without a vote. May I consider that the General Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 34/62).

AGENDA ITEM 14

Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (concluded)*

28. The PRESIDENT: Members will recall that at its 53rd plenary meeting on 2 November, the General Assembly postponed the vote on draft resolution A/34/L.10, under agenda item 14. The Assembly now has before it a revised version of that draft resolution in document A/34/L.10/Rev.1.

29. I shall now call on those representatives who wish to explain their positions before the vote.

30. Mr. WINN (United States of America): The United States delegation will join the consensus on draft resolution A/34/L.10/Rev.1, entitled "Peaceful use of nuclear energy for economic and social development". Before doing so, however, my delegation would like to reiterate its views regarding the convening of an international conference on the subject.

31. As we have stated previously, the United States consistently supports efforts designed to strengthen co-operation in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, provided those efforts are in full accordance with non-proliferation objectives. We believe this support is evidenced in particular by our active participation in the work of IAEA, the only international body established within the United Nations system especially to deal with the many aspects and implications of the question of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. It is also evidenced by our participation in the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation.

32. In addition, the question of peaceful nuclear co-operation will be a subject for discussion at the upcoming second Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which will be held from 11 August to 5 September 1980, and at the 1981 Salzburg meeting.² Of course, the United States delegation can be expected to be actively and constructively involved in those discussions.

*Resumed from the 53rd meeting.

² Second International Conference on Nuclear Power and its Fuel Cycle.

33. As we have stated in our reply to the Secretary-General's request for the views of States on the question of convening an international conference on peaceful nuclear co-operation for economic and social development [see A/34/197], the United States believes it is imperative for the results of these conferences and activities to be known before we engage in yet another conference on the subject, such as the one proposed in draft resolution A/34/L.10/Rev.1. We have also questioned both the necessity and advisability of taking a decision this year to convene such a conference when so many other opportunities to discuss peaceful nuclear co-operation still lie ahead.

34. After serious review, however, and careful study of this draft resolution, my delegation has agreed to join the consensus to decide, in principle, to convene the International Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, in accordance with the terms of the draft resolution. We continue to believe, however, that the objectives of both General Assembly resolution 32/50 and those of the International Conference proposed in the draft resolution before us today would be most effectively promoted through utilizing IAEA.

35. Mr. PETROVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (*interpretation from Russian*): In a spirit of constructive co-operation, the Soviet delegation is accommodating the sponsors of draft resolution A/34/L.10/Rev.1 and agrees to its adoption by consensus. In so doing, however, we note that the text of the draft resolution provides that in convening and holding the International Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy IAEA will fulfil its appropriate role. This is in accordance with our position that that Agency, which organically combines the functions of promoting economic co-operation and of exercising control and inspection to ensure that this co-operation does not become a channel for the proliferation of nuclear weapons, has as its principal role the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

36. We cannot therefore imagine any broadly representative international meeting involving such co-operation without the participation of IAEA. This applies to international conferences in general and the International Conference to which the draft resolution refers, in particular.

37. The Soviet Union lays great stress on international co-operation in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We always share our achievements with interested countries, both through IAEA and on a bilateral basis. We attach great importance to the role played in the field of nuclear co-operation by IAEA, and the Soviet delegation considers that by the extensive use of the Agency's facilities in holding this Conference we can avoid a situation in which questions concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy might be taken artificially out of the context of the technical and economic aspects of the nuclear fuel cycle and the task of strengthening the régime of the non-proliferation of nuclear energy.

38. While we agree in principle to the convening of the Conference on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in 1983, at the same time we continue to believe that the most appropriate forum for discussing questions of the use of atomic energy for economic and social develop-

ment would be provided by the Conference already planned for 1981, under the aegis of IAEA, on the problems of nuclear energy and its fuel cycle.

39. Mrs. TILLANDER (Sweden): Sweden will join the consensus decision on draft resolution A/34/L.10/Rev.1. We should like, however, to make the following comments, which also refer to General Assembly resolution 34/11 adopted under the same agenda item at our 53rd meeting, on 2 November. Energy production is an important basis for social and economic development. Meeting the energy needs of developing countries, therefore, can make a decisive contribution to their development.

40. Sweden respects the sovereign right of all countries to determine their own energy future and thus to choose between different forms of energy. International co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy rests on a balance of mutual trust and confidence. By that, we mean on the one hand better assurances of supply and on the other that such supply should not be abused. The Government of Sweden believes that all States would benefit from the achievement of this balance.

41. Since the Statute of IAEA entered into force, general understanding of the complexity and the risks involved in the use of nuclear energy for all countries, developed and developing, has increased dramatically. The somewhat uncritical and unproblematical approach reflected in General Assembly resolution 34/11 on IAEA, and draft resolution A/34/L.10/Rev.1 now before us on the International Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy for economic and social development, does not satisfactorily reflect this new knowledge.

42. Together with other States, Sweden strives to bring about nuclear disarmament and to prevent the spread of nuclear explosives. In these efforts the Swedish policy is based on support for the Treaty for the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as the most comprehensive instrument for increasing confidence in declarations of States not to acquire nuclear weapons. Other instruments for this purpose may also be mentioned, one of which is the Treaty of Tlatelolco.³ The common characteristic of each is the application of safeguards to a State's nuclear installations in order to verify for other States that it remains faithful to its pledge. In the absence of comprehensive safeguards, few States have taken such faithfulness for granted. Thus, effective and comprehensive safeguards, applied by IAEA on a non-discriminatory basis, are a fundamental element to be strongly emphasized.

43. The resolution and the draft resolution to which I have referred do not seem sufficiently clear and balanced in this respect. IAEA, as well as the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation, are concerned with these matters. Further, at the second Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to be held in August and September 1980, discussion can be expected of international co-operation on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and related measures to ensure non-proliferation. The findings of the United Nations Conference on New

and Renewable Sources of Energy, which is to meet in 1981, will also no doubt influence the discussion of energy demand and supply, with particular reference to the developing countries. As a source of energy, nuclear fission would pose special risks for health and the environment, which motivate demands for safety in all stages of nuclear-power production.

44. The Government of Sweden maintains, consequently, that considerations of safety and the protection of the environment should also be among the matters to be given due attention in connexion with an international conference on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy for economic and social development. We welcome the efforts made in this direction by IAEA, as described in the draft resolution on the Agency's report, and we should have liked to see the draft resolution call for a strengthening of international efforts.

45. In conclusion, Sweden will participate in the consensus regarding the holding of an international conference aimed at discussion of the modalities for international co-operation in the field of nuclear energy. However, further consideration of the matter of the International Conference should take fully into account the problems to which I have just referred and the consideration of these problems in other bodies or forums, as well as the need for further consideration of generally agreed objectives and modalities for the Conference.

46. Mr. MULLOY (Ireland): On behalf of the nine member States of the European Community, I should like to offer some observations on draft resolution A/34/L.10/Rev.1.

47. The nine members believe it essential that continued progress should be made in the promotion of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In this connexion, we recognize that the role of the planned conference can be important in that it will provide a further basis for co-operation in this sphere. The nine members have therefore been able to support the decision to convene such a conference in principle by 1983. The nine members believe that the conference should be thoroughly and carefully prepared, and wish to stress the importance of the widest possible participation in the conference. For our part, we are ready to make a positive contribution at all stages in order to ensure its success.

48. The nine European countries attach importance to agreed and effective measures to prevent the danger of proliferation. Within this context we believe that the conference should draw fully on the expertise and experience which IAEA has acquired in the areas of its competence over the years, in order to develop research in, and production and utilization of, nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination, as well as co-operation in this field. The nine countries therefore consider that IAEA should play a fully appropriate role.

49. In conclusion, I should like to express the appreciation of the nine members of the European Community to the delegation of Yugoslavia and the other sponsors of the draft resolution for the spirit of compromise they have shown in consultations on this question.

50. Mr. WAGENMAKERS (Netherlands): The representative of Ireland has expressed the view of the

³ Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 634, No. 9068, p. 326).

nine member States of the European Community on the subject under discussion. I should like to add that the Netherlands fully endorses the concept of the promotion of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. At the same time, we have stressed the need of effective measures to minimize the danger of proliferation. Recently, on 1 November, in the First Committee, the Netherlands delegation recognized that tension seems to exist between these two goals.⁴ I repeat here that this tension can and should be removed with the active participation of all States involved.

51. When the first draft resolution on the conference, submitted by Yugoslavia,⁵ was voted upon in 1977, we advocated a constructive dialogue.⁶ In the same explanation of vote we pointed to some basic shortcomings of resolution 32/50. These same shortcomings cause the problems we still have with the present draft resolution. Moreover, we doubt the wisdom of fixing a date at this stage for a conference on the principles and objectives of which diverging views are still held, since we do not know at present at what stage a conference could play a positive role in the development of a new international consensus in the field of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. On the other hand, we note that it has been possible to find certain compromise formulas, and we appreciate the co-operation of the Yugoslav delegation in this matter.

52. The PRESIDENT: No one has asked for a vote on draft resolution A/34/L.10/Rev.1. May I take it that the General Assembly adopts that draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 34/63).

53. The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of Hungary, who wishes to explain his position on the draft resolution that has just been adopted.

54. Mr. ENDREFFY (Hungary): The Hungarian delegation was able to join the consensus on draft resolution A/34/L.10/Rev.1, which was just adopted. We were able to do so because the revised version of the draft resolution was a useful improvement on the original text. In our opinion, the twofold task and responsibility of IAEA—that is, the strengthening of the non-proliferation régime by the safeguarding of the peaceful use of nuclear energy and technology, and the promotion of the development of international co-operation—is now better reflected in the text. My delegation considers this to be an important improvement which contributed greatly to the reaching of a consensus.

55. Concerning operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution just adopted, the Hungarian delegation maintains its previous position, because we are not convinced of the necessity of convening a special conference in 1983, after the conference of the Agency in 1981 which is to deal with all the important aspects of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

⁴ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, First Committee, 25th meeting*, and *ibid.*, *First Committee, Sessional Fascicle*, corrigendum.

⁵ *Ibid.*, *Thirty-second Session, Annexes*, agenda item 14, document A/32/L.15/Rev.1 and Add.1.

⁶ *Ibid.*, *Thirty-second Session, Plenary Meetings*, 97th meeting, paras. 46-55.

AGENDA ITEM 20

Restitution of works of art to countries victims of expropriation: report of the Secretary-General (concluded)*

56. The PRESIDENT: Members will recall that at its 51st plenary meeting on 1 November, the General Assembly postponed—for further consultations—consideration of draft resolution A/34/L.9/Rev.1. The Assembly now has before it a revised version of that draft resolution under the symbol A/34/L.9/Rev.2.

57. I now call on the representative of Egypt who wishes to explain his position before the vote.

58. Mr. ELARABY (Egypt) (*interpretation from Arabic*): The delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt attaches great importance to the restitution of cultural properties to countries from which they have been expropriated, since this issue directly concerns the interests of numerous peoples which have suffered great losses to their historical monuments, relics and works of art as a result of colonial practices.

59. These works of art are what bind peoples to their history and they have a historical value which far exceeds their material worth. They are treasures which each State is entitled to safeguard and preserve.

60. Egypt appeals to all countries to apply article 4 of the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, done at The Hague on 14 May 1954.⁷ Articles 1 and 3 of that Convention state that the contracting parties pledge to respect such cultural properties as exist within their own territories as well as those within the territories of other contracting parties. Egypt wishes to emphasize the need to accelerate the ratification of the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, which was adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO on 14 November 1970⁸ and entered into force on 24 April 1972. Egypt also requests the implementation of resolution 4.122, adopted at the nineteenth session of the General Conference of UNESCO, which calls on States to report to it at its twentieth session on the steps taken with a view to implementing the Convention so that the General Conference could study their reports at its twenty-fourth session.

61. Egypt, which takes great pride in its history and which is so rich in works of art as vestiges of civilization, believes in the importance of cultural exchanges and exchanges of ideas between States as means of promoting co-operation among peoples and their national security and peace and developing spiritual understanding for future generations. For this reason, my country was among the first States to welcome the idea of showing the world the treasures of its civilization and culture, not only inside Egypt but in exhibitions which have been organized throughout the world's capitals and major cities by the authorities in charge of these treasures.

*Resumed from the 51st meeting.

⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 249, No. 3511, p. 240.

⁸ See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Sixteenth Session*, vol. 1, *Resolutions*, pp. 135-141.

62. The fact that a large proportion of our heritage lies in the museums of foreign countries calls for a review of the methods and circumstances whereby they came to be located outside Egypt, without the approval or authorization of the Egyptian Government. This would call for negotiations with the States concerned with a view to applying the Convention adopted under the auspices of UNESCO in 1970 to which I have just referred. Again, this would in our view be in conformity with the provisions of paragraph 3 of Article I of the Charter of the United Nations which calls for international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character.

63. The Arab Republic of Egypt wishes full success to the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation. The rules of procedure of that Committee were approved by the UNESCO General Conference and it will meet for the first time this month, November, at UNESCO headquarters in Paris. Egypt has the honour of being a member of that Committee.

64. Egypt would also like, in this respect, to express its thanks to the Director-General of UNESCO for the efforts which he is exerting and we request the international community to respond to this appeal of 7 June 1978 to all States to undertake a publicity campaign to create the appropriate spirit and atmosphere to favour the adoption of the necessary measures in this respect.

65. Egypt also requests States to respond to the appeal of the Director-General of UNESCO before 15 December of this year by providing information on the difficulties confronting some States in the implementation of the above-mentioned Convention so that UNESCO may implement the resolution adopted by the General Conference in this respect.

66. Before concluding, I should like to affirm that Egypt protests against and condemns the persistence of the Israeli authorities in their policy of changing the legal status and the Arab character and features of the Holy City of Jerusalem, expropriating Arab property therein and transferring Arab antiquities from Jericho and Nablus to the museums of Tel Aviv.

67. What happened in the Mausoleum of Abraham—a mosque of great spiritual importance to all Moslems and which is considered one of the most sacred sites in the Moslem world—when the greater part of it was converted into a Jewish temple, and its contents were plundered with a view to eliminating its Islamic characteristics, is contrary to all moral, ethical and religious values. We strongly condemn these practices as a threat to international peace and security according to paragraph 2 of Security Council resolution 271 (1969).

68. In the light of the aforementioned considerations, the Egyptian delegation is a sponsor of draft resolution A/34/L.9/Rev.2, and hopes that it will be unanimously adopted.

69. The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now take a decision. No one has asked for a vote on draft resolu-

tion A/34/L.9/Rev.2. May I take it that the General Assembly adopts it?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 34/64).

70. The PRESIDENT: I now call on those representatives who wish to explain their positions at this stage.

71. Ms. COOPERSMITH (United States of America): The United States supports the principle of the return of cultural property. We worked closely with UNESCO in its efforts to establish the Intergovernmental Committee that has responsibility for promoting bilateral and multilateral co-operation in achieving this objective. In addition, we have taken the lead in furthering the adoption of practical international instruments that would preserve and protect the cultural heritage. We would also like to point out that the United States judicial system offers redress to individuals or nations alleging that their property has been stolen and is located within the United States. We strongly oppose illicit trading in cultural property, and support the process of ratifying the UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. We also believe that bilateral arrangements are appropriate and useful mechanisms for the return of cultural property. The United States is party to one such significant bilateral arrangement: the Treaty of co-operation providing for the recovery and return of stolen archaeological, historical and cultural properties, signed in 1970 by the United States and Mexico.⁹

72. However, we do not believe that the Assembly should attempt to lead UNESCO's efforts through resolutions containing unbalanced language. In particular, we support the UNESCO Convention as the main vehicle for protecting cultural property and facilitating its return. The Convention limits itself to works of art illicitly entering a country after that country's acceptance of the Convention.

73. We are troubled by a call for governmental interference with mass media, especially in an area where an international organization is already taking constructive action. We do not believe that the disposition of all art objects, some of which belong to more than one nation or even to the entire international community, can be predetermined by a general pronouncement.

74. Mr. HUTCHINSON (Ireland): The nine member States of the European Community, on whose behalf I have the honour to speak, have joined in the consensus on the resolution which has just been adopted by the Assembly.

75. While sharing the legitimate aspirations of the authors of this resolution, individual members of the European Community wish to maintain their reservations on this text, as expressed during consideration of this item at previous sessions. In particular, the nine members consider that UNESCO continues to provide the proper forum for further consideration of this question.

The meeting rose at 12.05 p.m.

⁹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 791, No. 11244, p. 314.