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Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 4 December 1989, at 3 p.m.

President:

Mr. GARBA

(Nigeria)

- Question of Palestine [39] (continued): draft resolutions
- The situation in the Middle East [37] (continued): draft resolutions

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The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.



AGENDA ITEM 39 (continued)

QUESTION OF PALESTINE: DRAFT RESOLUTIONS (A/44/L. 43 to A/44/L. 45, A/44/L. 50, A/44/L. 51/Rev.1)

The PRESIDENT: I should like to inform delegations that action on draft resolutions A/44/L. 50 and A/44/L. 51/Rev.1 will be taken on Wednesday, 6 December, in the afternoon. Therefore, the Assembly will not take up the first item scheduled for this afternoon.

AGENDA ITEM 37 (continued)

THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST: DRAFT RESOLUTIONS (A/44/L. 47 to A/44/L. 49)

The PRESIDENT: I should like to announce that the following countries have become sponsors of draft resolution A/44/L. 47: Afghanistan, Albania, Kuwait, Morocco and Oman; and of draft resolution A/44/L. 48: Afghanistan, Albania, Kuwait, Morocco and Oman.

May I remind representatives that the debate on this item was concluded at the 66th plenary meeting, held on Tuesday, 28 November.

The Assembly will now consider draft resolutions A/44/L. 47, A/44/L. 48 and A/44/L. 49.

I shall now call on those representatives who wish to explain their votes before the voting on any or all of the three draft resolutions. Representatives will also have an opportunity to explain their votes after all the votes have been taken.

May I also remind representatives that in accordance with decision 34/40, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. PICKERING (United States of America): For over 40 years the United States has been in the forefront of efforts to achieve a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

(Mr. Pickering, United States)

During the past year the United States has worked diligently and intensively with all parties in the region to pursue our peace initiatives. We see signs of progress and we intend to remain actively engaged to build upon that progress. It is a difficult task but our efforts must continue for we believe that the status quo in the Middle East is unacceptable and inherently dangerous.

In our view, the only realistic means of achieving a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli problem is through direct negotiations between the concerned parties based upon Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973). In our view, this settlement should be based on the principles of exchange of territory for peace, secure and recognized boundaries for Israel and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Moreover, we believe that a properly structured international conference could facilitate direct negotiations between the parties. We cannot support, however, the concept of a conference that would have the power to impose a settlement on the parties through veto of agreements reached by them.

We also oppose unilateral attempts by any of the parties that would seek to prejudge the outcome of negotiations.

It is essential that a settlement provide for the security of Israel and for the security of its neighbours. At the same time, the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people must be recognized and addressed. We have said that the Palestinians must be represented at every stage of the negotiations. All must agree to negotiate on the accepted international basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973).

We believe that the Assembly could, in encouraging reconciliation and accommodation between the concerned parties, make a practical contribution to the

(Mr. Pickering, United States)

peace process and help to create the positive atmosphere required to launch successful negotiations. Regrettably, the draft resolutions before us do not meet this challenge. They are almost parallel renditions of those adopted in earlier years and offer only more rhetoric and accusations. Such divisive language does not promote, but rather retards, the cause of the peace process.

The United States must vote against draft resolutions A/44/L.47 and A/44/L.48, which are objectionable in tone and contain unbalanced harsh condemnation of Israel. Among other things, paragraph 13 of draft resolution A/44/L.47 endorses an international peace conference on the Middle East, a concept which in this form we cannot support. Moreover, the call in the draft resolution for States to end all aid to Israel is, of course, unacceptable to us.

We have asked for a separate vote on paragraph 10 of draft resolution A/44/L.47 to highlight our objections to its critical reference to the relations of the United States with another Member State. We call on all Member States to reject that paragraph.

My Government supported Security Council resolution 497 (1981) on the status of the Golan Heights, which was balanced and helpful. Our consistent position has been that the Golan Heights, are occupied Syrian territory. The extreme language of draft resolution A/44/L.48, on the other hand, is harmful, particularly its call on Member States to sever all diplomatic and other ties with Israel.

(Mr. Pickering, United States)

As in the case of similar draft resolutions in the past, my delegation will abstain on draft resolution A/44/L.49, concerning Jerusalem, because we believe that the status of Jerusalem should be determined by means of negotiations among the parties concerned and as part of an overall peace settlement.

I also wish to state for the record that my Government objects to phrases appearing in these draft resolutions such as "occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967", or "Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem". As we have said, we consider that these phrases describe the territories demographically, are limited to territories occupied in 1967, and do not prejudice their status, which can be resolved only through negotiations. We are convinced that Jerusalem must remain undivided but that its final status should be decided through negotiations.

In our discussions with parties in the region we perceive a growing realization of the need to abandon polemics and concentrate on pragmatic, creative approaches to resolving this complex problem. We applaud this trend and shall continue to do everything we can to move the process forward. Those that are truly committed to peace can do no less.

Mr. PHOFOLO (Lesotho): My delegation will be voting on the three draft resolutions before the Assembly conscious of Lesotho's long-standing commitment to the achievement of a peaceful, negotiated settlement of all aspects of the situation in the Middle East, and also bearing in mind the international community's collective responsibility to find a formula that can bring to a halt the bloodshed and instability in that region, which continue to pose grave dangers to international peace and security.

(Mr. Phoofofo, Lesotho)

My Government remains convinced of the great potential of the role of the United Nations in bringing together all the parties to the conflict in the Middle East at the negotiating table in order to work out the modalities of a comprehensive settlement that would be both durable and acceptable to all. Therefore we have consistently supported all the initiatives and resolutions of the United Nations aimed at achieving that goal.

The Kingdom of Lesotho continues to view the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Arab territories occupied by Israel during the 1967 war and the restoration of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and statehood as the two elements crucial to the success of any efforts to bring about peace and stability in the Middle East. My country will continue to support all the positive efforts of the United Nations towards the realization of peace and stability in the Middle East. The thrust of the three draft resolutions before the Assembly seems to be another contribution by the Organization to the international efforts towards the achievement of that goal.

Therefore my delegation will vote in favour of the three draft resolutions before the Assembly. In doing so, my delegation will be giving expression to the long-standing policy of the Government of Lesotho to participate constructively in the international efforts towards finding a lasting and comprehensive solution to the continued conflict in the Middle East. However, our affirmative vote should not be construed as implying that my delegation supports language, phraseologies and connotations which appear in some of the paragraphs and which do not strictly comply with my Government's foreign policy.

Much as we regretted the negative vote referred to in operative paragraph 8 of draft resolution A/44/L.48, we have difficulty with the language used to express displeasure, as my delegation always maintains that the exercise of a vote is a matter of a sovereign right.

(Mr. Phoofolo, Lesotho)

We also have some difficulty with the language used in regard to some of the measures being called for in draft resolution A/44/L.48. We see dialogue and persuasion as the most appropriate tools for reaching mutual understanding in our collective efforts to reach solutions to problems. My delegation's reservations concerning some phrases in this draft resolution should not in any circumstances be interpreted as condoning the application of brute force by the State of Israel to the Palestinian people. My country is firm in its policy of categorically rejecting violence.

Mr. ORTIZ GANDARILLAS (Bolivia) (interpretation from Spanish): The delegation of Bolivia once again reaffirms its Government's profound wish that as soon as possible a solution will be found for the delicate situation in the Middle East that will ensure just and lasting peace in the region, a solution based on the purpose and principles of the Charter of the Organization and specifically on the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force. On the basis of that principle, my Government, like the international community as a whole, regards the measures adopted by Israel in the occupied Arab territories, especially in the Golan Heights, as completely invalid. At the same time, it appeals for the withdrawal of the occupation troops from Lebanon and from the occupied territories in the West Bank and Gaza.

The delegation of Bolivia also reiterates its support for the steps taken by the Secretary-General with a view to convening the International Peace Conference on the Middle East in order to reach a peaceful and just settlement that will allow all States in the region to live in peace within their respective secure and recognized boundaries.

(Mr. Ortiz Gandarillas, Bolivia)

My delegation will, in this context, support draft resolutions A/44/L. 47 and A/44/L. 49, since we believe they make a contribution to the achievement of the purposes and principles I have mentioned. But my delegation will have to abstain on draft resolution A/44/L. 48, because of the approach and language in some paragraphs, which are not in conformity with the position my country has maintained.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now take a decision on the three draft resolutions before it.

Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/44/L. 47, it would, inter alia, reaffirm its call for convening the International Peace Conference on the Middle East, under the auspices of the United Nations, and endorse the call for the setting up of a preparatory committee, within the framework of the Security Council, with the participation of the permanent members of the Council, to take the necessary action to convene the conference.

The Secretary-General has reported to the General Assembly, in document A/44/731, in the context of its resolution 43/176, which also called for the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East. This report noted a continuing lack of unanimity in this regard. As indicated in the report, the Secretary-General will spare no effort in carrying out the responsibilities entrusted to him by the General Assembly and the Security Council.

As regards the setting up of a preparatory committee, section 2A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990 to 1991 includes provision for servicing the Security Council and its subsidiary organs. Consequently, should agreement be reached on the establishment of a preparatory committee for the Conference, no programme-budget implications are anticipated.

(The President)

Likewise, no programme-budget implications are expected to arise from the reports that would be requested were draft resolutions A/44/L. 47, A/44/L. 48 and A/44/L. 49 to be adopted.

We shall now begin the voting process.

(The President)

We turn first to draft resolution A/44/L.47. A separate vote has been requested on paragraph 10 of draft resolution A/44/L.47. Is there any objection to that request?

There being no objection, I shall therefore put it to the vote first. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chad, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Grenada, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Liberia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Portugal, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Jamaica, Kenya, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Myanmar, Nepal, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zaire

Paragraph 10 was retained by 63 votes to 35, with 47 abstentions.*

* Subsequently the delegation of the Gambia advised the Secretariat that it had intended to abstain; and the delegation of India that it had intended to vote in favour.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now vote on draft resolution A/44/L.47, as a whole. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Dominica, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Antigua and Barbuda, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Central African Republic, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Finland, Grenada, Honduras, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Malta, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Uruguay

Draft resolution A/44/L.47, as a whole, was adopted by 109 votes to 18, with 31 abstentions (resolution 44/40 A).

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution

A/44/L.48. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, China, Comoros, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Poland, Qatar, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Dominica, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Burundi, Central African Republic, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Grenada, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Jamaica, Liberia, Malawi, Malta, Myanmar, Nepal, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Spain, Suriname, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zaire

Draft resolution A/44/L.48 was adopted by 84 votes to 22, with 49 abstentions (resolution 44/40 B).

The PRESIDENT: We turn now to draft resolution A/44/L.49. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Costa Rica, Israel

Abstaining: Belize, Dominica, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Honduras, Kenya, Malawi, United States of America

Draft resolution A/44/L.49 was adopted by 147 votes to 2, with 8 abstentions (resolution 44/40 C).*

* Subsequently the delegation of Liberia advised the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.

The PRESIDENT: I shall now call on those representatives who wish to explain their votes after the voting. May I remind representatives that in accordance with General Assembly resolution 34/401 explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. MENDEZ (Philippines): The Philippines is of the view that draft resolutions, especially on an important and complex question such as the Arab-Israeli conflict, should be presented in a balanced way. Moreover, we believe it is essential that the sovereign right of every State to conduct its own international affairs in conformity with the United Nations Charter be upheld. For that reason my delegation was constrained to abstain in the vote on draft resolution A/44/L.48. Our reservations on the formulation of operative paragraph 10 of draft resolution A/44/L.47 led us to take the same position while voting in favour of the resolution as a whole.

The Philippines remains firmly committed to peaceful efforts aimed at achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the conflict in the Middle East, the core of which is the question of Palestine, based on Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) and on the exercise by the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights, including the right to self-determination and the right to independent statehood.

Mr. MONTAÑO (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): The delegation of Mexico voted in favour of draft resolutions A/44/L.47, A/44/L.48 and A/44/L.49. We are convinced that they contain positive elements for the achievement of a diplomatic solution to the conflict in the Middle East. The Government of Mexico is concerned that at a time when progress is being made towards a solution to most of the conflicts which have threatened international peace and security in the

(Mr. Montafio, Mexico)

recent past, in the Middle East all peace initiatives continue to meet with obstacles.

The time has come for all the parties to the conflict, in particular those directly involved, to show political resolve and a genuine desire for peace so as to reach a just, stable and lasting solution to the conflict. Any diplomatic solution inevitably entails compromise and flexibility. We believe that in the Middle East so far there has not been a concurrence of constructive positions demonstrated by the interested parties. For that reason we insist that the process should begin towards the convening of an international peace conference under the supervision of the United Nations, with the participation of all the parties involved and the five permanent members of the Security Council. Furthermore, we continue to support the efforts of the Organization to find a solution to the conflict in the Middle East; hence our support for the general framework for solving the conflict as set forth in the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

(Mr. Montano, Mexico)

In this connection, we emphasize the appeal for recognition and respect for the sovereignty, integrity and political independence of all the States in the region and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries. We also reaffirm the right of all States of the region to self-determination without interference from outside, and we continue to support the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

My delegation abstained in the separate vote on operative paragraph 10 of draft resolution A/44/L.47, since we believe that the views it contains are beyond the competence of the General Assembly. We also reiterate our serious reservations with regard to operative paragraph 6 of the same draft resolution since the partial agreements attained so far, while being far from a definitive solution to the Middle East problem, constitute very important steps to that end.

Finally, my delegation would also have abstained, had there been a separate vote, on operative paragraphs 12, 13 and 14 of draft resolution A/44/L.48, which deal with measures which fall within the purview of the Security Council.

Mr. PEJIC (Yugoslavia): In accordance with its principled position, Yugoslavia again this year voted in favour of draft resolution A/44/L.48 on the Golan, presented under the agenda item "The situation in the Middle East". In this context, we fully support the main thrust of that resolution, which is a just request by Syria for the immediate termination of the Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan, as well as all other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967.

However, we have some serious reservations with regard to operative paragraphs 13 and 14 of that resolution. We consider that the recommendations contained in those paragraphs do not take into consideration some realities of the present time and the need to find a political solution to the Middle East crisis

(Mr. Pejic, Yugoslavia)

through dialogue and negotiations. Thus we hope that the sponsors of that resolution will in the future make an effort to make it acceptable to a greater number of Member States and enable them to join in support of that resolution.

Mr. HOSSEINI (Islamic Republic of Iran): Although my delegation voted in favour of the draft resolutions contained in documents A/44/L.47, A/44/L.48 and A/44/L.49, I should like to put on record my delegation's reservation with regard to all terms or references in the above-mentioned resolutions that might imply any recognition of the Zionist régime. It is our firm conviction that the Zionist forces of occupation must unconditionally withdraw from all Palestinian territories, including those occupied prior to 1967.

Mr. ACET (Turkey): My delegation voted in favour of all the draft resolutions under the item "The situation in the Middle East", in line with Turkey's firm position on the problem. We abstained on operative paragraph 10 of draft resolution A/44/L.47 because of the inappropriate language used against certain Member States. My delegation would not have supported operative paragraphs 8, 12, 13 and 14 of draft resolution A/44/L.48 had they been voted on separately. We believe that those paragraphs do not contribute to the advancement of the peace process.

Mr. FERTER (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): My country views with great concern the fact that despite the strengthening of a positive climate of international détente and a broadening of the search for peaceful solutions to disputes, dialogue is not yet a reality in the Middle East region. Argentina considers that more than ever before the parties and the international community as a whole must make every effort to resolve and eliminate all possible hotbeds of conflict.

(Mr. Pfirter, Argentina)

In that context, we voted in favour of draft resolutions A/44/L.47 and A/44/L.49, since in general they contain principles which have been supported by the Republic of Argentina.

With regard to draft resolution A/44/L.48, my delegation once again abstained this year, since that draft contains in operative paragraphs 2, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 14 ideas which are incompatible with governing principles of Argentina's foreign policy with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

For those same reasons my delegation abstained on operative paragraph 10 of draft resolution A/44/L.47.

My delegation once again wishes to affirm most emphatically that the Government of Argentina does not recognize Israel's illegal occupation of the Syrian Arab Golan, which is in direct violation, among other things, of resolution 497 (1981) of the Security Council. For this reason, my delegation believes that the imposition of laws, jurisdiction and administration by Israel, the occupying Power, on those territories is null and void and lacks validity.

Lastly, my delegation wishes to reiterate Argentina's full support for the restitution of the Syrian Arab Golan to the Syrian Arab Republic, so that that country may exercise full sovereignty over all of its territory.

Mr. BLANC (France) (interpretation from French): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the twelve member States of the European Community.

Our views on the principles which must be applied to resolve the conflicts in the Middle East have been expressed in detail in the statement we made in the general debate on 28 November.

We maintain serious reservations about the first two resolutions submitted to the Assembly on this item. We are concerned by their lack of balance and by the

(Mr. Blanc, France)

fact that they do not reflect the fundamental principles which we consider to be essential for the settlement of the Israeli-Arab conflict. Further, we cannot accept criticism of a permanent member of the Security Council for having exercised its rights in conformity with the Charter.

However, we are happy to have voted in favour of the third resolution on this item and we wish in this connection to restate the importance we attach to resolution 478 (1980) of the Security Council.

Mr. VILLAGRAN DE LEON (Guatemala) (interpretation from Spanish): The delegation of Guatemala voted in favour of the draft resolutions under consideration by the Assembly, although they contain concepts with which we do not fully agree, because we understand that they reflect criteria and principles which have been identified as fundamental to achieving a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

(Mr. Villagran De Leon, Guatemala)

Concerning draft resolution A/44/L.48, had there been separate votes on operative paragraphs 12, 13 and 14 my delegation would not have voted in favour of them because of elements in them that are not within the General Assembly's competence.

Mr. FREUDENSCHUSS (Austria): During the debate on this item Austria had an opportunity to explain its position on the situation in the Middle East. Our position is well known and has been consistent over the years. We share the basic concern expressed in the resolutions that have just been adopted, and agree with many, but not all, of their elements.

In particular, my delegation cannot support those elements that would not only aggravate the existing situation but also impede the search for peace. Austria does not believe that measures aimed at breaking relations with Israel, and thus leading to that country's isolation, would bring us any closer to a solution of the Middle East problem. Such attempts do not take account of the need of all parties to seek negotiated solutions - the very condition for finding peace in that troubled region. We cannot support any formulation that could be interpreted as impinging on the principle of the universality of membership of the United Nations - a principle that Austria has consistently upheld. Therefore Austria, while supporting draft resolution A/44/L.49, felt compelled to abstain in the votes on draft resolutions A/44/L.47 and A/44/L.48.

Mr. ZEPCE (Greece): Greece voted in favour of draft resolutions A/44/L.47 and A/44/L.48 and, thereby, reaffirmed its consistent and firm position on the unacceptability of the continued occupation of Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem and the other Arab territories, that have been occupied since 1967. Our position with regard to every territory remaining under foreign military occupation is total and unequivocal.

(Mr. Zepos, Greece)

My country has stressed that peace in the Middle East cannot be based on revenge or hatred and that all peoples in the area have a right to share the gift of peace.

The position of Greece on the question of the Middle East in all its aspects is well known to the members of the Assembly. Our affirmative votes on draft resolutions A/44/L. 47, A/44/L. 48 and A/44/L. 49 are consistent with that position. However, we have reservations in respect of certain paragraphs of draft resolutions A/44/L. 47 and A/44/L. 48. Had those paragraphs been voted on separately Greece would have abstained in the vote on operative paragraph 12 of draft resolution A/44/L. 47 and in the votes on operative paragraphs 8, 13(c) and 13(d) of draft resolution A/44/L. 48, and it would have voted against operative paragraph 14 of draft resolution A/44/L. 48. The Greek delegation wishes to make it clear that, although it voted in favour of the draft resolutions as a whole, it dissociates itself from these paragraphs.

Mr. ENGD (Cameroon): Traditionally we have shared the strong feeling that the Palestinian people should be able to exercise self-determination. We shall continue to support the quest for those fundamental rights so long denied to the Palestinian people.

We voted in favour of these resolutions because we support their central theme - the search for settlement of disputes, and the quest for an opportunity for the Palestinian people to exercise their legitimate rights. However, a number of provisions tend to introduce elements that provoke undesirable discord and confrontation. One of these is paragraph 13(d) of draft resolution A/44/L. 48, which calls on all States to sever diplomatic, trade and cultural relations with Israel. We could not seriously expect a vote in the United Nations to subscribe fully to such a position while Israel and others concerned are participating in this forum.

(Mr. Engo, Cameroon)

We have refused to be debauched by side issues. We must not be taken as having given up our reservation regarding those side issues and rhetoric, which make no constructive contribution to the peace process. If those matters had been voted on separately we would have abstained, as we did in respect of draft resolution A/44/L.47.

We sincerely hope that, with the easing of tensions between the major influential Powers of the age, some satisfactory solution to the situation in the Middle East will be found. Cameroon continues to have strong faith in the capacity of history, and of this generation to use the United Nations Charter for the achievement of lasting peace and development.

Mr. MUNTASSER (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) (interpretation from Arabic): My delegation voted in favour of all the draft resolutions submitted under agenda item 37. However, my delegation would like to stress its reservation in respect of every paragraph that makes a direct or indirect reference to recognition of the Zionist entity. I hope that this will be reflected accurately in the records of the Assembly.

Mr. PAWLAK (Poland): The Polish delegation voted in favour of draft resolution A/44/L.48, which deals, inter alia, with the Golan Heights. However, my delegation has reservations in respect of operative paragraphs 13 and 14 of that resolution, and if those paragraphs had been voted on separately my delegation would have abstained, as we strongly believe in the universality of the United Nations.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 37.

The meeting rose at 4.20 p.m.