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Headquarters, New York

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*President: Mr. Lester B. PEARSON (Canada).*

### Appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations (A/2380)

[Agenda item 74]

1. The PRESIDENT: The General Assembly will recall that the Secretary-General, on 10 November last, by means of a letter addressed to the President of the General Assembly and in a statement made before this Assembly [392nd meeting], informed the General Assembly of his decision to submit his resignation as Secretary-General. The President of the Security Council was also informed of this by a letter [S/2846] which the Secretary-General addressed to him on the same date. Following upon this, the General Assembly, on the proposal of Mr. Lie, included in the agenda of the seventh session an item entitled "Appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations", and it is that item on our agenda which is before us this afternoon.

2. In taking up this item today, the General Assembly therefore accepts the resignation of Mr. Lie. I am sure that I am speaking on your behalf when I say that we do this with very great regret.

3. During the first seven years in the life of our Organization, our Secretary-General has whole-heartedly, with zeal and determination, devoted himself to the United Nations and to international co-operation. I am confident that it is the desire of the Assembly that I, as President, should express to Mr. Lie our sense of deep gratitude for his great and lasting contribution during these historic years towards the firm establishment of our United Nations as a bulwark of peace, a cause which has always found in him a staunch and forward-looking champion. And since, as we all know, a husband is merely the person that his wife makes him, possibly I may be permitted to associate in our expression of gratitude that charming and gracious lady, Mrs. Trygve Lie.

4. On 31 March 1953, Mr. Ahmed Bokhari, President of the Security Council, addressed to the President of the General Assembly the following communication [A/2380]:

"I have the honour to inform you that the Security Council, at its 617th meeting, held on 31 March 1953, adopted a proposal by the representative of France, recommending to the General Assembly that Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld, Swedish Minister of State, be appointed as Secretary-General of the United Nations. Ten votes were cast in favour of the French proposal and none against, with one abstention."

5. Before placing the recommendation of the Security Council before the General Assembly for decision, I should like to draw the attention of the Assembly to a draft resolution submitted by the delegation of Canada [A/L.150], dealing with the question of the terms of appointment of the second Secretary-General of our Organization. The General Assembly will recall that its previous decisions with regard to the terms of appointment to this office fixed such terms only for the appointment of the first Secretary-General. It is therefore necessary for the General Assembly to determine this question in relation to the appointment which is before it at this time.

6. For that reason, I place before the General Assembly for its decision the Canadian draft resolution [A/L.150], which reads as follows:

*"The General Assembly,*

*"Recalling General Assembly resolution 11 (I) of 24 January 1946 and paragraph 32 of General Assembly resolution 13 (I) of 13 February 1946,*

*"Decides that the terms of appointment of the second Secretary-General shall be the same as those of the first Secretary-General."*

*The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.*

7. The PRESIDENT: The General Assembly now has before it the recommendation of the Security Council that Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld, Swedish Minister of State, should be appointed Secretary-General of the United Nations. Under rule 140 of the rules of procedure, the General Assembly will vote upon the recommendation of the Security Council by secret ballot.

*A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Ferrer Vieyra (Argentina) and U Kyin (Burma) acted as tellers.

The result of the balloting was as follows:

In favour .....	57
Against .....	1
Abstentions .....	1

The recommendation of the Security Council was adopted.

8. The PRESIDENT: Mr. Dag Hammarskjold will be informed at once of the result of the election. It is hoped that he will be here in time for a meeting of the General Assembly on Friday afternoon, 10 April, when the ceremony of induction will take place and the authority of his office will be transferred to him.
9. Mr. KYROU (Greece): The Greek delegation was particularly gratified to be able to vote, first in the Security Council and then a few moments ago in this General Assembly, for the appointment of Mr. Dag Hammarskjold as Secretary-General of the United Nations.
10. The circumstances in which the Security Council decided to recommend Mr. Hammarskjold for the appointment have provided new reasons for hope in the future of our Organization. It is, however, evident that our new chief administrative officer will be in a position to discharge his important responsibilities effectively only as long as this spirit of good will continues to instil life into the provisions of the Charter. It is a matter of great regret that such a propitious atmosphere should have been sorely lacking at a time when it was most needed by our outgoing Secretary-General for the fulfilment of his complicated and arduous tasks.
11. Our whole-hearted good wishes of success for Mr. Hammarskjold cannot make us forget the deep gratitude that we all owe to his predecessor. Mr. Trygve Lie's name is closely linked with the early and most difficult years of the United Nations. Still, with never failing devotion, he has safely guided our Organization through many perils to a point where every hope is permitted. To Mr. Trygve Lie and his unflinching perseverance the United Nations owes its new and comfortable home. However, beyond the creation of the material conditions for the conduct of our work, we are indebted to Mr. Lie for his endeavours to give practical expression to the aims and purposes of the Charter by his twenty-year programme for achieving peace through the United Nations.
12. As representative of Greece, I have some additional reasons for paying this well-deserved tribute to our departing Secretary-General. I therefore take this occasion to express to him the gratitude of the Greek people and the Greek Government for his active interest in the repatriation of the abducted Greek children. The untiring efforts which Mr. Trygve Lie displayed on their behalf have shed a revealing light on the many qualifications—political experience, diplomatic tact and, above all, qualities of heart—that are expected of the incumbent of the post of United Nations Secretary-General. These same qualifications, so happily combined in one person, permitted Mr. Lie to take the lead in the organization of a collective security system and, ultimately, to tender his resignation fifteen months before the completion of his term of office,

when he thought that his own removal from the scene could contribute towards a *rapprochement* of the great Powers within the United Nations.

13. Mr. Trygve Lie can now depart with a clear conscience. During his seven-year tenure of office, he has established a distinguished record of achievement from which his successor will not fail to draw inspiration. He is fortunate to leave at the helm a man who is fully qualified to carry on.
14. On behalf of my Government I wish Mr. Trygve Lie and his charming wife every possible success in whatever they undertake in the years to come.
15. Mr. THORS (Iceland): It is a pleasure for me to have the opportunity to say a few words on behalf of the delegation of Iceland at this significant moment, and it is a great honour and privilege to have been asked and authorized to speak also on behalf of the delegations of Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands, as well as those of Denmark, Norway and Sweden.
16. I said that this was a significant moment; but it is also a sad moment, when a good friend and a great pioneer is about to leave the United Nations. We are gathered today in this great hall of our plenary meetings in the striking, modern, spacious and comfortable buildings of our Headquarters. From the outside, the United Nations looks great today, but it has not always been thus. For a long time this Organization, which was to find its site here in the United States, had nowhere to go. It had to be built up from the ground. That work called for patience, great organizational skill and resourcefulness. At one time there was no site, no building planned and no funds for construction. Mr. Trygve Lie had to lead in all this work, and he was efficiently assisted by many good friends of the United Nations. So today we look up to our Headquarters as one of the symbols and tokens of the resourcefulness and energetic work of Mr. Lie and his many able assistants. We cannot help comparing present working conditions with those at Hunter College and Lake Success, and we are happy to acknowledge that great results have been achieved.
17. But it is not only from the outside that the United Nations has had to be built up. It is today an organization with some four thousand employees from all over the world. I dare say that every language of the world is spoken inside the United Nations Secretariat and every ideology represented. It is evident that such an organization needs great leadership and an outstanding personality to direct it. It was a great task that Mr. Trygve Lie took upon his shoulders when he agreed to become the first Secretary-General of an almost non-existent United Nations. Fortunately, his shoulders are strong, and so is his personality.
18. The United Nations was established when all the big Powers of the world were walking as friends together; it was assumed that peace had been established, but alas, that proved false. In this respect, therefore, the United Nations was not built on true premises. It was thought that the United Nations would preserve the peace which the big Powers had already reached, but the atmosphere of friendly co-operation among all nations did not, unfortunately, last long. Then came the gloomy clouds of the cold war and, finally, horrible war itself.

19. We all know how difficult would have been the position of any Secretary-General of the United Nations in such circumstances, in a world so divided. The Secretary-General must have but one aim, but one ideal: to serve the best interests of the United Nations and the world in general. He must be guided only by truth and justice. This, Mr. Trygve Lie has endeavoured, in his difficult and precarious position, to do. Certainly, he cannot be blamed for the fact that the world has been bitterly split and divided. Nothing, I am convinced, would give Mr. Trygve Lie greater personal satisfaction than to see this division removed, to see friendship restored, to see suspicion ended, to see—in fact—the United Nations truly united. At this moment, when Mr. Trygve Lie is about to leave his post as Secretary-General, we see some hope that the United Nations is moving in the direction of co-operation. No one, I am convinced, would be more despondent than Mr. Lie if our hopes should prove unfounded.

20. We know that Mr. Trygve Lie has always been true to the principles of our Charter, particularly to those concerning the maintenance of international peace and the development of friendly relations among nations. In that endeavour, he has truly rendered great service to a great ideal. In relinquishing his present position with the United Nations, he leaves behind a promising Organization which has the possibility of immensely benefiting mankind, on the basis of the principles of the Charter.

21. We hope that Mr. Trygve Lie will remain available in the future for other great services to the United Nations, in fields where his experience and ability could bring the Organization great results.

22. We want Mr. Trygve Lie to know that he enjoys the respect of the Governments and peoples of Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Iceland, my own country. His work will be remembered by the present and future leaders of the United Nations, and history will preserve his name as one of the promoters and architects of international co-operation and understanding, which alone can give humanity the peace for which we all yearn and for which hundreds of millions of people all over the world daily pray.

23. We wish Mr. Trygve Lie and his family health and happiness for many years to come. We know that the United Nations can always count on him, on his advice and efficient co-operation in solving difficult problems and preserving international peace.

24. We wish to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Lie's successor, Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld, on his election to this high position. We all want to see him succeed in the performance of his enormous and difficult duties.

25. In the United Nations, men leave and new men must replace them: the ideals of the Charter remain and claim the service and adherence of us all.

26. Mr. LODGE (United States of America): The United States, of course, supported and heartily welcomes the election of Mr. Hammarskjöld. At this moment, however, we particularly wish to express appreciation for the work of the retiring Secretary-General, Mr. Trygve Lie.

27. During his more than seven years of service to the United Nations, Mr. Lie has given of himself unreservedly to promote the ideals of the Charter. He has carried out his difficult task with courage, energy and devotion. Mr. Lie has been widely regarded as a symbol of the United Nations. The Preparatory Commission prophesied, in London, in 1945, that the United Nations could not prosper, nor could its aims be realized, without the active and steadfast support of the peoples of the world, and that the Secretary-General, more than anyone else, would stand for the United Nations as a whole in the eyes of the world. Mr. Lie has recognized the responsibility which this concept placed upon his shoulders, and he said himself, some years later:

"The office I happen to hold, the office of Secretary-General, stands for the hopes for peace and civilization that are bound up in the United Nations."

28. It was Mr. Lie's task to set up the Organization at the very start and to make of it a going concern. His was the task of establishing the precedents which might guide his successors. He has done this in a manner which has enhanced the dignity of his office. He has not failed to look beyond the immediate problems into the future. He has taken the initiative in presenting his views on long-range planning for the United Nations.

29. The great test of the United Nations itself came when the Organization was faced with the attack in Korea. The issue was whether the Organization itself should survive or should perish. Within fifteen hours after the Secretary-General was informed that a conflict appeared to have broken out in Korea, he courageously stated his views to the Security Council. Having asked for a report from the United Nations Commission in Korea, he told the Security Council, on 25 June 1950, that the situation was in his view a serious one and a threat to international peace. He said:

"The Security Council is, in my opinion, the competent organ to deal with it. I consider it the clear duty of the Security Council to take steps necessary to re-establish peace in that area."<sup>1</sup>

30. The seven years of Mr. Lie's service as Secretary-General have presented him with the problems of moving the headquarters of the Organization from one temporary location to another: from the Henry Hudson Hotel to Hunter College, then to Lake Success, and, finally, to the new Headquarters building in which we sit. It was a long way from Church House in London, where the Preparatory Commission met, to this Headquarters building. It could be said that, in a way, this Headquarters where we are now is a monument to Mr. Lie, because under his guidance it came into being. But I suggest that a monument to his work lies not in stone and glass and mortar. The United Nations is neither one building nor another: it is the peoples of the world meeting here, through their representatives, on the basis of Charter principles.

31. From his first report to the General Assembly to his last, Mr. Lie has seen what the United Nations really is. He said, in June 1946:

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifth Year, No. 15, p. 3.*

"It is a machinery through which the nations can co-operate. It can be used and developed in the light of its activities and experience, to the untold benefit of humanity, or it can be discarded and broken."<sup>2</sup>

In his last report to us, in September of 1952, Mr. Lie stated:

"So long as the United Nations exists and functions, we can keep alive the hope and continue the effort for peaceful adjustments, for workable bases of co-existence and even, ultimately, for the reconciliation of what today may appear to be irreconcilable" [A/2141/Add.1, page 2].

32. The true monument to Mr. Lie is his actions to advance the principles of the United Nations Charter. It could not be easy for a man of principle and integrity to attempt to administer an organization composed, as it is today, of sixty Member States. Differences of opinion are bound to arise and are to be expected. Mr. Lie's position reminds me of the two lines in "John Gilpin's Ride":

"And those behind cried 'Forward'  
"And those in front cried 'Back'".

33. As he takes leave of us, Mr. Lie should have the satisfaction of knowing that his was a job well done. He has not only the grateful thanks of the United States Government, but also the best wishes of the American people for his health and happiness in the future.

34. Sir Gladwyn JEBB (United Kingdom): This is indeed a sad occasion for the many personal friends of Mr. Trygve Lie, who now lays down his heavy burden of office. I myself know a little about the weight of that burden, since I was Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission in London and filled, in an acting capacity, the post of Secretary-General until the Secretary-General himself was actually elected. Since, however, everybody knew that I was only a *locum tenens*, nobody, I think, bothered to confront me with the really frightful problems which immediately descended on the devoted head of the first real Secretary-General and with which he has had to cope during the last seven momentous years. Besides, towards the end of 1945 and at the beginning of 1946, when I was in charge, we were all still inspired by the agreement reached at San Francisco and by the signing of the Charter. It may be that we hoped for too much at that time, but surely it was not wrong that we should have set our aims high. The peoples of the world would not have understood or accepted the concept of a United Nations if it had been established on a foundation of cynicism and defeatism. Still, it must be admitted that many of the hopes which we then entertained have unfortunately not been fulfilled and that the divisions of the post-war world have made the Secretary-General's task infinitely harder.

35. It is not always popular nowadays to recall the League of Nations, but the League at least had the advantage that in the early years of its history there was broad agreement, I think, at least on the objectives to be pursued. In the United Nations, the honeymoon period was very much shorter and the basic differences

among the Member States, and particularly among the great Powers, became apparent all too soon.

36. It would be idle to deny that the disappointments and frustrations of the past seven years have led some actually to despair of the United Nations and to doubt its value. I do not myself at all believe that a pessimistic view of the Organization is justified, but this has coloured the atmosphere in which the Secretary-General has had to work.

37. In addition to the great practical difficulties of building up an international secretariat of this size and complexity, he has had to contend with the disillusionment which has followed the great hopes—perhaps often the exaggerated hopes—which people set on the United Nations when it was established. Nevertheless, all through these years Mr. Lie, as we all know, has worked resolutely and tirelessly to resolve the problems which have beset the United Nations and to reconcile the differences among the Member States which have prevented the United Nations from functioning as it was intended to function. It is hardly surprising if at times he has been criticized by one side or the other. As the chief officer of the Organization, the Secretary-General tends to be regarded as the embodiment of the United Nations. It may even be said that sometimes he has been saddled with responsibilities which should have been undertaken by the Member nations themselves. The task of mediator or peacemaker is never an easy one, but this does not make the task less essentially deserving of our unstinted praise and gratitude for the great efforts he has made and, more especially, I think, as the United States representative has just said, for the action he took at the time of the aggression in Korea.

38. In the seven short but crowded years of the United Nations life, Trygve Lie has become so much a part of the Organization that it is indeed hard to imagine this building, whose erection he watched so carefully, without him. He has, as it were, become part of the life and tradition of successive sessions of Assembly and Councils. The memory of this friendly, cheerful figure will long remain with us after he has moved to the fresh fields of work where his tireless energy will doubtless soon find a valuable outlet. We wish him and his charming wife well in their new ventures and extend our grateful hands to him on his departure.

39. Mr. BELAUNDE (Peru) (*translated from Spanish*): I am greatly honoured at having been unanimously selected by the Latin-American delegations to bid a sincere farewell to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, whose work and whose achievements are part of the history of the seven testing years through which our Organization has passed.

40. We must recall that these seven years have been marked not only by the natural difficulties inseparable from growth and development, but also by the tremendous difficulties to which the United Kingdom representative referred a moment ago when he said that the honeymoon begun in San Francisco had unfortunately been of short duration. An atmosphere of distrust has developed and has made immensely difficult, if not impossible, the existence of a collective institution which must, above all, retain a community of ideals and the confidence of all in order to work

<sup>2</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, second part of first session, Report of the Secretary-General on the Work of the Organization (A/65)*, p. VI.

towards the realization of its aims. During this difficult period of distrust, the Secretariat has nevertheless worked effectively towards the achievement of many objectives, purposes and ideals of the United Nations, a fact of which we must quietly remind those who are pessimistic about the future and the great objectives of our Organization.

41. The Secretariat has been efficiently organized despite this unfavourable atmosphere. Not only have we faced the difficulties of growth and the crisis of distrust, which has deprived us of the atmosphere that is as essential to our spiritual existence as air to purely physical life; but we have also undergone our ordeal by fire, the Korean problem, which I recall with no intention of offending anyone and in no spirit of antagonism, but because in this review of historic events it cannot be omitted. It is proper to say that, at that trying time, the Secretary-General fulfilled his duty under the Charter with moderation, but with firmness, by bringing to the Security Council's attention events which endangered the peace of the world and by making it possible for the Security Council to fulfil the primary and sacred function which we entrusted to it at San Francisco.

42. At this juncture I remember with emotion the days we have gone through together, filled with bitterness, disappointment, disillusionment and tremendous obstacles which have often led us to think that the ideal of the United Nations had been finally destroyed.

43. Mr. Trygve Lie has been our companion and efficient colleague and has borne with us the cross of so much bitterness which, let it be said, is also a cross of high hopes.

44. Mr. Trygve Lie has, I believe, crowned his career in an eminently honourable way. Fifteen months before his term of office had ended, when he believed that his departure from the Secretariat might facilitate international agreement, he submitted his resignation. Resignation from such a high, advantageous and influential position is in itself a mark of nobility of character, since power is a thing which men are most reluctant to give up. Mr. Trygve Lie resigned in order to help the United Nations to secure a *rapprochement* among its Members, to solve the problem of the Secretariat, and also to create an atmosphere in which a new approach could be made.

45. Speaking on this occasion for the peoples of Latin America, who hailed, in the United Nations, the historic banner raised by Bolivar at the time of our independence, who feel that the United Nations embodies the ideal which inspired our achievement of liberty and who saw, first in the League of Nations and then in the United Nations, the fulfilment of the spiritual principles of Spanish-American life, the Peruvian delegation bids Mr. Lie godspeed and wishes him and his family all happiness. At the same time it salutes his country, Norway, so well known in the literary world by all who realize that the ideals of justice are invariably accompanied by a sense of beauty. I cannot fail to mention, as a happy omen, that a representative of another Scandinavian people is to succeed him in this task and that that representative has worked with us, that he has a brilliant record of service and that he belongs to a country of glorious traditions, which has the distinction of having found a solution

of the social problem that combines individual freedom with social justice.

46. In conclusion, I bid farewell and godspeed and offer my best wishes to the departing Secretary-General, and extend on behalf of the young American continent my hopeful and cordial greetings, together with every wish for good fortune, to the new Secretary-General.

47. Mr. MUNRO (New Zealand): The delegations of Canada, Australia and the Union of South Africa wish to be associated with the tribute I am about to pay to the distinguished and tireless services rendered to the United Nations by Mr. Trygve Lie.

48. Mr. Lie's life, which has been devoted to the cause of freedom and justice, found its fulfilment in the discharge of the high office which he is about to lay aside after seven years of unremitting efforts in the cause of world peace and world stability. He comes from a small country, one of whose finest hours occurred when its doughty people withstood the onslaughts of Hitler and refused to bow to his yoke. It was, therefore, I suggest, altogether fitting that a man of this indomitable and hardy race, and who had himself played so important a part in the liberation of his country and, indeed, of conquered Europe, should have been appointed the first Secretary-General of the Organization designed to avert—and, if that were not possible, to halt—the bloody wars of aggression which have so long afflicted the world.

49. It was Mr. Lie who, in the anxious years following the Second World War, built up the Organization of the United Nations and played the leading part in the planning and the completion of the magnificent edifice in which we now sit. I think it may clearly be said that if you seek his monument, look around you.

50. Among the many actions for which the United Nations stands in his debt, I should like to make special mention of Mr. Lie's untiring endeavours to promote the social and economic well-being of the under-developed countries, and his efforts in bringing to fruition the technical assistance programme of the United Nations.

51. We can pay tribute to the varied qualities of Mr. Lie, and in particular to the massive strength which distinguishes him as a man and as the chief official of our Organization. History will give him his due place in the ranks of those who delight not in war but who have laboured patiently and unostentatiously to preserve the peace. But if we can anticipate the verdict of history, surely we can say that his part in conquering aggression in Korea will be secure in the judgment of posterity.

52. On behalf of the delegation of New Zealand and, I repeat, of the delegations of Canada, Australia and the Union of South Africa, which are associated with me in these words, I thank Mr. Lie as he steps down full of honours from his great office. I wish him the happy years of retirement which he has so well earned after the distinguished performance of his duties as one of the first citizens of the world.

53. Mr. PALAR (Indonesia): My delegation derives great pleasure from seeing the adoption of the Security Council recommendation by the General Assembly. This recommendation represents mutual accord among

the big Powers on a matter of vital and immediate importance to this Organization. It may even be looked upon as an omen of conciliation and better understanding among all nations. In this improved atmosphere, we can imagine that Mr. Trygve Lie must be anticipating with some pleasure the enjoyment of a rest. We are convinced, however, that this will only be of temporary duration and that he will continue to work in the interests of world peace and prosperity.

54. From our cordial acquaintance with Mr. Lie, we remember him and bid him farewell as a staunch worker and fighter for the ideals of the United Nations and as a great friend of Indonesia.

55. At this time, my delegation also wishes to welcome and to pledge our full support to the new Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld. We are aware of the heavy burden entrusted to his care and can certainly appreciate his deep feelings of responsibility.

56. These are momentous times for both the United Nations and the world at large. But my delegation rests assured in the belief that, with the co-operation of all the Member States, our new Secretary-General will carry out his mandate successfully in a future bright for the United Nations and world peace.

57. Mr. SARPEN (Turkey): The Turkish delegation views with deep and sincere satisfaction the spirit of co-operation which has prevailed in the Security Council and which was conducive to the almost unanimous recommendation of Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld for election as Secretary-General of the United Nations. We are sure that Mr. Lie is leaving this important function in good hands.

58. While wishing to his distinguished successor a very fruitful period of office, I should like to conclude by paying a well-deserved tribute to Mr. Trygve Lie who, in very difficult circumstances, performed this important but oftentimes ungrateful task with courage, integrity and consummate tact. My delegation wishes Mr. Trygve Lie and his family all the happiness in the world and luck in the new life they are about to begin.

59. Mrs. PANDIT (India): My delegation and the delegations of Afghanistan, Burma and Liberia would like to add our voices to the many voices that have been heard in this forum today in appreciation of the work that Mr. Trygve Lie has rendered to the United Nations. He has had to carry out his functions at a time when the world was in great turmoil and when the task of building up the United Nations was a very difficult and delicate one. He goes to his well-earned retirement—and we trust it will not be retirement in the real sense—with all our good wishes.

60. We hope that he and Mrs. Lie will have many years ahead of them in which to contribute from their wisdom and their great love of humanity to the work that faces us all. We wish you, Mr. Trygve Lie, *bon voyage* and many years of good fortune.

61. Mr. VYSHINSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (*translated from Russian*): The Soviet Union delegation wishes to make the following statement in connexion with the resignation of Mr. Trygve Lie and the unanimous election of Mr. Hammarskjöld as Secretary-General.

62. The USSR delegation does not consider it expedient to dwell at length on Mr. Trygve Lie's resignation, which is unfortunately long overdue. As long ago as 1950, when it was decided to continue Mr. Trygve Lie in office as Secretary-General of the United Nations [*resolution 492 (V)*], the Soviet Union drew attention to the illegality of that step and to the fact that it was a flagrant violation of the Charter, and was therefore entirely inadmissible.

63. By illegally occupying the post of Secretary-General at that time and acting in that capacity for a considerable period, Mr. Trygve Lie showed that he flouted the major obligations of the Secretary-General of the United Nations under the United Nations Charter, the most important being to respect the Charter itself. This alone is enough to enable us to appraise Mr. Trygve Lie's moral and political character; that is precisely what the USSR delegation did as long ago as 1950, when it stated that Mr. Lie's conduct had demonstrated his unfitness to discharge the great responsibilities attached to the office of Secretary-General of the United Nations.

64. The Soviet Union delegation considers it necessary at this time to observe that subsequent events have fully confirmed the position it adopted at that time. It is quite understandable and natural, therefore, that the USSR delegation should be unable to share the views expressed concerning the high qualities and capacities allegedly displayed by Mr. Trygve Lie in the post which he has illegally occupied since then.

65. The Soviet Union delegation expresses its satisfaction at the unanimous election of Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld as Secretary-General of our Organization. It voices the hope that Mr. Hammarskjöld will consistently and unswervingly be guided in his work by the provisions of the United Nations Charter, which is the fundamental law of the United Nations in all its activities, and that he will always act in the interests of the Organization as a whole, whose purpose it is to maintain and strengthen international peace and co-operation. We hope that the new Secretary-General of the United Nations will ensure strict compliance with the Charter and its principles, that is to say, with the laws of our Organization, both in his activities for the welfare of all peoples and in his internal administrative policy with regard to the members of the United Nations Secretariat, which is international in character.

66. We are confident that, in electing Mr. Hammarskjöld, we shall not be deceived or disappointed in our hopes, and that in his activities as Secretary-General of our international Organization Mr. Hammarskjöld will not be influenced by any of the outside pressures which might prevent him from discharging his high responsibilities.

67. In the conviction that this will be the case, the USSR delegation will extend to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Hammarskjöld, its support and co-operation in the discharge of his grave responsibilities.

68. Mr. DE LA COLINA (Mexico) (*translated from Spanish*): The Mexican delegation has pleasure in associating itself with the expressions of esteem and friendship addressed to the Secretary-General. Mr. Trygve Lie, as he relinquishes the office he has



held in the United Nations since his appointment in 1946. My delegation wishes in particular to add its voice to the well-deserved tribute which, with his customary eloquence, my learned and esteemed friend, the representative of our sister republic, Peru, Mr. Belaúnde, paid him on behalf of the Latin American delegations.

69. Mr. Lie has served the United Nations zealously, ably and loyally during these years of trial. In the midst of international tension, which made the exercise of his duties particularly difficult, he has shown himself consistently impartial in his judgments and moderate in his acts.

70. His twenty-year programme for achieving peace through the United Nations was the result of a brilliant endeavour combining concentration and synthesis; it shows the means to be employed and outlines the goals of the United Nations with unfailing clarity, and we shall certainly turn to it again on many occasions in the future.

71. Since the days of Hunter College, Flushing and Lake Success, the Secretariat has grown and has been organized under his leadership, and has now become a highly efficient organ.

72. The representatives of Mexico, in their official and personal contacts with Mr. Lie, have always found him to be a warm and generous friend as well as a courteous official. On behalf of my Government and delegation, and more particularly in the name of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of my country, Mr. Luis Padilla Nervo, I extend to him the warmest thanks for the facilities which he always placed at our disposal and, in expressing my regret at his departure, I should like to say how sincerely we hope that, after a well-deserved rest, he will again work for the cause of the United Nations, in whatever capacity he may decide to apply his creative talent and his progressive and peace-loving spirit.

73. The Mexican delegation also welcomes the appointment of Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld as an augury of fruitful agreement in the cause of world peace, and most sincerely trusts that the administration of the new Secretary-General will redound to the honour and glory of the United Nations.

74. Mrs. MYERSON (Israel): The delegation of Israel desires to join with other delegations in expressing its sense of deep appreciation to Mr. Trygve Lie for his great contribution in building up the structure of our Organization from its beginning at San Francisco and in providing it with an effectively functioning administrative apparatus. In shepherding the Organization through the first difficult years, a very heavy burden and responsibility was placed upon Mr. Lie. He has discharged that responsibility with zeal and ability, and he leaves with the satisfaction of knowing that if the United Nations has not yet fulfilled the vision of those who launched it eight years ago, it continues to be the symbol of, and, as we believe, it will become the means of fulfilling, the hopes and aspirations of the world for peace and brotherhood among nations.

75. Mr. Lie's term of office has covered a momentous period in the history of the Jewish people and of Israel, including the special session in 1947 and the

establishment of the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine, the 1947 resolution [181 (II)] which led to the establishment in May 1948 of the State of Israel, and the organization of the United Nations mediation, truce, armistice, and conciliation machinery. At every stage, Mr. Lie demonstrated objectivity and sincere and intelligent understanding for the deep emotional and historical issues involved. Mr. Lie's devotion to the principles of the Charter and his efforts on behalf of international conciliation have found expression in many fields, and we venture the hope that Mr. Lie's great international experience and profound dedication to the greatest of human causes, the promotion of peace and brotherhood among men, will continue to find scope and fulfilment in many years of fruitful work yet to come.

76. On behalf of my Government, I also wish to bring greetings to Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld upon his appointment to this very high office. He will have, I am sure, the prayerful wishes for a successful term of office of countless millions throughout the world and, not least, of the people of Israel.

77. Mr. ENTEZAM (Iran) (*translated from French*): I have already had occasion, in the early part of this session of the General Assembly, to express on behalf of my delegation the great regret we felt at the announcement of Mr. Lie's resignation. Today, in associating myself with the wishes expressed for the success of our new Secretary-General, Mr. Hammarskjöld, I should like to take the opportunity of telling Mr. Lie of our deep appreciation of his services during his seven years of office.

78. The task of the Secretary-General is by no means an easy one. Among other things, he must satisfy sixty Member States of the United Nations, especially the five great Powers. That task, we know, is beyond the capacity of any human being, and that was the real obstacle Mr. Lie repeatedly came up against. Still, he did not fail to carry out his duties successfully. I am sure that if we review the past impartially we must recognize three great qualities in Mr. Lie: courage, honesty and devotion to the cause of peace and the United Nations. It was that devotion that led him to submit his resignation and leave the United Nations. I consider it our duty to pay tribute to Mr. Lie for that gesture of self-denial.

79. My dear Mr. Lie, your task is not finished. I am sure that once again you will be called upon to play an important part in international affairs, and I should like to tell you that my sincere wishes will go with you in your future career. I shall, with your permission, repeat your own words, and say with all my heart and in all sincerity, "God bless you".

80. Mr. SKRZESZEWSKI (Poland) (*translated from Russian*): The Polish delegation has noted with satisfaction the Security Council's decision to recommend the election of Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld to the office of Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Polish delegation regards this decision as an excellent example of the co-operation among the great Powers which is so essential for the further development of our Organization. The decision also constitutes proof of the fact that problems whose solution frequently gives rise to difficulty can be settled in accordance with the principles of the United Nations

Charter, if all the parties concerned, and especially the great Powers, strive for a solution.

81. The Polish delegation wishes to take this opportunity to express the hope that the Secretary-General whom we have elected will spare no effort to ensure that both his activities and the work of the Secretariat will be wholly and fully dedicated to the highly important tasks before the United Nations. Ours is an international Organization whose fundamental and most important purpose is to maintain peace throughout the world and to develop friendly relations among nations, in accordance with the principles laid down in the United Nations Charter.

82. The Polish delegation considers that the important and solemn task of the Secretary-General is to adhere to the principles of the Charter and to prevent the violation of any of its provisions.

83. On behalf of the Polish Government, I should like to assure the General Assembly that the newly-elected Secretary-General can rely on our full support and co-operation in any measures he may take for the maintenance and strengthening of peace throughout the world and for the development of genuinely friendly relations among nations.

84. Mr. BARANOVSKY (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) (*translated from Russian*): On 31 March of this year, the Security Council unanimously decided to recommend to the General Assembly the appointment of the Swedish Minister of State, Mr. Hammarskjold, to the office of Secretary-General of the United Nations. Today, the General Assembly unanimously adopted the Security Council's recommendation. This action marks the end of a period of over two years in which this high office was held illegally by a person who usurped the rights of Secretary-General and acted on behalf of the United Nations in contravention of the Charter. Now the United Nations has reverted to the only proper method of appointing a Secretary-General, that of voting on a recommendation by the Security Council.

85. We consider that the appointment of a Secretary-General has great political significance. We have always believed that the Secretary-General must, in however small degree, be satisfactory to the United Nations as a whole, and not to any one State or group of States. Article 100 of the United Nations Charter clearly states the obligations which the Secretary-General must observe:

"In the performance of their duties the Secretary-General and the staff shall not seek or receive instructions from any government or from any other authority external to the Organization. They shall refrain from any action which might reflect on their position as international officials responsible only to the Organization."

86. The Secretary-General's position as the practical organizer of the entire work of the United Nations is important in that he is responsible for carrying out the decisions of the United Nations, whose fundamental purposes are the maintenance of peace and international security and the development of friendly relations and co-operation among nations. In order to achieve these high purposes, the Secretary-General must be a person endowed with the greatest objectivity and impartiality and capable of resisting influence and

pressure on the part of individual governments, however powerful they may be. Only by pursuing this line of conduct can the Secretary-General create a strong position for himself and win the confidence and support of all Member States which are so essential to him for the performance of his important and complex duties.

87. On behalf of the Government of the Ukrainian SSR, I should like to express satisfaction at Mr. Hammarskjold's election and the hope that, in his tenure of the office of Secretary-General, he will prove to be objective and impartial and will thus enjoy universal confidence and respect. I should like to wish Mr. Hammarskjold success in his new sphere of activity.

88. Mr. DAVID (Czechoslovakia) (*translated from Russian*): The Czechoslovak delegation welcomed the agreement among the great Powers on the election of a Secretary-General of the United Nations. This agreement on a question which is so important for the successful functioning of the Organization constitutes further proof of the possibility of co-operation among the great Powers, which is in turn the key to the successful solution of all international problems and to the effective strengthening of peace.

89. The Czechoslovak delegation has always unreservedly supported and continues to support the authority and compulsory observance of the United Nations Charter, which emerged eight years ago as the result of mankind's aspirations for lasting peace.

90. My delegation expresses the hope that the new Secretary-General, Mr. Hammarskjold, will be a resolute and unswerving champion of the high purposes and principles of the United Nations and that, in carrying out his important and responsible functions, he will seek to ensure their implementation. With a view to the achievement of those high objectives, the Czechoslovak delegation will consistently and actively support the new Secretary-General in his important and responsible task.

91. Mr. MATES (Yugoslavia): Expressing our satisfaction on the unanimous decision to appoint Mr. Hammarskjold, I wish to associate the voice of my delegation with the words of farewell to the Secretary-General, Mr. Trygve Lie, expressed from this rostrum on behalf of almost all delegations to this Assembly.

92. The name of Mr. Lie has been and will continue to be closely and inseparably connected with the first seven years of the United Nations, seven years of a great number of momentous events, events crowned with success and events which still have to await fulfilment. It certainly has not been an easy task to be Secretary-General during these troubled years. Mr. Lie, therefore, has every right to ask us to consider his efforts in the light of the circumstances. We cannot, however, forget Mr. Lie's courageous efforts, in the course of the seven years of his office, to contribute personally to the solution of the most burning world problems, and his determination to contribute to a change of those circumstances which have prevented our Organization from achieving greater success. For these efforts, I wish to express to him our sincere appreciation and thanks.



93. Now, when the hour approaches that Mr. Lie will transfer his heavy responsibilities to his successor, Mr. Dag Hammarskjold, we wish him every success in all his future activities. I can assure him that he will be personally remembered by those many Yugoslavs who have known him personally here at the Headquarters of the United Nations and on the occasion of his visit to my country. They will remember him as a man who has devoted seven years of his life to the lofty task of serving the United Nations.

94. General ROMULO (Philippines): Today, Mr. Trygve Lie, our first Secretary-General, puts down the burdens of his high office and takes formal leave of the United Nations. On this occasion, I should like to convey to him, on behalf of the Philippine delegation and on behalf also of the delegation of Thailand, our sincere appreciation of the important services he has rendered to our Organization.

95. He has provided a solid basis for the efficient administrative operation of the United Nations. He has sought to imbue the office of Secretary-General with the prestige and authority which would enable its occupant not only to perform the usual functions of chief administrative officer, but also to participate actively in the search for solutions of the crucial problems of our time. He has placed himself solidly behind all moves and proposals to make the United Nations a real centre for harmonizing the actions of States designed to ensure peace and understanding amongst them and to promote higher standards of living in greater freedom for all peoples. In particular, while he has recognized the existence of the East-West conflict as a barrier to the development of the United Nations as an effective instrument for ensuring international peace and security, he has at the same time consistently urged that effective action should be taken to accelerate the social and economic development of the less developed countries, as well as the progress of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories towards self-government and independence.

96. Any man who, as Secretary-General during the difficult formative years of our Organization, had endeavoured to do these things—and had in large measure succeeded in accomplishing them—would be entitled to the gratitude of the General Assembly. It is not for any one of us to indicate by slide-rule the real measure of this achievement, but as one who, during the seven years since San Francisco, has been privileged to watch at close hand the work of Mr. Trygve Lie, I should like to give my personal testimony as to his profound devotion to the ideals for which the United Nations was founded.

97. Mr. Lie leaves his office at a moment that is both critical and hopeful—a critical moment in the life of the United Nations and yet, at the same time, a moment that has brought to light some encouraging signs for the peace of the world.

98. As our first Secretary-General, he must feel some regret that he will not have the opportunity to make a further contribution in an official capacity to the momentous task that is at hand. Yet he should be comforted by the thought that he is leaving behind him an Organization so equipped and so dedicated to the noble purposes of the Charter that it will not falter in the resolute pursuit of peace that must now be undertaken.

99. For our part, we are confident that, by our action today in electing Mr. Dag Hammarskjold as Mr. Lie's successor, we have placed the future of the Organization in safe and capable hands. As a man experienced in government and diplomacy, our new Secretary-General needs no reminder of the many vexing problems and onerous responsibilities that await him. We welcome him warmly as the administrative head of the United Nations and look forward to the opportunity of working with him sincerely and devotedly in the cause of peace and progress under the banner of the United Nations.

100. To you, Mr. Lie, and to your family, we wish god-speed. Wherever you go, you have the best wishes of all your friends in the General Assembly.

101. Mr. KISELYOV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) (*translated from Russian*): The delegation of the Byelorussian SSR associates itself fully and unreservedly with the good wishes to the new Secretary-General, Mr. Hammarskjold, expressed from this rostrum by the representatives of the USSR, the Ukrainian SSR, Poland and Czechoslovakia.

102. We should like to express the hope that, in his activities as Secretary-General, Mr. Hammarskjold will adhere strictly to the appropriate provisions of the Charter. We also hope that the Member States of the United Nations will respect the international character of the Secretary-General's duties and will extend to him all possible assistance in his work.

103. The SECRETARY-GENERAL: I did not arrange this debate and I did not ask for anything; but I expected something and I received much more than I hoped for. The President will understand me when I say that I have no thanks to express to five distinguished representatives for support of me or for collaboration in the last two years. But I am deeply grateful to all the other speakers here today for what they have said. I am deeply grateful for their thanks and their good wishes, and for everything that they have said to me and to my wife.

104. I am especially grateful for one speech today—a few words by the President which reminded me of his great speech in a similar situation in 1950. Mr. Pearson, I shall never forget your words today or your speech in 1950.

105. I am not able to find words adequate to express my sincere gratitude for the confidence and the support which so many representatives have given me throughout my term as Secretary-General. I do not know how I could have carried on during the last three years without your friendship and counsel on innumerable occasions, and I shall always cherish the memory of that relationship and of this day.

106. I am also grateful for what you have done this afternoon. By your election of Mr. Dag Hammarskjold, you have fulfilled the main hope that moved me to submit my resignation last November. Today's speeches have proved better than anything else that my resignation was correct and timely.

107. The strains and stresses of the age in which we live, the power of the destructive forces that threaten peace and civilization, are so immense that it is our duty to leave no door unopened to fuller use of every resource for strengthening the prospects of peace that

can be found in the Charter and institutions of the United Nations. It was to provide an opportunity for you to open one door that—not because of me—had been closed since 1950 that I submitted my resignation four months ago. By your election today of a Secretary-General recognized as such by all five permanent members of the Security Council, you have reopened the door of the office of the Secretary-General.

108. I hope with all my heart that this is a good augury of an intention to lessen tensions in the present situation. Above all I hope that the aggression in Korea will soon be ended in an armistice—an armistice that will be a great victory for that principle of collective security under the United Nations to which I have always endeavoured to give my full loyalty.

109. I shall hand over to my successor the responsibilities and duties of my office without regret and with undiminished faith in the future of the Organization.

110. The seven years and two months I have served you have been the hardest and, at the same time, the most challenging of my life. To be the first Secretary-General during the formative years of the United Nations has been, indeed, a rare opportunity to be given any man for service in the cause of peace and for his fellow human beings. I thank the governments of the Member States for giving me this opportunity. No man in this position could fail to make mistakes, and I have probably made my share. There has been an ample measure, too, of the disappointments and stubborn problems that the years have brought to the world—and to the United Nations—since those somewhat over-optimistic days of late 1945 and early 1946. But there is a sense of satisfaction in knowing that you have done the best you could in the role that history has chosen for you, and that there are many others who will carry on the unfinished task of constructing a better and more peaceful world order.

111. My share in the task has fallen in the founding and early testing period of the United Nations.

112. When I became Secretary-General, the United Nations was without a home and without a secretariat. As many of my friends have already said today, this permanent Headquarters is now virtually complete; the capital of the world is a physical reality. I leave behind me a Secretariat of which I am proud—a team of dedicated, experienced and competent international civil servants drawn from fifty-seven countries. I am certain that they will carry on under my successor in a manner worthy of their high calling.

113. I am grateful to the Member States for what they have done to help me build the Secretariat, and I appeal to them again to give my successor an even greater measure of support in further improving the quality and in preserving and respecting the international status of the staff.

114. With the help of the Member States, the administrative structure of the Organization has been developed in the light of experience. There remain, in my opinion, some things that can usefully be done towards further streamlining and greater economy. The Assembly will consider at the next session my own suggestions in this respect. Naturally, my successor must be given time to reach his own conclusions. He will be able to make further progress in this direction

only to the extent that the General Assembly and other United Nations organs make it possible by their decisions on those matters within their competence. As the workload of the Organization continues to increase, it will become more and more important not only that the resources at its disposal are adequate to its responsibilities, but that these resources are utilized with the greatest possible degree of efficiency and economy.

115. Mr. President and distinguished representatives: many of you have shared with me the ups and downs, the achievements and the disappointed hopes of these first years in the history of the United Nations. Our Organization reflects the imperfections of our time, but it is also an expression of the most constructive forces of our world and a symbol of hope for the future. We have learned much about how to use the United Nations effectively, in whatever circumstances may prevail at a given time—and we have much still to learn. The limitations of our Organization have been well tested. I should like to stress, however, that, in my opinion, its potentialities for peace have been less well explored. It is to these future possibilities that my thoughts turn as I lay down the burdens of my office.

116. The Charter is a flexible instrument, capable of adaptation and improvement, not merely by amendment but by interpretation and practice. I am convinced that the institutions of the United Nations system can be used by the Member States with far greater effect than in the past for the peace and progress of all those nations willing to co-operate. I hope with all my heart that this will be the trend of the future.

117. The United Nations exists because the Member nations rightly believed it was in their highest interest to establish it and make it work. The United Nations will not work effectively if it is used merely as a forum for destructive propaganda. Neither will it work if it is used only as a convenience when national interests are directly involved, and regarded with indifference, or by-passed or opposed, when the general world interest is paramount. The United Nations can work effectively as an instrument of collective security to the extent that the governments of Member States not only accept the principle that peace is indivisible, but also take up and share the burdens and obligations of preventing and resisting aggression anywhere in the world. The United Nations can be the strongest influence the world has ever seen for the peaceful settlement of disputes, if the Member States will use its resources for public discussion and private negotiation with restraint and good will and, above all, patience.

118. Indeed, I feel that one of the most important things we have learned about the United Nations is its capacity to help the peoples of the world to inform themselves about the issues of our time, to submit these issues to the test of world public opinion, to give a full hearing to all points of view on any given question, and thereby to contribute in the long run to understanding and accommodation among the nations of the world.

119. Finally, the United Nations can and should become the main instrument of the Members in their co-operation for economic and social progress throughout the world. If peace is indivisible, then the foundation

upon which peace rests should be the common concern of the world community. To paraphrase the words of one of the founders of the United Nations, Franklin D. Roosevelt: neither peace nor freedom can be secured while two-thirds of the world is ill-clothed, ill-housed and ill-fed.

120. At a time when these conditions of life are so closely bound up with the political awakening of so many peoples, it would seem to be the path of wisdom to move forward from the tentative and partly national, partly international, approach of the past few years and to concentrate upon a resolute, well-planned, long-range United Nations programme of mutual aid, in which all can share in both the responsibilities and the benefits as equal partners. In fact, I have long believed that such a world-wide crusade against that most ancient enemy of mankind, poverty, is overdue.

121. Representatives know very well that I am no Utopian. I see in the United Nations a practical approach to peace and progress, not by any quick and easy formulas, but by wise, loyal and persistent use of its institutions by the Member States over many years—not for just seven years, but for seven times seven. I see the judgment of history that, in this present day and for all the future, world peace is necessary to the survival of mankind, and the United Nations, in turn, is necessary to the attainment of a world peace that will endure. This is the cause I have sought to serve as Secretary-General of the United Nations. This is also the cause that will continue to command my loyalty in the years to come.

122. Mr. President and distinguished representatives: I thank you for all your kind words, for all your support and understanding during the past seven years. If I have made mistakes, I hope you will forgive me; I certainly shall forgive you.

*The meeting was suspended at 5.20 p.m. and resumed at 5.40 p.m.*

#### **Statement by the representative of the United States of America on the situation in Korea**

123. The PRESIDENT: The representative of India has asked for an opportunity to speak in order to direct an inquiry to the President.

124. Mr. MENON (India): My delegation is deeply grateful to the President for his kind indulgence in giving us this opportunity of referring to and seeking information on a problem and a phase of its development which is uppermost in the minds of all of us. It is not our desire at the present moment either to seek a debate or to lengthen these proceedings, and I should like to assure the President that my own intervention will be extremely brief.

125. On 31 March, the Government of China transmitted a communication [A/2378] to the President of the General Assembly, and on 2 April the Government of North Korea also transmitted a communication [A/2381]. Thus the Assembly became seized of the present phase of development. I think it is appropriate and proper that, at the right time, we should express ourselves on the fact that the Assembly has been seized of this matter and on our hope and desire for an early truce in Korea. It is also our desire and our hope that, in such cases as are appropriate, the

United Nations should be kept informed of the progress and of any difficulties of principle that may arise.

126. My delegation, my Government and the people of my country, along with the common peoples of the world, hope, trust and feel confident that our aim will be the early end of the war in Korea. That is all I wish to say. I hope that this will give the opportunity to you and to those who are responsible for the United Nations Command to give us such information as may be in their possession and to assure us that we are going forward to meet the hopes and the desires of the common peoples of the world.

127. The PRESIDENT: As the representative of India has himself pointed out, this item is not on our agenda at the present time. He has, however, reminded us, and I have told the Assembly, that the communication from the Government in Peking was referred to the Unified Command. If the representative of the United States, which by resolution of the Security Council<sup>8</sup> bears responsibility for the Unified Command, can give the General Assembly any information as to the reception of that communication and what has happened since then, I would request him to do so, unless there is objection on the part of the representatives. As there is no objection, I ask the representative of the United States to supply any information he can on this point.

128. Mr. LODGE (United States of America): I am authorized by my Government, which bears responsibility for the Unified Command, to make a brief report to the General Assembly regarding the recent developments which have encouraged all of us who seek peace in Korea.

129. On 22 February, General Clark sent to the communist commanders a letter stating that the United Nations Command, in accordance with the Geneva Convention, remained prepared to repatriate immediately those sick and wounded captured personnel who were fit to travel, and he inquired whether the Communists were prepared to proceed immediately with their repatriation. General Clark's letter simply repeated a long-standing proposal that had been made initially by the United Nations Command negotiators at Panmunjom.

130. We were encouraged when, on 28 March, General Clark received a favourable response to his letter. The communist commanders indicated agreement with the proposal to exchange sick and wounded personnel and stated that they considered "the reasonable settlement of the question of exchanging sick and wounded prisoners of war of both sides during the period of hostilities should be made to lead to the smooth settlement of the entire question of prisoners of war".

131. The communist letter of 28 March was followed on 30 March by a statement of the Chinese Communist Foreign Minister, Mr. Chou En-lai, subsequently endorsed by the Prime Minister of the North Korean régime.

132. On 31 March, General Clark, in a letter to the Commander of the Korean People's Army and the

<sup>8</sup> See *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifth Year, No. 18* and document S/1587 published in the *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifth Session, Supplement No. 2*, chap. 4, sect. D.

Commander of the Chinese People's Volunteers, proposed that a meeting of the liaison groups from each side be held at Panmunjom to make the necessary detailed arrangements for the exchange of the sick and wounded personnel. In response to General Clark's proposal, the communist commanders suggested that the liaison groups meet at Panmunjom on 6 April "to arrange preliminarily the matter of exchange by both sides of injured and sick prisoners of war and to discuss and decide on the date for resuming the armistice negotiations".

133. The United Nations Command sent its next response on 5 April. In this letter, the United Nations Command agreed to send its liaison group to meet with the communist liaison group on 6 April. The United Nations Command also invited the Communists to make detailed suggestions for settling the entire question of repatriating prisoners of war. I should like to read one paragraph from General Clark's letter of 5 April:

"At as early a date as possible, I request that your liaison group furnish our liaison group with a detailed statement of suggestions on the implementation of the proposal for settling the entire question of repatriating prisoners of war, as set forth in the statement of Foreign Minister Chou En-lai and endorsed by Marshal Kim Il-sung, in order that it might be studied while a reasonable settlement of the repatriation of sick and wounded is being effected."

134. The first meeting of the liaison groups took place on 6 April at Panmunjom. The United Nations Command representative stated that it was prepared to exchange all sick and wounded prisoners of war as expeditiously as possible in accordance with article 109 of the Geneva Convention. The communist delegate made a statement to the same effect. The United Nations Command representative asked both sides to exchange simultaneously estimated figures by nationality of the sick and wounded prisoners of war to be repatriated. The Communists agreed, but said that

in order to determine the numbers of sick and wounded prisoners of war to be repatriated, the category of sick and wounded prisoners of war should be first determined, as provided by article 110 of the Geneva Convention. At this same meeting, the United Nations Command delegation repeated orally the request previously made in General Clark's letter of 5 April, that the United Nations Command would be pleased to receive at an early date a detailed statement of suggestions from the communist commander in implementation of the proposals contained in the Chou En-lai statement regarding the repatriation of all prisoners of war.

135. At the meeting on 7 April, some further progress was made. The Communists stated that they would require some time before they could furnish the number of sick and wounded prisoners of war to be exchanged, and they accepted a nine-point proposal of the United Nations Command for arrangements for the exchange as a basis for discussion.

136. Let me promise the President and the representatives in this General Assembly that the United States Government, which bears responsibility for the Unified Command, will report from time to time on the developments at Panmunjom. It is apparent, from the report which I have just made, that progress is being made. We hope that that progress will continue and will lead to the conclusion of an honourable armistice and a peace in Korea consistent with United Nations objectives.

137. The PRESIDENT: I know that the General Assembly listened with interest and appreciation to that information, and also that it was grateful for the ready agreement to the suggestion made by the representative of India that the General Assembly should be kept informed of the negotiations now going on in Korea, which we all hope will lead, as the representative of the United States said, to an armistice and to peace in that land.

*The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.*