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GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE FIRST MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 18 September 1990, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. GAMBARI (Nigeria)
(Temporary President)

- Opening of the forty-fifth session by the Temporary President
- Minute of silent prayer or meditation
- Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations
- Credentials of representatives to the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly:
 - (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee
- Election of the President of the General Assembly
- Address by Mr. Guido de Marco, President of the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session

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- **Admission of Liechtenstein to the United Nations: draft resolution**
- **Address by Mr. Hans Brunhart Prime Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Principality of Liechtenstein**

The meeting was called to order at 3.35 p.m.

ITEM 1 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

OPENING OF THE FORTY-FIFTH SESSION BY THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT, CHAIRMAN OF THE DELEGATION OF NIGERIA

The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: I declare open the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

ITEM 2 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

MINUTE OF SILENT PRAYER OR MEDITATION

The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: Before calling on representatives to observe a minute of silent prayer or meditation in accordance with rule 62 of the rules of procedure, I propose that as we do so we also observe the International Day of Peace, on this third Tuesday of September, as proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 36/67 of 30 November 1981, to be devoted to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples.

This year's theme for the day is "Many Cultures, One World", a theme chosen in recognition of the richness and diversity of cultural heritage and human creativity to be found upon this planet. The value and significance of our varying traditions is more widely understood today than at any previous time. Nevertheless, certain universal values are common to people throughout the world without regard to geographical location, philosophy or historical experience. As we open this forty-fifth session of the General Assembly, let us acknowledge and appreciate our diversity. At the same time, let us dedicate ourselves to realizing a goal we all share - the creation of a more secure and peaceful world.

I now invite the representatives to stand and observe one minute of silent prayer or meditation.

The members of the General Assembly observed a minute of silent prayer or meditation.

ITEM 129 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT OF THE EXPENSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS
(A/45/515)

The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: Before turning to the next item on our agenda, I should like, in keeping with the established practice, to invite the attention of the General Assembly to document A/45/515, which contains a letter addressed to me by the Secretary-General in which he informs the Assembly that seven Member States are in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the United Nations within the terms of Article 19 of the Charter.

I should like to remind delegations that, under Article 19 of the Charter

"A Member of the United Nations which is in arrears in the payment of its financial contributions to the Organization shall have no vote in the General Assembly if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the preceding two full years."

May I take it that the General Assembly duly takes note of that information?

It was so decided.

ITEM 3 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FORTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(a) APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: Rule 28 of the rules of procedure provides that the General Assembly at the beginning of each session shall appoint, on the proposal of the President, a Credentials Committee consisting of nine members.

Accordingly, it is proposed that, for the forty-fifth session, the Credentials Committee should consist of the following Member States: Botswana, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Ireland, Jamaica, Nepal, Uruguay, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America.

(The Temporary President)

May I take it that the States I have mentioned are hereby appointed members of the Credentials Committee?

It was so decided.

ITEM 4 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: I now invite members of the General Assembly to proceed to the election of the President of the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

May I recall that, in accordance with paragraph 1 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 33/138, the President of the General Assembly at the forty-fifth session should be elected from a Western European or other State.

In that connection, I have been informed by the Chairman of the Group of Western European and other States that his Group has endorsed the candidacy of His Excellency Mr. Guido de Marco of Malta for the presidency of the General Assembly.

Taking into account the provisions of paragraph 16 of annex VI to the rules of procedure, I therefore declare His Excellency Mr. Guido de Marco of Malta elected President of the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly by acclamation.

I extend my sincere congratulations to His Excellency Mr. Guido de Marco and I invite him to assume the presidency.

I request the Chief of Protocol to escort the President to the podium.

Mr. de Marco took the Chair.

ADDRESS BY MR. GUIDO de MARCO, PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

The PRESIDENT: I should like, first of all, to thank the members of this Organisation for unanimously electing me President of the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session. In this regard, I wish to thank especially the member countries of the Group of Western European and other States who have endorsed and put forward my nomination.

In passing me the gavel, my distinguished predecessor, Mr. Joseph Nanven Garba, has signalled an end to a successful forty-fourth session of the General Assembly, over which he presided with diplomatic skill and wisdom, contributing the dimension of Africa, with all its achievements and aspirations, and the major role which it has played, and will further play, in shaping the destinies of mankind. On your behalf I wish to thank him for the work which he has done throughout his tenure of office.

In electing me to the presidency you have bestowed on my country, Malta, and on me personally, a great honour and responsibility. The confidence which you have placed in me and my country underlines the Charter of the United Nations wherein "we, the peoples of the United Nations" express our determination to reaffirm faith in the equal rights of nations, large and small. For all nations, large and small, have a role and an interest in maintaining peace and security and in taking collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression.

The international community's commitment to the principle of the sovereign equality of all its Members is for all States, but in particular for the small States, the guarantee against the threat or use of force against their integrity and independence.

(The President)

Malta is a country which belongs both to Europe and to the Mediterranean. As such it is participating in the benefits that are accruing from security and co-operation in Europe and at the same time reacting to the instability and open wounds which afflict the Mediterranean region.

This contradictory situation clearly manifests the linkage existing between the Mediterranean and the rest of Europe, underlining a principle we are all today so much aware of: that peace is indivisible.

Recent events have again shown that regions cannot be capsulized and that in order for the Charter of the United Nations to have the meaning and the moral authority that behoves it, it must carry with it the responsibility of consistency and the need for morality in international relations.

The President of this Assembly carries out his functions and responsibilities under its authority, an authority which the General Assembly is called upon to exercise in terms of the Charter. The setting aside of the Power-bloc confrontation has not only widened the parameters within which the Assembly operates, but has also added weight to its deliberations and recommendations.

The changes in international political relations over the last few years have indeed been dramatic. The summit meeting between President George Bush and President Mikhail Gorbachev in Malta in December 1989 signalled the end of the cold war and the end of the division of Europe, which had started at Yalta. East-West confrontation has moved into East-West partnership.

We are moving from détente to the concept of entente.

Such a propitious start to this decade led us to believe that those negative attitudes which had for many years mired the political environment with controversies and misunderstandings, had finally heard their death knell. Perhaps we were mistaken. Perhaps we were too optimistic.

(The President)

Events over the last few weeks have brought about the realization that there are still serious problems which continue to pose threats to the world's political, economic and social development. We could even be on the verge of witnessing a situation the founding fathers of this Organization had agreed to avoid 45 years ago when they emphasized their resolution "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war".

The United Nations, through its Security Council, has responded with determination in unequivocally calling for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the invading forces and the restoration of the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Kuwait. We cannot shirk our responsibilities. Peoples around the world are looking to this Assembly for moral and political guidance and for a contribution to the solution of the present crisis in full observance of the Charter.

The united and firm manner in which this Organisation is dealing with the Gulf crisis will undoubtedly have a lasting impact on its ability to respond to new challenges in the maintenance of international peace and security in the future.

(The President)

It is from this perspective that, while fully aware of the dangers inherent in the situation in the Gulf, we should still be able to acknowledge the great strides that have been made in several key areas of international relations.

In the area of arms limitation and disarmament measures, progress has been registered in the multilateral efforts towards the banning of chemical weapons and in the talks on reducing conventional forces in Europe. Negotiations in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) concerning confidence- and security-building measures have proceeded at a quick pace and on entirely innovative concepts in an effort to introduce a new security system in Europe.

The CSCE process could be considered as a model for other regions of the world. Indeed, statesmen on both sides of the Mediterranean are seriously considering a conference on security and co-operation in the Mediterranean, which recent events in the Gulf have rendered more imperative.

A step forward in disarmament is a step forward in the survival of mankind.

During these last 12 months the United Nations has continued to play a vital and crucial role in dealing with and resolving issues of a regional and international character. Thanks to the indefatigable work and quiet diplomacy of our Secretary-General, Javier Perez de Cuellar, and his assistants, the Organization has succeeded in leaving an imprint of confidence and reliance through measures adopted to deal effectively and emphatically with conflict and problem solving.

The political developments in many parts of the world and the successes achieved are a credit to our Organization. The long and difficult process culminating in the birth of a new nation - Namibia - will for generations to come be remembered as one of the most significant achievements of the United Nations in its first 45 years of existence.

(The President)

Another historic moment hailed by the international community was the release of Nelson Mandela from an imprisonment of more than 27 years. This major victory for the anti-apartheid movement, together with the Declaration unanimously adopted by the special session against apartheid last December, have set in motion an accelerated process which should lead to the eradication of the system of apartheid and give the people of South Africa that longed-for, united, multiracial and democratic society.

The growing confidence in the Organisation's capacity as a mechanism for the peaceful settlement of conflicts is also reflected in the endeavours towards a resolution of the Cambodian problem. The agreement just reached among the parties concerned based on the plan formulated by the five permanent members of the Security Council has given new life to these endeavours. It is the earnest hope of all concerned that the proposed plan will bring peace and democracy to a war-torn area. We commend the efforts of all parties concerned, particularly the countries members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), for their perseverance in the search for a lasting solution to the problem.

We welcome the progress made on these and other issues. At the same time, in addition to our immediate concern on the Gulf crisis, we must also not lose sight of other outstanding issues of great portent which still demand our urgent attention and concerted action. In the face of any injustice or aggression, complacency is tantamount to cancelling the advances in other areas.

Primary among the continuing unresolved questions facing the international community is that of Palestine. The Palestinian question has a dimension that goes far beyond the occupied territories. It creates rancour, soul-searching, prejudices and, unfortunately, also hatred. It has the capacity of distorting events and of destabilizing regions and continents.

(The President)

We have to understand the situation and the rancour it generates, and strive to find a just solution.

I believe that the convening of an international conference on the Middle East is fundamental to peace in the region and to a proper and correct understanding of the role of nations in that area.

This session of the Assembly must exert all its authority and use all diplomatic pressures on the parties concerned in order to reach a comprehensive settlement to the Palestinian question in terms of resolutions adopted by it. Delay in solving the Palestinian issue is a denial to the Palestinian people of the country that is theirs, and to Israel of those secure and guaranteed frontiers to which it is entitled.

Cyprus remains divided. Lebanon is torn in fratricidal strife. Here also the international community must persevere in its efforts to resolve the problems of those two countries.

The peace-keeping and peace-making operations of the United Nations have shown that our Organisation has a necessary and effective role that has been tested in crisis prevention and in the settlement of disputes. We all have a special responsibility to safeguard and enhance this role in collective security. The future beckons in this direction.

We have also learned that an important element that influences international behaviour is respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Efforts in this field should be intensified and be given the highest priority. The removal of ideological warfare from international relations should usher in an era where human dignity becomes the fulcrum around which our commitment evolves.

(The President)

We will be witnessing in the coming days the convening in this city of the largest-ever gathering of Heads of State or Government for the World Summit of Children. This in itself highlights the special place that children have in our societies. It is our earnest hope that the World Summit for Children will be a far-reaching success, accelerating the ratification process of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, making it a truly universal instrument of international law.

(The President)

The links between international security and disarmament and economic and social development cannot but be highlighted and emphasized. At a period when far-reaching reforms in democratic processes and geopolitical relationships are on the way, that fundamental truth takes on added dimensions. The positive evolution of East-West relations should serve to revitalise the North-South dialogue with the objective of channelling in the future more energy, more resources to combat and correct some of the disparities between the developed and the developing countries.

New ground has been laid for this purpose by the consensus Declaration adopted earlier this year at the eighteenth special session of the General Assembly, devoted to international economic co-operation. It will be a major task of the Assembly to formulate a new international development strategy to respond to changing circumstances and to accelerate the economic growth and development particularly of developing countries.

Nearly from its beginnings, the United Nations has been grappling with the problem of development in developing countries. In spite of some modest gains and a few success stories, the situation in the majority of developing countries continues to be bleak. The question of additional resources for development and the related urgent problem of external indebtedness need a solution. Much-needed resources should be used for the benefit of those who need them most, while at the same time no country which needs assistance should be left out.

Today we have better prospects of success in our efforts to reverse the ever-widening gap between rich and poor, because never before has the international environment offered better opportunities for genuinely collective action. I see no reason why the unprecedented progress in the political field should not be repeated in the economic and social area. At this forty-fifth session the General Assembly should take the initiative to exploit this unique opportunity. Would this not perhaps be the best and most appropriate way to mark the fortieth anniversary of United Nations technical co-operation?

(The President)

In embarking upon such action we must remain deeply aware of the human realities behind the statistics with which we are dealing: what it means in terms of individual suffering, for example, when we say that 1.1 billion people live in extreme poverty, that the number of countries considered as the least developed among developing countries has risen from 24 in 1971 to 42 today, that the recent near-doubling in the price of oil will add billions of dollars to the import bill of the countries which can least afford it. A quarter of the world's population cannot read or write. Of them, two thirds belong to developing countries.

How can those suffering hunger and want believe in our commitment to fundamental human rights when they are denied the most fundamental of rights: the right to live in dignity, the right to see their children grow in health, the right to see their land free from disease and famine.

We should all feel a great sense of shame at the realization that in an age when man has conquered space he has yet to conquer want. Our responsibility is clear. Unless we use the tremendous resources available for all mankind we will fail to save succeeding generations from the conflicts which will inevitably arise.

As we enter the final decade of the twentieth century, other problems confront us. Increasingly, we are witnessing the degradation and corruption of our environment. Environmental problems have existed throughout the centuries. Our greater awareness today of the deterioration of the air, water and soil and of the long-term threats to the Earth's climate and ozone layer is in itself a reflection of maturity. The initiative of Malta in this regard, concerning climate change, has given an international dimension to the issue. As the preparatory process for the 1992 Conference on Environment and Development gathers momentum we are becoming ever more deeply conscious of the reality that environmentally sound development policies are fundamental to the future relationship between man and his surroundings.

(The President)

The environment is our common heritage. Its problems are our common concern.

The demographic explosion is another subject where long-standing concerns have today assumed critical proportions. It is by now fully recognized that the maintenance of an equitable balance among population, resources and the environment, through appropriate policies, is a necessary ingredient for the sustained growth of any society.

Equally important for the process of development is the redefinition of the role of women in society. Progress has already been made in this area, though much remains to be done. Not only is full and effective participation by women in society a condition for sustained development, but it also constitutes an indispensable element in the promotion of human rights.

Twelve million refugees - more people than inhabit a considerable number of States Members of this Organization - are wandering aimlessly in deserts, in streets, in camps and in slums throughout the globe, helpless victims of circumstances, some natural, some man-made. The international community has to face this disruption of the dignity of man who has lost his compass and has become uprooted from his society and torn from his habitat.

Another major problem of our time is drug abuse, with its devastating effect on society. Drug abuse has been compared to transnational pollution. We in the United Nations have dedicated a special session of the General Assembly to this subject. No effort should be spared, no expense should be considered unjustified in the struggle to rid present and future generations of this scourge.

Yet another scourge of our time is terrorism. Terrorism is not the poor man's war. It is not even a strategy with a purpose. Still less can it ever coincide with an ideal. Terrorism is the murder of the innocent. It is an act of the coward. No civilized society can accept terrorism in its midst, or the protection of terrorists.

(The President)

The world has to be alive to present, and perhaps even more to future, dangers of any terrorist expansion. We are all in the forefront - politicians and diplomats, women at the marketplace and children at school, innocent travellers and bystanders.

There is no total protection against terrorism. There is only an implacable rejection of it.

The world is at a turning-point in history.

The question is: In which direction are we turning, towards a new era of global harmony and co-operation, or towards a return to the fragmentation and division which marred so much of human history?

The elements justifying optimism are many.

Equally plentiful, however, are the elements justifying caution.

Indicative of the new optimism is the forthcoming unification of Germany - a symbol of the new healing role of Europe with its dismantling of barriers, the freeing of peoples, the reinstating of democratic institutions and the progressive abandonment of armaments.

Indicative of the dangers which are still with us is the invasion of Kuwait, an outrageous and illegal action in itself, but an action which also reflects the bitterness and turmoil, the hatred and injustice which prevail in the Middle East.

In the current international situation we are once again forcefully reminded that both appeasement and warmongering are bad counsellors in that they lead to greater conflict.

Will the community of nations succeed in harnessing those forces for peace and justice which are at its disposal, especially through the United Nations, or will it once more succumb to the disruptive and harmful forces which still lurk within it?

(The President)

The challenges lying ahead are enormous. But, equally enormous, is the political will to guarantee that mankind's destiny is safeguarded not only by individual countries, but by a strong United Nations.

The strength for our actions must be drawn from the tremendous potential which resides in every individual and we must set our objectives in the light of his aspirations for peace in freedom - that freedom which, for every citizen of the world, comes first and foremost.

ITEM 19 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS TO THE UNITED NATIONS

- (a) APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION (A/45/408)
- (b) LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL (A/45/419)
- (c) DRAFT RESOLUTION A/45/L.1

The President: In accordance with the procedure followed in the past, I should now like to invite the General Assembly to consider, under item 19 of the provisional agenda, entitled "Admission of new Members to the United Nations", the positive recommendation by the Security Council for the admission to membership in the United Nations of the Principality of Liechtenstein.

This special procedure has been applied previously in order to give States recommended by the Security Council for membership in our Organization the opportunity, if the General Assembly acts favourably on their requests, to participate from the outset in the work of the session.

If there is no objection, we shall proceed accordingly.

It was so decided.

The President: The Security Council has recommended the admission of the Principality of Liechtenstein to membership in the United Nations, as stated in document A/45/419. In this connection, a draft resolution has been submitted in

(The President)

document A/45/L.1. In addition to the countries listed in that document, the following countries have become sponsors of the draft resolution: Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Samoa and Singapore.

May I take it that the General Assembly accepts the recommendation of the Security Council and adopts the draft resolution by acclamation?

Draft resolution A/45/L.1 was adopted (resolution 45/1).

The PRESIDENT: I therefore declare the Principality of Liechtenstein admitted to membership in the United Nations.

I request the Chief of Protocol to escort the delegation of Liechtenstein to its place in the General Assembly Hall.

The delegation of Liechtenstein was escorted to its place in the General Assembly Hall.

The PRESIDENT: On behalf of the General Assembly, I congratulate Liechtenstein on its admission and welcome it as the 160th State Member of the United Nations. Liechtenstein's admission to the Organization reinforces even further the universal character of the membership of the United Nations.

Its political history goes back many centuries and it has during this time participated in and seen many changes in the European and the global political orders. That it has now chosen to enter the United Nations is a cause for satisfaction and optimism. As a country with one of the highest per capita gross national products in the world, Liechtenstein surely has many insights to offer the United Nations at a time when our Organisation is endeavouring to promote broad-based global development. With a long-established tradition of independence, stability and prosperity, Liechtenstein brings to the United Nations a rich experience in the ways and means open to small States to foster their well-being and independence. There is much here, I am sure, that other States can learn from.

(The President)

Liechtenstein's admission to the United Nations thus brings to our world organization a wealth of experiences and insights which can surely assist it in the achievement of its global mission.

Once again, I congratulate Liechtenstein and welcome it to the United Nations.

I now call on Mr. Ibrahim Gambari, representative of Nigeria, who will speak on behalf of the Group of African States.

MR. GAMBARI (Nigeria): On behalf of the Group of African States I wish to extend our warmest congratulations to the Government and people of Liechtenstein through His Excellency the Prime Minister, Mr. Hans Brunhart, who is with us today, on the occasion of the admission of Liechtenstein to the United Nations.

Today is no doubt a day to which the people and Government of Liechtenstein have looked forward for many years. It may be recalled that the first talks regarding the admission of Liechtenstein began in the early 1970s. However, in the last few years the talks have intensified and culminated in what we are witnessing this afternoon.

The Government and people of Liechtenstein certainly deserve the warmest congratulations of the African Group. We in Africa understand the joy of new membership in the United Nations. Our continent has produced the largest number of independent States admitted to the world Organization in the past three decades. Moreover, it is from Africa that the youngest-but-one Member of the United Nations, Namibia, has emerged. We also hope that it will be sooner rather than later that post-apartheid South Africa will assume its rightful seat in the General Assembly.

A number of States in Africa share with Liechtenstein an affinity of geographical size and population, but, more than that, we share with the newest Member of the United Nations an affinity of commitment to the goals and principles of the Organization. Together with Liechtenstein, our youngest Member, we in Africa look forward to working within the Organisation in the continuing search for a world free of war, free of want, and free of injustice.

THE PRESIDENT: I now call upon the representative of Sri Lanka, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Asian States.

MR. PERERA (Sri Lanka): As one of the many sponsors of the draft resolution recommending the admission of Liechtenstein to the United Nations I am

Mr. Perera, Sri Lanka)

particularly happy that today, as Chairman of the Group of Asian States for this month, I have the privilege of welcoming our newest Member.

Liechtenstein, a sovereign State for almost 200 years, has been described as a constitutional hereditary monarchy based on a parliamentary democracy. With that background I have no doubt that Liechtenstein will prove to be a most valued Member of the United Nations. Liechtenstein, with an area of 160 square kilometres and a population of a little over 22,000, would probably be the smallest State in our community, but I am confident that its contribution will no doubt be in inverse proportion to its size.

On behalf of the Asian group, "Welcome."

The PRESIDENT: I now call upon the representative of Hungary, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States.

Mr. ERDŐS (Hungary)(interpretation from French): As current Chairman of the Group of Eastern European States I have the honour to express, on behalf of the States members of that Group, our joy and deep satisfaction at the admission of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the United Nations.

The admission of a country to our world Organization has always been a major and solemn event. That is all the more true today, at a time when the United Nations continues to demonstrate its vitality and is playing a greater role in preserving international peace and security, in the settlement of regional crises, both old and new, and in the search for answers to the global problems confronting mankind. The admission of new States - and, today, of Liechtenstein - to the world Organization constitutes an important step towards the realization of the principle of universality of the United Nations. The desire to become a member reflects the positive universal assessment of United Nations activities. It is a sign of the trust placed in our Organization.

Mr. Erdos, Hungary)

Liechtenstein has acquired considerable experience in international relations. It is already participating in the work of a number of United Nations agencies. It is a member of the Council of Europe and plays an active and constructive role in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. We therefore consider its admission to the United Nations as a logical and consistent act according to that country its rightful place in the concert of nations. We are convinced that within the ranks of the United Nations Liechtenstein will make a valuable and effective contribution to the implementation of the purposes and principles of the Charter of our Organization, an obligation binding upon all Member States regardless of size or the number of their inhabitants.

The countries on whose behalf I am speaking today feel profoundly gratified at the admission of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the United Nations. Liechtenstein may rest assured that the States of Eastern Europe will in the future continue in their bilateral relations to deepen the cordial and mutually beneficial co-operation they enjoy with Liechtenstein today, in the interests of building a new, democratic, peaceful and united Europe and with a view to the establishment of an international order based on the goals and principles of the United Nations. We wish the Principality of Liechtenstein and its future representatives to the United Nations every success in our shared endeavours to achieve understanding and co-operation among all the nations of the world and the preservation and development of the accomplishments of our civilisation. We express our conviction that Liechtenstein will make its active contribution to the attainment of those noble objectives.

The PRESIDENT: I now call upon the representative of Belize, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

Mr. ROGERS (Belize): Mr. President, let me first congratulate you on your election to your high office. We feel sure that you will carry out your responsibilities with dignity, with fairness and with justice to all.

On behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group, I have the honour to extend a warm and hearty welcome to the Principality of Liechtenstein as our newest Member. The admission of any new State to the United Nations is cause for celebration. As a wise man once said, the size of a nation, like the size of a man, has nothing to do with the respect that it deserves. So we welcome Liechtenstein with open arms and warmly congratulate it on its admission to the United Nations today. Liechtenstein has a unique history and a unique economic situation, and we have no doubt that in the Latin American and Caribbean area many other small States can identify with the new Member. So let me extend a hearty welcome to Liechtenstein as our newest Member, the 160th.

The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of Belgium, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States.

Mr. NOTERDAEME (Belgium) (interpretation from French): It is with great satisfaction that the Group of Western European and other States, which I have the honour to represent here, has joined in the consensus in favour of the request for admission of the Principality of Liechtenstein to membership of the United Nations. This is really a most fortunate event. The arrival of a new Member is new evidence of the universality of our Organization and its desire to welcome all those who are prepared to contribute to the objectives set forth in the Charter of the United Nations. In welcoming the admission of Liechtenstein to the Organization we should like to emphasize the active role already played by that State in multilateral organs, particularly in the follow-up to the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, as well as in the specialized agencies of the

(Mr. Noterdaeme, Belgium)

United Nations. The contribution of Liechtenstein in the field of multilateral co-operation has been unanimously appreciated. The Group of Western European and other States is particularly pleased to have been associated with the admission of Liechtenstein and to welcome to its midst this new Member State. In the European agencies, such as the Council of Europe, Liechtenstein has proved its great vitality, and it seems to me that it is perfectly capable not only of fulfilling the obligations of a Member State of the United Nations but also of making a positive contribution to the multiple activities of this Organization.

It is particularly significant that the admission of Liechtenstein to the United Nations has been so broadly welcomed, a fact which indicates the excellent relations that that State maintains with the entire international community. There can be no doubt that the Principality of Liechtenstein will feel at home immediately in this great family of ours, where it has already been able to forge long-standing and solid links of friendship with other Members of the Organization.

The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of the United States of America, the host country.

Mr. PICKERING (United States of America): Mr. President, first let me take this opportunity to express our pleasure at seeing you presiding over this session of the General Assembly. We are aware of your experience and we are confident that the General Assembly will benefit from your wise guidance during this coming session.

On behalf of the host country, it is a great pleasure for me to welcome the representative of the Government of the Principality of Liechtenstein. The United States is extremely pleased to have been among the sponsors of its application for membership in the United Nations. Our countries have enjoyed friendly ties for many years, and we believe that we shall all benefit by its presence among us. We

(Mr. EICKERING, United States)

look forward to working closely with the representatives of the Principality of Liechtenstein in the General Assembly and throughout the United Nations system.

Liechtenstein's membership brings us closer to fulfilling the important goal of a universal organization through which all States able and willing to carry out the obligations of the Charter may participate in and enrich the community of nations.

On the occasion of its admission to the United Nations, we welcome Liechtenstein to New York, and as a founding Member we welcome Liechtenstein to the United Nations.

Mr. HOHENFELNER (Austria): Sir, it is a distinct honour and pleasure for me to be among the first speakers offering sincere congratulations to you on your unanimous election as President of the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly. Your election is also a well-deserved compliment to your country, Malta, which has over the years enriched the work of the Organization and its various bodies in an excellent, outstanding and always constructive manner. The Maltese example has shown that all members of the international community, even if they are small in terms of geography and population, can contribute decisively to the achievement of an important outcome of the work of the General Assembly and the Organization as a whole.

The General Assembly has just admitted the Principality of Liechtenstein as the 160th Member of the United Nations. Liechtenstein is also a small country, as far as geographical dimensions and number of inhabitants are concerned, but a truly peace-loving country rich in history, culture, arts, economy and social welfare.

Austria, as a neighbouring country and one of the main sponsors of the draft resolution just adopted, takes particular pleasure in conveying a warm and cordial welcome to the Principality of Liechtenstein. Austria has enjoyed very close,

(Mr. Hohenfellner, Austria)

intensive and fruitful co-operation with Liechtenstein over the centuries. This co-operative friendship dates back to 1719, when Liechtenstein was granted the rank of an Immediate Imperial Principality within the Holy Roman Empire. Since 1806 Liechtenstein has been a sovereign State and it has maintained this sovereignty ever since. In these 184 years of independence Liechtenstein, as a neutral country, has never participated in a war.

(Mr. Hohenfellner, Austria)

In addition to its close co-operation with its neighbours, Switzerland and Austria, the Principality of Liechtenstein has been active in the multilateral field and is already a member of several specialized agencies of the United Nations system. Liechtenstein has displayed its international solidarity by various means, inter alia by devoting more than 1 per cent of its gross domestic product to official development assistance.

In the European context, Liechtenstein has been a member State of the Council of Europe since 1978, and has from the beginning participated in an active and appreciated way in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE). Also in the CSCB-framework, Liechtenstein has given ample proof that it can make important contributions to multilateral forums.

The admission of the 160th Member State brings our world Organization a step closer to the aim of universality. The application of Liechtenstein for membership in 1990 also testifies to the heightened interest and trust in the United Nations.

I should like once again to express our most heartfelt welcome to the delegation of Liechtenstein in the General Assembly. Austria is firmly convinced that Liechtenstein will play an active and positive role in the Organization and that it will thereby enrich and promote the United Nations endeavours to create a better world.

The PRESIDENT: In accordance with General Assembly resolution 3237 (XXIX) of 22 November 1974, and resolution 43/177 of 15 December 1988, I call on the Observer of Palestine.

Mr. TERZI (Palestine) (interpretation from Arabic): At the appropriate time, the Chairman of the delegation of Palestine to the current session, the Foreign Minister and the Director of the Political Department of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) will extend to you, Sir, our congratulations and express our pleasure at your election to the presidency of the General Assembly at

(Mr. Terci, Palestine)

its forty-fifth session. However, at this point, I would like to extend to you personally our great appreciation as the representative of a friendly country, and to the Government of Malta for the role it plays in defence of just causes. I would like to make special mention here of the defence by your Government, through its Permanent Representative to the United Nations of Palestine and the right of the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable rights.

Representatives of the Arab Group at the United Nations have asked me to welcome the new Member State, Liechtenstein. The world has come to feel that support should be given to the world Organization, the United Nations. In the present circumstances, it is an undeniable fact that the United Nations creates the climate and provides the appropriate, nay the only forum for addressing issues and preventing their aggravation. This has been made clear by the fact that some Member States are now beginning to be guided by the principles of the United Nations Charter. We do hope that such States will abide by those principles consistently and not selectively.

In the present circumstances, there is a growing need to abide by the principles of the Charter and the rules of international legitimacy. It is imperative that issues be dealt with in real earnest and in good faith.

For a peaceful settlement of the crisis in the Gulf and the Arab region, Brother Yasser Arafat, President of Palestine and Chairman of the PLO, drew on the principles of the Charter in formulating his initiative which aims at the settlement of that issue.

"All outstanding critical problems in the Middle East must be resolved, whether they be in the Gulf, Kuwait, Palestine, Lebanon, or the Golan Heights. Actually, this has begun with the withdrawals of Iraq and Iran. However the same could apply equally to all other issues in Palestine, Lebanon, the Golan, and Kuwait. The solution to the Gulf problem should be

(Mr. Terzi, Palestine)

achieved within the Arab framework. The aim should be a negotiated settlement that would take into account the rights and interests of all parties and preserve the dignity of all, as in the case of Lebanon and the Tayef formula. The US and other foreign forces should withdraw from the Gulf and be replaced by an international force under the United Nations banner, within an unambiguous United Nations framework."

In closing, I should like to reiterate on behalf of representatives of the Arab Group our warm welcome to the Principality of Liechtenstein as a new, effective, and active Member State of the United Nations, and express our readiness to co-operate with its representative in the interests of the Organization and in the cause of peace and the interests and welfare of peoples.

ADDRESS BY MR. HANS BRUNHART, PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now hear a statement by the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Principality of Liechtenstein.

Mr. Hans Brunhart, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Principality of Liechtenstein, was escorted to the rostrum.

The PRESIDENT: I have great pleasure in welcoming the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Principality of Liechtenstein, Mr. Hans Brunhart, and inviting him to address the General Assembly.

Mr. BRUNHART (Liechtenstein) (interpretation from French): I should like to begin by addressing to you, Sir, all my good wishes on your election to the presidency of the United Nations General Assembly at its forty-fifth session. My delegation is convinced that your wealth of experience will enable you to provide excellent guidance for the future work of the Assembly.

I should like to thank you for your warm welcome. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the members of the Security Council,

(Mr. Brunhart, Liechtenstein)

who unanimously supported the admission of Liechtenstein to membership of the United Nations. I should particularly like to thank the delegation of Austria and all those that supported the draft resolution submitted by Austria on the admission of Liechtenstein, as well as all those countries that, during today's meeting, spoke in favour of my country's request for admission.

This day is a very special one, and for me personally it is a very moving occasion to be able to express to you, Sir, and to the members of the Assembly the gratitude of the Principality of Liechtenstein for the boundless confidence which has been placed in my country by admitting it to membership of the Organization. Through their assent, the Member States of the United Nations have made it known that Liechtenstein is to take its proper place in the community of nations and that they are convinced that even a small country can make its contribution to international co-operation as an equal partner. On this occasion of such paramount importance for my country, I should also like to convey to the Assembly the best wishes of the ruling Prince, Hans-Adam II of Liechtenstein, for whom the admission of our country to the United Nations was a personal desire and a matter of political priority, as well as that of the people of Liechtenstein.

(Mr. Brunhart, Liechtenstein)

Today, the Principality of Liechtenstein has become the 160th Member State of the United Nations. Liechtenstein has existed as an independent State for almost 200 years. We enjoy a privileged situation. Liechtenstein is a prosperous State. It has excellent and close relations with its two neighbouring States, Switzerland and Austria. The consolidation and preservation of its sovereignty and the development of good neighbourly relations have been the main purposes of the foreign policy of Liechtenstein. Nevertheless, Liechtenstein has not failed to be affected by current problems. I only need to refer to the pollution of the environment, which respects no frontiers and which has equally affected Liechtenstein. This single example illustrates to what extent regional and international co-operation are indispensable.

For Liechtenstein, admission to the United Nations represents universal recognition of its efforts to co-operate and to help establish and maintain peace and create a better world. For many years, Liechtenstein has been following closely and with great respect the successful achievements of the United Nations, headed by its Secretary-General, Mr. Perez de Cuellar, as negotiator in both regional and international conflicts. Since the establishment of the United Nations there has rarely been a time when Article 1 of the United Nations Charter has been as relevant as it has been recently.

A small country like the Principality of Liechtenstein, which, internationally speaking, cannot rely on power, but solely on the law, quite naturally is concerned that there be respect for and application of international public law as well as the peaceful settlement of disputes and international co-operation. That is why the International Court of Justice, as the leading legal organ of the United Nations, has particular value in the eyes of Liechtenstein, which joined that body as early as 1950. In the context of the United Nations, my country has been

(Mr. Brunhart, Liechtenstein)

involved in drawing up multilateral treaties and has in recent years become a contracting party to a growing number of them.

We now are witnessing very rapid changes in Europe, changes quite unthinkable only a year or two ago. The Principality of Liechtenstein, which is geographically situated in the very heart of Europe, has been able to follow these changes very closely. Even a small country can contribute, beyond the frontiers of its own State, to the process of social transformation. To the extent of its possibilities, Liechtenstein has endeavoured to make access to market economies easier for the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. Currently this has taken the form of a specific project in the field of education and by the participation of the Principality of Liechtenstein in the recently created European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Furthermore, at present the Council of Europe, of which our country has been a member since 1978, provides States of Central and Eastern Europe with an opportunity to participate in the oldest political forum in Europe. In the Council of Europe, Liechtenstein supports the efforts to make it possible for those countries to become integrated in accordance with the democratic objectives and principles of Western Europe.

In the context of North-South problems, Liechtenstein has sought to demonstrate its solidarity by timely development aid, by supporting and paying close attention to specific projects. Furthermore, Liechtenstein has endeavoured to contribute through development aid for refugees and disaster situations through its participation in international aid programmes of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

The Principality of Liechtenstein has for many years maintained relations with the United Nations and various specialized agencies. After joining the International Court of Justice in 1950, there followed admission to the Universal

(Mr. Brunhart, Liechtenstein)

Postal Union, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the World Organization for Intellectual Property. Liechtenstein is also a member of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and has since 1976 enjoyed consultative status with the Economic Commission for Europe.

The relationships which have existed between the Principality of Liechtenstein and the United Nations over the years have today culminated in its admission to full membership. On this occasion, I should like to take this opportunity once again to emphasize that my country fully endorses the principles set forth in the Charter. The conflict in the Gulf region, I believe, fully bears out the prime importance of the main goal of the United Nations, that is, to guarantee peace in the world as well as international security and, to that end, to take effective and collective measures.

Once again, I should like to express my gratitude for the great honour which today has been bestowed upon the Principality of Liechtenstein by admitting it to membership of the United Nations. Members may rest assured that Liechtenstein will endeavour in so far as possible to make a constructive contribution to the work of the United Nations.

Mr. President, I should like to thank you and to wish the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly a very fruitful outcome.

The PRESIDENT: On behalf of the General Assembly, I wish to thank the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Principality of Liechtenstein for the important statement he has just made.

Mr. Hans Brunhart, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Principality of Liechtenstein, was escorted from the rostrum.

The PRESIDENT: Several representatives have requested to exercise the right of reply. May I remind members that, in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, statements in exercise of the right of reply are limited to

(The President)

10 minutes for the first intervention and to five minutes for the second, and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. AL-SALLAL (Kuwait) (interpretation from Arabic): At the outset, I should like to congratulate Liechtenstein on its admission to membership of the United Nations. In this context, I should like to refer to the statement made by the representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization, wherein he said that he represents the Arab group.

(Mr. Al-Sallal, Kuwait)

I should like to emphasize categorically that what the PLO's representative said in connection with what he called Yasser Arafat's initiative on the crisis which resulted from Iraq's aggression against and occupation of Kuwait does not represent the views of anybody other than its sponsors, and runs counter to all the resolutions of the League of Arab States and the Security Council.

Therefore, we consider that the statement of the Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization is at variance with all accepted norms and practices.

Mr. AL-NI'MAH (Qatar) (interpretation from Arabic): At the outset, Sir, I should like to extend to you due congratulations on your election to the Presidency of the current session of the General Assembly. I should also like to extend a warm welcome to the Principality of Liechtenstein on its admission to the membership of the United Nations.

I had not intended to speak in reply. However, I do so now on behalf of the State of Qatar, the current Chairman of the Council of the League of Arab States. I should like to state unequivocally that the statement of the Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization represents nobody but himself, and what goes on in his mind. It does not represent the position of the League of Arab States, whose documents are now with the United Nations.

The position of the full membership of the League of Arab States, as recorded in the League's documents, is well known, especially in regard to the brutal aggression against the State of Kuwait.

On behalf of the representatives of the Arab States, I express great displeasure at the Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization's inappropriate exploitation by making a statement that has not been endorsed and cleared by the Arab States. He should have spoken only in connection with extending congratulations to you, Sir, and the Principality of Liechtenstein. So

(Mr. Al-Ni'mah, Qatar)

all his words regarding the brutal aggression of Iraq against Kuwait are a mere figment of his imagination and do not represent the Arab States.

The PRESIDENT: In accordance with General Assembly resolution 3237 (XXIX), of 22 November 1974, and resolution 43/177, of 13 December 1988, I call on the Observer of Palestine who wishes to make a statement in reply.

Mr. TERZI (Palestine): It is a pity that some people sometimes do not listen to what the President says. If I recall rightly, Sir, you did invite me, under resolution 3237 (XXIX), to make a statement. If I recall rightly, you did not at all say that you were inviting me in my capacity as the Chairman of the Group of Arab States, which I am. But that is what you did not really mention. That is why, when I was invited to speak, I thought it most befitting, as is the custom, for the Chairman of the Group of Arab States, upon the admission of a new Member, to welcome that State to the United Nations.

But when I asked to make the statement, my other intention was to make our position clear, since you yourself, Sir, referred to the situation in the Gulf area, inasmuch as it is one of the hottest issues there, and it was my responsibility to clarify what is going on.

In no way did I say, either implicitly or explicitly that the statement, or the initiative of President Arafat was on behalf of the Arabs. On behalf of the Arab States, I did say that I would welcome, and I was proud and honoured to do so, the admission of the Principality of Liechtenstein.

So if there has been any misunderstanding by those people who were not listening to your statement, Sir, I beg your indulgence to say that in the future before they speak they should again read and reread what has been mentioned.

The PRESIDENT: I should like to announce that the flag of Liechtenstein will be raised at a ceremony which will take place in front of the delegates' entrance immediately after the adjournment of the 2nd plenary meeting of the General Assembly this afternoon.

As announced in the Journal, immediately following this plenary meeting, we shall hold consecutive meetings of the Main Committees for the purpose of electing their chairmen and, thereafter, the 2nd plenary meeting will be convened for the elections of the vice-presidents of the General Assembly.

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.