Working-Translation of the Article "President of General-Assembly Salim: Await no Miracles" in the Austrian Newspaper "Die Presse" of Friday 16, May 1980.

"One should not await any miracles from the United Nations". The man who says these words should know. Since 1966, with one exception, he has participated at all General-Assemblies and since last autumn he is president of the 34 session of the General-Assembly. Despite his young age - 38 years - Mr.Salim Ahmed Salim - Tanzanian by birth - is considered to have very good chances to become the successor of Mr. Waldheim to the post of Secretary General of the United Nations. For the moment Mr. Salim lives only a few rooms away from the Secretary General at the Hotel Imperial to participate at the ceremonies commamorating the signing of the Austrian State Treaty twentyfive years ago.
The United Nations were founded at the end of the Second World War to guarantee the peace. A generation later the dangers of a new global conflict seem to have grown? Have the United Nations failed ? "It is not enough to argument: There is a danger of war and one has to try to prevent the possibility of conflict. One has to go to the roots of the problems and try to find a solution to conflicts or potential conflicts before they get out of hand and constitute a veritable crises."
In many cases one has succeeded in getting to the roots of the problem, for example the questions concerning the economic relations between states. One has realized that a new international economic order has to be found. The second question of course is that the resolutions which the United Nations have passed in these matters must also be implemented by the countries concerned.
Should one not change the constitution of the United Nations to render its work more effective? "The United Nations are well equipped for their task, only one should use the instruments in the sense they are made for." It is a tragedy that everybody awaits the impossible of the United Nations,

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but member-states mostly use the instruments of the United Nations at the last moment, when everything is to late. One can't await miracles of the United Nations when member-states don't deal with the United Nations early enough.

Should one not motivate member-states to use the instruments available to the United Nations in a better way? "I think that the role of the public media is exceptionally important". The United Nations are not the Secretary General, the Security Council or other organs; the United Nations are composed of the people of the member-states. These people should influence and pressure their governements to accord the just importance to the United Nations.

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United Nations
Press Release

Department of Public Information
Press Section
United Nations, New York

CAUTION: ADVANCE TEXT
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GA/6180
8 May 1980

STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN COMMEMORATIVE MEETING TO PAY TRIBUTE TO MEMORY OF PRESIDENT TITO

Following is the text of a statement by the President of the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly, Salim Ahmed Salim (United Republic of Tanzania), to this morning's commemorative meeting to pay tribute to the memory of President Tito of Yugoslavia who died on Sunday, 4 May:

Today we, representatives of 152 nations, are gathered here in this General Assembly Hall to pay solemn tribute to the memory of a fallen hero, a great man, a freedom fighter, an outstanding leader of peoples, a world statesman and a legend. For President Josip Broz Tito, whose death we here, like hundreds of millions throughout the world, are today mourning, was all those things and more.

The death of President Tito comes at a particularly difficult time in history when the world is confronted with problems and crises of great magnitude. Indeed, it has come at the very time which demands the kind of wise and farsighted leadership that President Tito provided. The loss brought about by his death is, therefore, all the more irreparable. It is consequently all the more necessary that, as we hold this special commemorative meeting to pay homage to his memory, we should use the occasion to reflect on the exemplary leadership that President Tito provided in the quest for our common humanity and commit ourselves to continue to fight for the objectives for which he so ardently and passionately fought. For there could be no better tribute to this giant of our times.

At this juncture, it is fitting to recall the wise observations made by President Tito more than 16 years ago. Addressing the eighteenth session of the United Nations General Assembly on 22 October 1963, he declared: "In recent years there have been serious crises in international relations, such as had never, one might say, confronted humanity in the past, as far as the consequences which they might have entailed. Although these crises were not always solved in the most satisfactory manner, because they left their mark on international relations, we nevertheless succeeded, due particularly to the United Nations and also to the realistic approach of some of the responsible leaders of the great Powers, in avoiding the greatest danger -- the danger of the world being engulfed in a general nuclear catastrophe."

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Although this statement was made in a different international environment, his observations in respect to the role and responsibility of the United Nations in confronting problems and crises is no less pertinent today. Equally relevant is the need for demonstrations of responsibility and restraint on the part of the great Powers.

President Tito, the brave warrior, dedicated his entire life to the welfare of the people. When Yugoslavia was invaded by the fascist forces in 1941, through his exceptional military talent and ingenuity, through his patriotism and exemplary commitment, he rallied and led the partisan resistance in the struggle for national liberation from the forces of oppression. In Yugoslavia, he will continue to be remembered as an organizer, a fighter of immense courage and determination and for his organizational capabilities which laid foundations for the new democratic community of equal nations on which the unity of the country was able to flourish.

Subsequent to the heroic victory of the valiant partisan forces over the fascist forces, President Tito was able, through the reorganization of the economy and vast agrarian reforms, to help mould the new Yugoslavia into a modern State.

As the internationalist, President Tito championed the cause of peaceful and active coexistence on the international scene and played the key role in the conception, establishment and development of the non-aligned movement. As my President Mwalimu Julius Nyerere in his message of condolence to President Lazar Kolisevski stated, and I quote: "As a founder-member and leader of the non-aligned movement he is irreplaceable ... For the non-aligned movement has necessarily and correctly developed since it was first founded on the initiative of President Tito, President Nasser and Prime Minister Nehru. But always President Tito has been in the forefront of its growth and its adaptation to changing international circumstances, while insisting that the movement retains and strengthens its non-aligned character ... ".

In consolidating the principles of the policy of non-alignment as an active policy of positive involvement in world issues, President Tito continued to advocate the right of each nation to an independent existence and struggled for the rights of all people of the world to freedom and justice. It was in the fight against the forces of injustice and domination in the world and in his farsighted and consistent stand in defence of the principles of sovereignty of nations that he earned for himself and his great country immense respect and admiration among all members of the international community.

President Tito's vision in analysis, his ideas and profound comprehension and grasp of the dynamics and intricacies of international relations became vital not only in steering his country through three and one-half decades of uninterrupted peace and sound stability, but also in asserting the position of the non-aligned nations as States committed to providing alternatives to confrontation and cold war.

It was for his genuine commitment that, even when beset with failing physical health, President Tito continued unwaveringly to steer the movement

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into a genuine independent and universal force in the struggle for peace and justice and laboured for the establishment of a new order of international, political and economic relations based on co-operation between nations founded on freedom, equality and social justice. It was thus the concern for the principles of co-operation based on independence, equality and complementarity of interests that has continued to guide Yugoslavia in pursuing the ideals of freedom through its immeasurable contribution to the liberation struggle in the world, and Africa in particular. President Tito was a dependable and trusted supporter of the liberation struggle.

As a statesman, President Tito was a towering figure, a patient negotiator and resolute advocate for detente and relaxation of international tension. His skill and ability to assert the independence of Yugoslavia earned him great esteem and admiration, even among his most ardent critics. His clear-sightedness in determining the course of his country's political and diplomatic activity served to strengthen and consolidate the determination of Yugoslavia to contribute to the work of the United Nations and promote the ideals for which the Organization stands.

In sum, President Tito was a brave and courageous man, an ardent champion of peace who devoted his life, in an exceptionally active manner, to fighting for the cause of independence and social progress of his great country -- Yugoslavia. Thus, as founder of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, he will immortally be remembered for his dedication and commitment to peace and stability which brought about prosperity to his people.

As founder of the non-aligned movement, President Tito symbolized the determination of the third world countries to assert themselves and to be positively involved in world affairs by, inter alia, striving for democratization of international relations.

As the political and military activist, he will be remembered for the manner in which he distinguished himself as an organizer, political thinker and theoretician whose theories found concrete expression in their application, both within Yugoslavia and other continents of the world.

As a statesman, he not only was one of the most pre-eminent political giants of this century, but also as a leader, philosopher and thinker, he provided great inspiration and example to the forces of peace and justice in the world. His contribution to the work of this Organization will remain a monumental testimony to his untiring efforts of consolidating the foundations of independence and genuine interdependence.

Though his example of excellence and total and indomitable commitment to world peace and justice cannot be duplicated, it can be emulated. Thus, as the international community joins the bereaved family, Government and people of Yugoslavia in this somber moment of mourning his death, I am confident that there can be no better eulogy or tribute to him than to reaffirm our determination to uphold the ideals for which he dedicated his entire life and

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for which he will ever be remembered. Indeed, there can be no better way of ending these remarks than in the words of Edvard Kardelj, who once said of President Tito:

"He belongs to all those who yearn for peace as an existential necessity, who rise in defence of their national being and existence, their independence, who advocate the creation of a community of equal nations, the emancipation from all forms of exploitation, subjugation and oppression, the elimination of force in the relations among States and nations. The name of Tito has become the symbol of a fighter in war and peace, and the expression of a humanistic vision of a new world free from fear and from the destruction of man by man and of one nation by another, of a world with new generations which will not know the monstrosity and the scourge of war and will never learn of the animality in the man, in the people and nations."

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UNITED NATIONS  NATIONS UNIES

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM — MEMORANDUM INTERIEUR

TO: A: H.E. Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim
President of the General Assembly

DATE: 31 December 1979

REFERENCE:

THROUGH: S/C DE:

FROM: DE: Athmani R. Magoma
Press Officer for the President

SUBJECT: OBJET: Information Activities and Press Coverage of the 34th Session

Following, for your information, is a brief summary of press coverage and information activities during the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly:

1. Liaison with the Press:

Contact with the Press at the United Nations was one of the first tasks of the Press Officer. This was initiated several weeks before the opening of the session in order to allow correspondents to express their views and, where necessary, offer suggestions on all matters relating to information. Useful exchanges of ideas with the Press Officer enabled orderly planning of work during the session. The President of the United Nations Correspondents Association, Mr. Jogindra K. Banerji, was very helpful in this regard.

2. Press Briefings:

The Press Officer attended all the noon briefings by the Department of Public Information as Spokesman for the President. Together with the Spokesman for the Secretary-General he was able to inform correspondents of what was going on in the General Assembly on day-to-day basis, as well as affording the opportunity to correspondents to ask questions about the session.

Briefing notes were issued daily for information of the correspondents and the Secretariat.

3. Press Releases

All major statements by the President were issued as official press releases. A total of 19 releases were thus issued as follows:

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H.E. Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim
President of the General Assembly

Ahmadou K. Mahou
Press Officer for the President

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(i)	Release No.	GA/5988 of 18 September	- Statement at Opening of 34th Session.
(ii)	" "	GA/5992 of 19 September	- Transcript of Press Conference.
(iii)	" "	GA/6008 of 2 October	- Welcome address - Pope's Visit.
(iv)	" "	GA/6039, UND/759 of 16 Oct.	- U.N. Day Message.
(v)	" "	GA/6047 of 19 October	- Text of cable from Pope to GA President and his reply.
(vi)	" "	GA/6048 of 19 October	- Statement on Day of Solidarity with S.A. Political Prisoners.
(vii)	" "	GA/6053 of 24 October	- Message for Disarmament Week.
(viii)	" "	GA/6057 of 26 October	- Statement on Death of Prime Minister of Swaziland.
(ix)	" "	GA/6059 of 26 October	- Statement on Independence of St. Vincent and Grenadines.
(x)	" "	GA/6061 of 29 October	- Statement on Namibia Solidarity Week.
(xi)	" "	GA/6076 of 9 November	- Statement on American Hostages in Iran.
(xii)	" "	GA/6088 of 16 November	- Statement at Fund Pledging for UNHCR.
(xiii)	" "	GA/6095 of 20 November	- Statement Marking 20th Anniversary of Declaration of Rights of Child.
(xiv)	" "	GA/6096 of 20 November	- Appeal for Release of American Hostages in Iran.
(xv)	" "	GA/6108 of 29 November	- Statement on International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People.
(xvi)	" "	GA/6125 of 10 December	- Statement on Human Rights Day.
(xvii)	" "	GA/6139 of 17 December	- Statement on Southern Rhodesia.
(xviii)	" "	GA/6145 of 20 December	- Closing Statement of 34th Session.
(xix)	" "	GA/6152 of 28 December	- Statement to General Committee on Security Council Elections.

4. Press Clippings:

At the beginning of the session the Press Officer sent cables to all U.N. Information Centres and other U.N. Offices to request them for clippings on the coverage of the session in different parts of the world. The response has been very positive. Hundreds of clippings were being received regularly in many languages: English, French, Arabic, Spanish, Italian, Yugoslav, Russian and Turkish. The bulk of the clippings was received from Latin American countries.

Files have been compiled for future reference.

5. Press Luncheons:

With the co-operation of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, Press Luncheons were organized during which the President, as host, would discuss off the record different issues facing the General Assembly. Six luncheons were originally arranged. But, due to heavy pressure of work on the President, only four were held. A different group of correspondents was invited to each luncheon. The Under-Secretary-General, DPI, and Director of Press were also present at each luncheon as a back-up team during the discussions.

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(i)	Release No.	GA/5958	of 12 September	- Statement at Opening of 27th Session.
(ii)	"	"	GA/5962 of 19 September	- Transcript of Press Conference.
(iii)	"	"	GA/6008 of 2 October	- Welcome address - Pope's Visit.
(iv)	"	"	GA/6070, UNO/759 of 16 Oct.	- U.N. Day Message.
(v)	"	"	GA/6077 of 18 October	- Text of cable from Pope to GA President and his reply.
(vi)	"	"	GA/6048 of 19 October	- Statement on Day of Solidarity with S.A. Political Prisoners.
(vii)	"	"	GA/6055 of 24 October	- Message for Disarmament Week.
(viii)	"	"	GA/6057 of 26 October	- Statement on Death of Prime Minister of Swaziland.
(ix)	"	"	GA/6059 of 26 October	- Statement on Independence of St. Vincent and Grenadines.
(x)	"	"	GA/6061 of 29 October	- Statement on Namibia Solidarity Week.
(xi)	"	"	GA/6076 of 9 November	- Statement on American Hostages in Iran.
(xii)	"	"	GA/6080 of 16 November	- Statement at Fund Pledging for UNHCR.
(xiii)	"	"	GA/6085 of 20 November	- Statement marking 30th Anniversary of Declaration of Rights of Child.
(xiv)	"	"	GA/6086 of 20 November	- Appeal for Release of American Hostages in Iran.
(xv)	"	"	GA/6108 of 29 November	- Statement on International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People.
(xvi)	"	"	GA/6125 of 10 December	- Statement on Human Rights Day.
(xvii)	"	"	GA/6130 of 17 December	- Statement on Southern Rhodesia.
(xviii)	"	"	GA/6145 of 20 December	- Closing Statement of 37th Session.
(xix)	"	"	GA/6152 of 26 December	- Statement to General Committee on Security Council Elections.

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6. Photographs:

Hundreds of photographs were compiled in albums for the President. A total of eight albums was presented with photographs taken during different occasions.

United Nations
Press Release

Department of Public Information
Press Section
United Nations, New York

GA/6152
28 December 1979

STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO GENERAL COMMITTEE ON BALLOTING FOR REMAINING SECURITY COUNCIL SEAT

Following is the text of a statement made to the General Committee this morning by Salim A. Salim (United Republic of Tanzania), President of the General Assembly:

As members are aware, in conducting its 139th ballot yesterday, the General Assembly failed to elect the remaining one non-permanent member of the Security Council. Since the Assembly held its first ballot on 26 October, and throughout the subsequent days and weeks, it has been my deep concern and preoccupation that the Assembly fulfil its Charter responsibility, as well as conform to its own rules of procedure, by successfully completing this process. That we have set a record of so many ballots to date is in itself an unprecedented attempt, within the existing rules and on the basis of past practice and tradition, to discharge that responsibility and that, as President, I have repeatedly drawn members' attention to this grave responsibility is a matter of record.

During the course of the past several weeks, I have also undertaken extensive consultations with a broad section of delegations encompassing a wide spectrum of opinion. In addition, I have held frequent consultations with the principal parties, namely, the delegations of Colombia and Cuba. The purpose of these consultations which, I wish to stress, have been as extensive as they could possibly have been, was to find a way in which the Assembly's task could be facilitated and its obligations discharged.

Members who had been involved in the consultations with me are fully aware of my role. But for those who have not been, I think it useful for the record to show that my efforts have been in large measure devoted to emphasizing the responsibility we all bear for electing members of the Security Council. For my part, I have consistently conveyed various suggestions which emerged during the consultations to the two candidates, since the history of previous efforts to resolve deadlocks has shown that in every instance the matter was settled on the basis of the agreement of the competing candidates.

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I should like, at the same time, to emphasize that, in connexion with all these consultations, I regarded my role as that of helping to facilitate the Assembly reaching an agreed decision. Quite clearly, the role of the President in this situation, I believe, is not, and could never be, to impose a decision. I have therefore endeavoured to abide scrupulously by the practice and tradition of a presiding officer in analogous circumstances.

Regrettably, however, despite these comprehensive consultations and notwithstanding the record number of ballots that we have held so far, the Assembly has not been able to arrive at a solution enabling it to fulfil its responsibility. I might add, my expectation that the Christmas recess would provide an opportunity for reflection and consequently for necessary action has thus far remained unrealized.

As members are aware, on 31 December this year, that is three days henceforth, five non-permanent members of the Security Council will be completing their terms of membership in the Council. If the Assembly does not succeed its obligations by 31 December, it is evident that the membership of the Council will be one short of the 15 members as prescribed in Article 23 of the Charter.

It is equally clear that without discharging that responsibility, the Assembly would not be in a position to conclude its thirty-fourth session. Under the circumstances, I consider it my duty to bring the entire matter to the attention of the General Committee with a view to soliciting the opinion of its members as to how best we could proceed thereon. I would request that all the members be actively seized of this matter and offer as appropriate any suggestions which they may have in this regard. I would, nonetheless, wish to emphasize the point which has in fact been most emphatically stressed to me by a number of members during my consultations with them: namely, it is extremely important that the General Assembly discharge its responsibility as expected, and indeed as prescribed, in the Charter.

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United Nations
Press Release

Department of Public Information
Press Section
United Nations, New York

CAUTION: ADVANCE TEXT
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GA/6145
20 December 1979

CLOSING STATEMENT OF PRESIDENT OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Following is the text of the closing statement by the President of the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly, Salim Ahmed Salim (United Republic of Tanzania):

The United Nations General Assembly is about to emerge from one of its most significant sessions. It was an eventful session notably characterized by the spirit and desire of nations to promote international understanding and co-operation but, even more so, to see that the international community addressed itself positively to matters of the utmost concern. The Assembly had the opportunity to deliberate and to reflect on global conflicts and issues of special significance, questions of disarmament, international peace and security and economic matters. The Assembly also addressed itself to social and humanitarian questions, decolonization and legal and budgetary matters.

Considering the range of issues on its agenda and the amount of time allocated for their consideration, the Assembly could not have worked more arduously, nor could it have acted in a more serene, serious and dedicated spirit than it did in discharging its responsibilities. That it did so was due to the commitment of nations represented here to fulfilling effectively their obligations in a united manner characteristic of the philiosophy underlying the firm foundation on which the United Nations was established.

It was heartening to observe that even though confronted with many seemingly insurmountable obstacles, the Assembly was able to come to grips with matters of immediate concern and respond to global challenges with great zeal and an extraordinary sense of seriousness. The session once again has provided an opportunity to the international community to reaffirm its commitment to collective efforts in promoting understanding between nations, and where such understanding has been lacking, the Assembly has not been found wanting either in terms of its commitment or its readiness to act.

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Though it is difficult within the short time remaining to make a comprehensive analysis of the achievements, shortcomings and experiences gained during the last three months, I will attempt nonetheless to highlight some of these aspects and features of the session which, in my judgement, will go into the annals of this Organization as the more significant developments of the thirty-fourth session. Such an assessment can in no way be conclusive.

Without any fear of contradiction, one can assert that the thirty-fourth session was an extremely eventful one. Not only did the session have to deal with a multitude of complex and controversial problems, both old and new, but also the focus of world attention on these issues and the expectations of the world community with respect to the United Nations responsibility to provide solutions was clearly and in fact, at times, dramatically evident.

The degree of attention and interest directed towards the work of this Assembly by a number of world and national leaders was one of the most eloquent demonstrations of the significance and continued relevance of this Organization at our current stage of international relations. More than a hundred Foreign Ministers and other Ministers of Cabinet rank attended and addressed the Assembly. Above all, the presence of so many eminent world personalities testified to the unique and continued importance of the General Assembly sessions, and particularly the thirty-fourth session. These leaders represented regions and movements -- or both, where the two coincided -- which constituted the greater cross-section of the entire membership of the United Nations.

Therefore, in receiving President William Tolbert of Liberia, the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity, the Assembly had the unique opportunity of reflecting on the issues of concern to the African continent. In the same manner, President Fidel Castro, addressing the Assembly in the name of 95 nations which constitute the Non-Aligned Movement, clearly underlined the importance of the movement as a strong positive force seeking a more realistic and balanced perspective in the present system of world political and economic relations.

The historic visit of His Holiness Pope John Paul II was an inspiring experience. His challenging message continued to be a source of strong inspiration and no less a constant reminder of how much has yet to be done in the realization of the purposes and objectives of the United Nations.

The immeasurable contribution made by these eminent personalities of high office clearly served to underscore the unique importance of the United Nations as a forum of international dialogue and co-operation and as an institution which continues to provide unlimited possibilities for the promotion of friendly relations through the conduct of bilateral and multilateral diplomacy. Indeed, to the cynics and the perennial critics of the United Nations, this universal interest in and attachment to the work of this body, is a clear rebuttal of the gloomy forecast for our Organization.

During the session, the Assembly once again considered practical ways to further one of the main objectives of this Organization, namely the maintenance of international peace and security. On questions relating to

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disarmament, though nations emerged from the session no more disarmed than before and with perhaps no significant progress towards ensuring their security, the spirit which characterized negotiations on these issues is commendable. The Assembly, meeting for the first time after the institutional modifications within the disarmament negotiating machinery, could not but profit from the work of both the Disarmament Commission and the Committee on Disarmament.

The Assembly, convinced that there are viable alternatives to the arms race at both the regional and global levels, proceeded to adopt a number of decisions which, among other things, emphasized the need for negotiations, international co-operation and understanding. This new qualitative approach was evidently reflected in the fact that almost half the resolutions were adopted without a vote. Of the 43 decisions, 20 were adopted without a vote and 16 without a negative vote. Conscious of the pressing need for development in relation to the amount of resources available for military use, the Assembly reaffirmed its conviction that a strong and organic link exists between disarmament and development.

In terms of the range, scope and content of the decisions and recommendations on disarmament and international peace and security, this session made a positive contribution in carrying forward the momentum of the tenth special session. We have taken a number of decisions aimed at the fulfilment of the goals and expectations of the peoples of the world, among others, the prevention of a nuclear war, a halt to the arms race, a start on the actual process of disarmament and the adoption of concrete arrangements for the steady transfer to development, of resources now being used for military purposes, thus helping to establish a new international economic order.

The creation of conditions of stability and well-being is necessary for peaceful and friendly relations among nations based on equality and self-determination. Paramount in this respect was the question of promotion and protection of human rights, with the various international instruments adopted by this body providing the basis for such an endeavour. The Assembly reiterated its recognition of the inherent dignity and worth of the human person and its realization that the securing of equal rights for members of the human family is the foundation of peace and justice in the world.

Through a number of decisions, this session was able to elaborate on the international instruments which have defined and established standards for human rights to which Member States should conform and the international machinery established to oversee and co-ordinate these activities. Through the assessment of the current global human rights situation, the session noted with indignation the continued massive and flagrant violations of human rights.

This session once again spared no efforts in condemning racism, racial discrimination and apartheid. The programme of action to be undertaken during the remaining half of the Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, including the convening of another conference in 1982, will contribute further to the expeditious formulation of a strategy to eradicate the evils of racism and apartheid. This session did not fail to emphasize the point that the

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continued co-operation with racist regimes obstructs the liberation efforts and thus contradicts the commitment of the international community to the promotion of human rights.

Never before has the need for intensified international action to alleviate the plight of refugess and displaced persons throughout the world been more dramatically emphasized than at this session of the Assembly. The discussions held and the decisions taken by the Assembly in this regard clearly demonstrate the deep awareness of the world community of the critically urgent nature of these complex problems which affect various regions of the world. It is equally clear that the measures taken by Member States are far from adequate to deal with the ever-growing size and complexity of the problems of the suffering millions.

While the initiatives taken by the Secretary-General and by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in this regard have been commended by all, and while the positive responses received at the recent pledging conferences are indicative of the manifest determination and goodwill of the nations participating, it is patent that, in view of the ever-intensifying magnitude of these problems, it will be only through a dramatic increase in the resources avaialable and through the preparedness of all nations to receive and protect the people affected that this mission for humanity will be adequately fulfilled. It is may sincere hope also that the acceptance and strict observance of the covenants and of the norms of human conduct at the national and multilateral levels, as well as the political will of all concerned to resolve their international disputes and to ensure friendly relations with their neighbours, will put an end once and for all to the untold suffering of the people affected and their forced migration.

The session also took a further definitive step in the promotion of the rights of women. Thus, through the adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, conditions are being created for the realization of the ideals of equality between men and women and the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women. The Second World Conference on the Advancement of Women, to be convened in Copenhagen next July, will contribute significantly to these efforts.

The fruitful exchange of views concerning development and international economic co-operation which took place, both during the general debate and during our consideration of the report of the Committee of the Whole, clearly revealed that the dangers posed by the persistent negative trends in the world economy continue to be of great concern to all members of the international community. For, while these structural economic problems continue to impose serious constraints on the development efforts of the developing countries and on global prosperity in general, they also cause serious consequences for international relations between the industrialized countries and the developing countries.

It was also generally acknowledged that international efforts aimed at the restructuring of the existing international economic system have so far not produced adequate results. Thus, the goals and objectives of the new

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international economic order remain largely unimplemented. What is most important, however, is that the General Assembly has reiterated its conviction that solutions to the economic problems confronting the world can and must be found through international negotiations within the United Nations system, on the basis of the principles of justice and equality.

It is within this context that the resolution adopted at this session on global negotiations relating to international economic co-operation should be viewed. The resolution represents a unanimous desire of the international community to break the current impasse in negotiations for the establishment of the new international economic order. It also symbolizes the spirit of accommodation, dialogue and understanding which prevailed during this session and particularly during the informal negotiations on this important subject.

While the resolution constitutes an important step in the right direction, I would like to emphasize that much more remains to be done between now and the special session next year, when the global negotiations will be officially launched. The subjects chosen for those negotiations are wide and complex. As the resolution itself emphasizes, the successful launching and ultimate conclusion of these global negotiations will require the full commitment of the participants to careful and thorough preparations, including efficient procedures for the negotiations.

At the special session next year, not only are the global negotiations expected to commence but also a New International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade is to be adopted. The Committee of the Whole has been entrusted with the important task of making preparations for the negotiations. To a great extent, therefore, the success of the special session and, ultimately, of the negotiations themselves depends on the preparatory work which will be undertaken by both the Committee of the Whole and the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy. It is important, therefore, that the positive spirit of accommodation and dialogue which contributed to the achievements of this session should be maintained and strengthened further in the coming negotiations and discussions leading to the special session on development next year.

We have also made significant progress in the field of science and technology. The resolution adopted by the Assembly on the subject establishes new institutional arrangments which are intended to strengthen international co-operation in the field of science and technology. I believe that these new arrangments will greatly contribute towards the implementation of the Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development adopted at Vienna last summer. Likewise, in the field of industrial development, the decisions of the Assembly will have tremendous impact on the deliberations of the Third General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization which will be held in New Delhi in January next year.

Distinguished delegates,

The adoption by the General Assembly of the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages has marked another milestone in the history of

this Organization. The Convention indeed represents the collective endeavour of the international community to combat the crime of hostage-taking and is a logical follow up to another important document adopted by the General Assembly in 1973, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents. The taking of hostages for whatever reason or under whatever guise is inexcusable and cannot be condoned. The international community has indeed a clear responsibility to work arduously to ensure scrupulous observance of these Conventions.

At this juncture and while the Assembly is about to conclude its work, I should like to address a solemn plea to the Iranian authorities and in particular to His Excellency Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini to respond favourably to the overwhelming appeals already made by the international community, collectively, through the decision of the Security Council on 4 December 1979 and by the decision on provisional measures adopted by the International Court of Justice on 15 December 1979, as well as by individual world and national leaders, for the immediate release and safe return to their homes of the diplomatic personnel held hostages in Iran.

I do so not only for humanitarian considerations, but also out of an unquestionable commitment which this Assembly has for the scrupulous respect of international norms and international law, without whose observance the very fabric of international relations will obviously be imparied.

In the same vein, and with the same solemnity, I wish to echo an appeal already made to the Governments of both the United States and Iran to exercise maximum restraint in the present crisis and to diffuse the situation, leading it to a peaceful resolution. I have no doubt that the grievances of the Iranian people and Government, if dealt with through the normal channels, would be seriously, and where appropriate, indeed sympathetically, considered by the international community.

The question of the Middle East and that of the rights of the Palestinian people, which are inseparably linked, have been the subject once again of most serious consideration during the session. Indeed, the decisions taken by the Assembly in this regard fully reflect the mounting concern and sincere desire of the world community for the finding of a just and lasting peace in the region. At the same time, the Assembly's decisions clearly represent the growing recognition by the overwhelming majority of Member States that a comprehensive settlement covering all aspects of the Middle East dispute is inconceivable without regard to the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, and that there cannot be a just and lasting peace in the region without the effective involvement and participation of the Palestinian people and their representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The situation in southern Africa has continued to engage the close and active attention of the General Assembly throughout the session.

I have already had the opportunity of welcoming the agreement reached at Lancaster House. This important accord entered into by all the parties to the

conflict has heralded the beginning of the process leading to the final demise of the illegal minority domination and colonialism forced upon the people of Zimbabwe. At the same time, it represents victory for so many, particularly the freedom fighters of the Patriotic Front, who, with persistent determination and dedication, have sacrificed so much in order to achieve their long-fought-for national independence and sovereign nationhood. It is incumbent upon the world community to be actively and vigilantly seized of the situation until Southern Rhodesia fully attains the objectives of the Declaration on Decolonization and emerges as an independent Zimbabwe.

As regards Namibia, despite the unbending efforts of the Organization towards the full implementation of Security Council resolutions 435 (1978) and 439 (1978), the situation continues to elude a peaceful transition to majority rule. This is due primarily to the continued intransigency on the part of the Government of South Africa to respond positively to the decisions of the United Nations, including in particular those of the Security Council. Consequently, the international community is duty-bound to take all possible measures with a view to securing South Africa's compliance with these decisions in order to bring to an end its continued illegal occupation of the international Territory. In its resolutions on Namibia, the General Assembly addressed itself forcefully to this collective demand of the international community.

The General Assembly once again expressed its total opposition to the policies and practices of the apartheid regime in South Africa and recommended a series of measures to combat the evil system of man's inhumanity to his fellow man perpetrated by the authorities in Pretoria. I wish in particular to underscore the importance of the Assembly's decision to organize, in co-operation with the Organization of African Unity (OAU), an International Conference on Sanctions against South Africa. I am confident that this Conference, which will take place in 1980, will constitute an important contribution in the concerted international efforts to mobilize world public opinion in support of the final eradication of racism and colonialism in southern Africa.

Distinguished delegates,

It is not often that large institutions are able to assess their own performance or to take conscious steps to change and improve established procedure.

The thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly has been one of those rare and happy occasions.

The Assembly has, over the past three months, taken a number of decisions to improve its working procedures. These have not been radical changes, but I hae no doubt that what you have agreed to in this area has been the decisive factor in enabling us to complete our work so close to schedule.

The cumulative effect of these changes has produced significant progress at this session in rationalizing the work and procedures of the General

Assembly. They reflect a recognition over the past year of their necessity and are the result of long and careful self-examination.

First, the General Committee has been most co-operative and constructive in implementing the decision that it should meet periodically throughout the session to review the progress of work and make recommendations to the General Assembly on measures aimed at improving its work.

Second, the plenary and the Committees made major strides in meeting the objective of starting meetings at the scheduled time, the most outstanding record being that of the Fifth Committee, which lost an average of only one minute per meeting by starting late.

Third, while these might appear as rather minor decisions, the fact that members agreed to make statements from their seats and to limit their explanations of vote, both in number and duration, undoubtedly saved a considerable amount of time.

Fourth, setting a mandatory deadline for completion of Committee work on resolutions with financial implications enabled the Fifh Committee and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) to discharge their responsibilities in a more orderly and effective manner than heretofore.

Finally, a number of decisions were taken involving documentation which will have an even greater impact beginning with the next session. For example, many obstacles we have faced as a result of the late arrival of reports will be removed by the requirement that subsidiary bodies shall henceforth be required to complete their reports by 1 September so that they may be available by the opening of the General Assembly. Assigning a clear priority to official reports and documents over individual communications will also be of great help.

Although we can indeed take satisfaction from these improvements, I hope you will reflect on how our work can be further rationalized, based on the experience of this and previous sessions. As regards the general debate, for example, it is an acknowledged fact that, with the tremendous growth in the membership we have witnessed over the past decades and bearing in mind the further emergence of new States, some procedural adjustments will need to be made, either with respect to the period provided for the general debate, or with regard to the length of the statements, or even the duration of the session itself.

In the same context, there exists an obvious need by the Main Committees to review the modalities for the holding of general debates on the items allocated to them. For instance, the present practice of holding a general debate covering the entire agenda at the Committee level, might perhaps be modified to relate more closely to Committee consideration of specific items or groups of items, thus curtailing those parts of the general statements which have of necessity become either redundant or repetitious. Furthermore, is it not time to consider seriously the possibility of dispensing altogether

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with the debates on some, if not most, of the items before the various Committees and instead focus discussion on the decisions or resolutions and in so doing making effective use of the Committees to promote decision-making processes?

Another area of our endeavour in this regard might be to arrest the trend to the proliferation of decisions and resolutions. I have in mind in particular the general snowballing tendencies which are discernible. While I have no doubt whatever of the genuine concern of the sponsors which motivates their submission of some of these proposals, we must, at the same time, bear in mind, in the final analysis, the effectiveness of the decisions and resolutions which address themselves not only to the Member States, both at the national and intergovernmental levels, but also to the public at large for the purpose of enlisting its support for the universal cause.

In my opinion, one of the most encouraging and rewarding experiences of the thirty-fourth session has been the spirit of accommodation and mutual comprehension that prevailed even in grappling with difficult and controversial problems -- the Kampuchean question being the most relevant example. Despite the complexity and the extremely political and sensitive nature of the problem, and without prejudice to the position of individual Governments on the substance of the issue, the world community has been able to maintain a unified position with respect to the urgent need to provide the necessary humanitarian assistance to the people affected.

In my opening statement on 18 September, I stressed that our session was taking place on the threshold of a new decade. The session, therefore, dealt with some of the problems which may constitute challenges that will face us in the 1980's. I believe that with goodwill, understanding and co-operation we should be able, jointly and collectively, to make determined efforts to overcome those challenges.

Distinguished delegates,

This is not a perfect institution. A lot can be done to enhance the effectiveness of our Organization -- effectiveness in coping with the world problems, effectiveness in managing, containing and indeed resolving conflict situations; in sum, effectiveness in responding and living up to the expectations and aspirations of the peoples we represent. In times of crisis it is often convenient to criticize the United Nations for what it is unable to do . Yet is is forgotten that it is those very people who are critical of the Organization at such times and who expect the United Nations to perform miracles, who are reluctant to reinforce the effectiveness of this institution.

If we want this Organization and its principal organs to perform the tasks entrusted to them in the Charter, then we must all work seriously towards that objective. Our first and foremost responsibility would be to ensure that decisions of the Organization and, in particular, those which are unanimously agreed upon by the General Assembly or the Security Council, are adhered to scrupulously. If, for example, we allow situations where these decisions are not accorded due respect, particularly with regard to the

decisions adopted by the Security Council, including those taken under enforcement provisions, then we are contributing to the erosion of the authority and efficacy of the United Nations. If that happens, we should not be surprised when, in time of need and in time of crisis, the United Nations is prevented from effectively meeting the challenges that may arise. We cannot afford to apply selective standards when it comes to respecting the decisions of the Organization.

Distinguished delegates,

These three months have given me extraordinary challenges and opportunities. In discharging my responsibilities, I have been provided with one great asset which any presiding officer would envy, and that is the outstanding co-operation and assistance given to me by delegations and the overwhelming friendship they persistently and consistently displayed towards me. This co-operation and friendship have immensely facilitated my work. I am deeply indebted to each and every delegation which, individually or collectively, has given me the benefit of its timely advice and guidance, thus enabling me to sustain the enormous pressure of responding to the pressing calls and needs of the Assembly.

The contacts which I had the privilege of establishing with a number of world and national leaders during the session have indeed given me renewed faith and strength in our joint endeavour in search of solutions to many a complex problem facing the world community today. Likewise, the consultations held and the liasion maintained with all the delegations on a continuing basis at all levels, including many Ministers for Foreign Affairs, clearly underscored the indispensability of such counsel and wisdom in our collective endeavours. Whatever has been achieved during the sssion, I am convinced, would not have been possible were it not for the manifest will and determination of all the Member States represented here, in extending their full and unstinting support for the effective conduct of this important organ of the United Nations.

I should like to thank most sincerely all the Vice-Presidents whose assistance has been indispensable to me in the performance of my duties. My warm thanks also go to the Chairmen and officers of the Main Committees for their co-operation and understanding throughout the session and especially for the effective manner in which they have assisted the Assembly and brought it to a successful conclusion.

I cannot say enough about the outstanding role which the United Nations Secretariat plays in responding to the needs of this Organization. My three months as President have placed me in a privileged position of working closely with the Secretariat in the discharge of this responsibility.

First and foremost, I should like to pay a particular tribute to our Secretary-General, my friend Dr. Waldheim, a most dedicated diplomat and an outstanding administrator. His commitment to the cause of world peace and justice and his deep concern for the well-being of mankind are indisputable. Throughout the session, despite his other extremely heavy and equally

important responsibilities as the chief administrator of this Organization, he has made himself available at all times and assisted actively and faithfully in all phases of the work of the Assembly, reflecting the views of our collective concern.

I wish also to thank the entire family of the United Nations Secretariat -- the interpreters, the translators, the precis-writers and verbatim reporters, the conference, documents and press officers, and all the staff members without whose collective assistance it would not have been possible for the Assembly to have accomplished the tasks that were before it. All of them have done a superb job.

Clearly, it is not possible in an address of this nature to single out personalities. I am confident, however, that this Assembly will understand it well if I make a special mention of my colleague to my left, the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs, Mr. Buffum. Mr. Buffum, has been not only an outstanding, knowledgeable, dedicated and amiable colleague, but has been a source of constant inspiration and encouragement to all of us. His diligence, his devotion and his loyalty to the Organization are well known. Throughout these three months, I have enjoyed the benefit of his utmost dedication to the work of the United Nations and his experience in the practices and procedures of this Organization; his perceptive guidance has proved invaluable to me in the discharge of my work. The knowledge, accumulated wisdom, experience and dedication of Mr. Buffum's assistants, a singularly outstanding group of international civil servants, is indeed a source of pride to the members of this Assembly.

In concluding, I should like to say that the session has been an extremely rewarding one for me as President and I should like to assure members that I shall continue to do my very best to reciprocate the friendship, co-operation and understanding all of you, without exception, have so generously extended to me in the past three months during which I have had the pleasure of serving you and serving this important organ of the United Nations. Allow me also to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation of the kind and generous remarks made by delegations about me and about my country, the United Republic of Tanzania, both within and outside the meetings of the Assembly. To all of these delegations, I express my gratitude. I consider their kind words as a generous tribute to my country and my continent.

I wish you all the very best for the holiday season, a happy new year and certainly a better decade.

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I wish you all the very best for the holiday season, a happy new year and certainly a better decade.

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United Nations
Press Release

Department of Public Information
Press Section
United Nations, New York

GA/6139
17 December 1979

STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON SOUTHERN RHODESIA

Following is the text of a statement made by the President of the General Assembly, Salim A. Salim (United Republic of Tanzania), this afternoon in the Assembly:

On behalf of the General Assembly I wish to thank the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom for the important information he has just imparted to the Assembly. I am sure that I am reflecting the sentiments of all of us here in expressing satisfaction at the successful conclusion of the agreement between the parties to the conference, especially after such a long and arduous process of negotiation at Lancaster House.

More important, however, we are all keenly aware that the signing of this agreement signifies the beginning of the process leading to the free and unfettered exercise by the people of Zimbabwe of their long-fought-for rights to national independence and to full sovereign nationhood. This agreement also marks the culmination of a long struggle which has involved great sacrifices, both human and material.

Speaking from the point of view of the United Nations, it is a source of satisfaction also that the consideration of an item which has engaged the close and continuing attention of this world body for a number of years is now on the verge of being concluded on such a happy note.

I should like, however, to stress once again at this critical juncture the grave and continuing responsibility of this Organization to remain ever active and ever vigilant until the rights of the people of Zimbabwe have been fully exercised.

I believe that congratulations are in order: congratulations to those how have fought and sacrificed so much -- and here I wish to pay particular tribute to the memory of the many who have lost their lives in order that their country should be free; congratulations to the United Kingdom which, as the administering Power, assumed its responsibility and undertook negotiations seriously. In extending congratulations to the United Kingdom I wish also to underscore the seriousness of the responsibility and undertakings which the administering Power has assumed, particularly with regard to ensuring scrupulous adherence to and implementation of the agreement that has been concluded.

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United Nations
Press Release

Department of Public Information
Press Section
United Nations, New York

GA/6125
HRD/117
10 December 1979

STATEMENT BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

The following statement by the President of the General Assembly, Salim A. Salim (United Republic of Tanzania), is issued in connexion with Human Rights Day, today:

Today, 31 years after its adoption by the General Assembly, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights continues to constitute one of the fundamental landmarks in the humanitarian work of the world Organization.

The first international instrument to define and enshrine the concept of human rights and to claim universal support and validity, the Declaration is as comprehensive in its content as it is universal in its scope. Set forth in the Declaration in a most detailed form is a solemn pledge to humanity by all the peoples of the United Nations, in which they reaffirm their indomitable faith in basic human rights, in the dignity of the human person and in the equal rights of all without exception.

Coming into force in the aftermath of a conflict which had caused incalculable human loss and suffering, the Declaration represented a universal consensus of the conscience of mankind, the observance of which has become an irrefutable code of conduct for all States, and which is as relevant as ever today. Reinforced and supplemented by the provisions embodied in the Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Declaration has indeed ensured the progressive achievements by the United Nations in the protection and promotion of human rights that have been witnessed over the past three decades.

Yet, as we commemorate Human Rights Day once again, the world community is confronted with a situation in which, by no stretch of the imagination, can it pretend that the hiatus between aspirations and reality is being effectively bridged or that gross, flagrant and consistent violations of the most basic human rights are not taking place daily throughout the world.

It is self-evident that this community of nations, committed as it is to the noble and lofty principles of the Declaration, can no longer afford to tolerate a world where apartheid can be a State's official policy and where racial discrimination continues unabated, a world where countless millions, on several continents, are deliberately uprooted and made to endure untold

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suffering, a world where many groups of peoples are subjected to alien domination and foreign occupation or live in abject poverty, a world where individuals, young and old, are shamelessly exploited, or a world where the rights of the peoples to development are constantly disregarded.

Nor can the world community tolerate any other forms of violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, which have in some respects become recurring phenomena under one pretext or another.

Let us on this day, therefore, rededicate ourselves to the complete and speedy implementation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as further elaborated in other related instruments, for we, the peoples of the United Nations, do clearly possess the means and the capacity to meet the challenges before us. Let us resolve to take the necessary steps leading to the attainment of the objectives of the Declaration, which hold the promise that all human beings will at last enjoy their inherent rights in a world in which freedom, justice and peace will ultimately prevail.

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United Nations
Press Release

Department of Public Information
Press Section
United Nations, New York

GA/6108
GA/PAL/56
29 November 1979

ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

Text of statement by the President of the General Assembly, Salim A. Salim (United Republic of Tanzania), made before the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

The long history of the United Nations involvement with regard to the question of Palestine imposes on the world body a special and urgent responsibility to see to it that justice is done in respect of the Palestinian people. The decision of the General Assembly to observe this day as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People is therefore not just a matter of symbolic significance. It is an affirmation of the commitment of the international community to strive indefatigably for the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. Through this occasion, the General Assembly hopes to enlighten and mobilize international public opinion towards the attainment of the lofty objectives of the United Nations on the question of Palestine.

These objectives have been clearly set out in a number of resolutions adopted by the Assembly over the years. It is particularly relevant in this context to recall that the General Assembly has repeatedly called for the full and speedy exercise by the Palestinian people of their right to self-determination without external interference and to national independence and sovereignty, as well as their right to return to their homes and property from which they have been displaced and uprooted. In so doing, the Assembly has been deeply conscious of the centrality of the Palestinian question in the entire Middle East dispute.

Indeed, events in the Middle East during the past decade have shown more clearly than ever before that a just solution of the problem of Palestine, which is at the very core of the Middle East conflict, remains the condition sine qua non of a lasting peace in the area. A comprehensive settlement covering all aspects of the Middle East dispute cannot be conceived without regard to the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. At the same time, proceeding from this widely acknowledged truism, there is an increasing

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recognition that there cannot be a just and lasting peace in the Middle East without the effective involvement and participation of the Palestinian people and their representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

Mr. Chairman,

Four times in the life of the United Nations, the Middle East has been plunged into awesome conflicts which have not only affected the lives of millions of human beings in the area but have also seriously and repeatedly endangered international peace and security. As we are well aware, the situation remains most critical and explosive, as uncertainty, discord and violence continue to prevail in the area.

As we commemorate the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, it becomes all the more important that we should firmly rededicate ourselves to the promotion of a genuine and lasting settlement of the Middle East conflict. It is quite clear that the attainment of such an objective will continue to elude us unless the core of the Middle East conflict, namely the Palestinian question, is resolved. We must therefore work diligently for the realization of that objective and for the creation of all the conditions which are indispensable for a just and lasting peace in the area. These include the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including th right to establish an independent state, the right of all States in the area to an independent existence and the strict observance of the principle of non-acquisition of territory by force.

The International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People provides an opportune occasion for the world community to reiterate once again its solemn commitment and determination to extend the maximum support to the Palestinian people and to associate itself with the defence of their cause. In this context, and in keeping with the mandate of the General Assembly, it is incumbent on all of us to work closely and co-operate fully with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People in the discharge of its important task, to enable the people of Palestine to decide their own destiny in accordance with their freely expressed wish and their true aspirations. For only through our collective efforts and through the scrupulous, speedy and complete implementation of the relevant decisions of the United Nations can the injustice inflicted upon the people of Palestine be corrected at last.

Before concluding, I should like to acknowledge with appreciation the very important work carried out by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, under the outstanding and dedicated leadership of Ambassador Medoune Fall of Senegal. The role of the Committee within the context of the Organization's search for a solution to the Middle East conflict cannot be over-emphasized. I should like in this regard to reaffirm my personal conviction that the skill, wisdom and perception demonstrated by the Committee Chairman, my friend and colleague, Ambassador Fall, will long be remembered and that the high standards he has

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set will continue to be upheld by the Committee towards the attainment of our common objectives.

Finally, I wish to express my thanks to you, Mr. Chairman and to all the members of the Committee for the kind invitation extended to me to take part in this important and solemn meeting.

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United Nations
Press Release

Department of Public Information
Press Section
United Nations, New York

GA/6096
20 November 1979

ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT REPEATS APPEAL FOR RELEASE OF UNITED STATES HOSTAGES IN IRAN

The following statement on behalf of the President of the General Assembly, Salim A. Salim (United Republic of Tanzania) was made today:

The President wishes to express his personal gratification and appreciation at the release of the 13 American hostages which took place yesterday. At the same time, however, he reiterates his deep concern at the continued detention of the remaining diplomatic personnel at the Embassy. In this respect, the President recalls the appeal he had addressed to Ayatollah Khomeini on 9 November 1979 that all the hostages be released immediately. The President wishes to reiterate this appeal and to express his particular concern that the remaining hostages be released without delay.

The President is convinced that the call for the release of the hostages represents the collective concern of the international community who clearly feel strongly that the sanctity of diplomatic premises and diplomatic personnel must be respected, without any exceptions, at all times. It is the fervent hope of the President that the action by the Iranian authorities to release the 13 hostages will be followed with the release of all the other hostages.

The President feels that whatever the bilateral differences and areas of concern between the United States and Iran, it is crucial that international law and practice governing the treatment of diplomatic missions and their agents be scrupulously observed.

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United Nations
Press Release

Department of Public Information
Press Section
United Nations, New York

GA/6095
IYC/12
20 November 1979

ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT MARKING

TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF DECLARATION OF RIGHTS OF CHILD

The following is the text of the statement by the President of the General Assembly, Salim A. Salim (United Republic of Tanzania), marking the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. It was delivered this morning at the plenary meeting of the Assembly:

Today, 20 November, marks a milestone in United Nations history. Twenty years ago, in this very Hall, our Organization unanimously adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, based on the conviction that mankind owes to the child the best it has to give.

How far have we come in these twenty years? How much closer to meeting the physical, moral, material and emotional needs of those who, in another twenty years, will be taking the decisions upon which the peace and prosperity, perhaps the very survival of our world, will depend?

In the year that is drawing to a close our attention has been focused, as never before in United Nations history, on the child. In many countries, in many communities and in many homes around the world, people have been asking themselves why, twenty years after these principles were proclaimed, millions of children are still homeless, sick and hungry, why so many are neglected, exploited or abused, why their voices are so seldom heard, why their welfare is not at the heart of every development plan.

Only a month ago, this Assembly examined the further international action required to turn the Declaration into a global reality. Some Member States felt that, as a proclamation of principles, it had no binding effect, and called for a mechanism for monitoring its implementation, while others considered it preferable to have the moral force of a universally accepted statement of intent rather than a convention requiring years to ratify. Still others held that the ten principles contained in the Declaration should be expanded to correspond more accurately to present-day realities and practices.

Notwithstanding these differing points of view, there emerged through the Assembly's discussion an overwhelming recognition of the urgent need to extend assistance, on an emergency basis, to millions of children in all corners of the world who continue to suffer from hunger, disease, abuse and neglect. Indeed, in this International Year of the Child, the world is aware, as never before, of the solemn promises we made here twenty years ago: that

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the child shall enjoy special protection and shall be given opportunities and facilities, by law and by other means, to enable him to develop physically, mentally, morally, spiritually and socially, in a healthy and normal manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity.

Let us resolve this day to redouble our efforts to translate into a universal reality the noble objectives set forth in the Declaration, so as to put an irrevocable end to the tragic consequences confronting the suffering children of the world.

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United Nations
Press Release

Department of Public Information
Press Section
United Nations, New York

GA/6088
REF/824
16 November 1979

ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT AT FUND PLEDGING FOR UNHCR

Following is the text of a statement by Salim A. Salim (United Republic of Tanzania) at the General Assembly's Ad Hoc Committee for the Announcement of Voluntary Contributions of the 1980 Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

It is an unfortunate truism of our time that the problems which lead to refugee situations have become all too familiar. Indeed, never before has the plight of refugees and displaced persons assumed such critical dimensions. While world-wide publicity has been given to the serious difficulties encountered in South-East Asia, refugee situations in Africa, Latin America and elsewhere continue to demand equally pressing attention.

The critical needs of refugees and the basic solutions to their mounting problems have been the same throughout history and across the world: refugees must be fed, clothed and sheltered with the utmost urgency and without any pre-conditions or reservations whatever; they need to be repatriated, if conditions so allow, or resettled and integrated in new societies so that they may play a constructive role in their new environment.

We are assembled here today to facilitate the pledging of contributions by Governments towards the fulfilment of the universal mission of the UNHCR. That mission, which represents the collective humanitarian concern of the world community, has become more urgent, more challenging and in many ways more complex. We all have clear responsibilities to ensure the fulfilment of this mission. The financial contributions which have been committed in the past and will be committed today are an important and indeed indispensable element in the realization of that sacred objective of providing protection to the refugees and alleviating their plight. The refugee problems are the problems of human beings and their solutions are solutions that aim at giving human beings a chance for a new life. There is however, no escaping from the fact that those solutions have also to be seen in the context of financial terms.

As a result of the ever-growing size and complexity of the refugee problems in various parts of the world during the recent past, the already difficult task of the UNHCR has considerably expanded in both its scope and its magniture. While the responses received at the recent pledging conferences have demonstrated the manifest determination and goodwill of the nations participating, in terms of the massive requirements confronting the world community today it is self-evident that only through a dramatic increase in the High Commissioner's resources will the universal mission for humanity which has been entrusted to his Office be fulfilled successfully.

In 1980, the refugee problem confronting the High Commissioner will require $350 million, of which $234 million will be spent on general programmes alone. This is a considerable sum, and it is only with the goodwill and the fullest co-operation of all of us here that such a sum can be raised today and in the months to come.

In expressing my personal gratitude and appreciation to the High Commissioner for the dynamic role he has played in this regard, I should like, therefore, to address my earnest appeal to all to pledge their support for the cause of humanity, by offering the maximum possible financial contribution at our meeting today. It is my sincere hope that the High Commissioner will be able to leave this room today with the assurance that a substantial proportion of his 1980 programme for refugees needs will very shortly be met. For the fate of suffering millions who are struggling for their very existence depends largely on the generosity and magnanimity of each and every one of us partaking in this important Conference today.

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United Nations
Press Release

Department of Public Information
Press Section
United Nations, New York

GA/6076
9 November 1979

ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT ON AMERICAN HOSTAGES

A spokesman made the following statement today on behalf of the President of the General Assembly, Salim A. Salim (United Republic of Tanzania):

"The President has been following the developments in Iran with greatest concern. He is very much concerned at the safety and security of American personnel now held as hostages.

"He has been in consultation with a number of delegations, including the chargé d'affaires of Iran.

"He is scheduled to meet the chargé d'affaires again today at 12:30 p.m.

"The President is sending a personal message to the Ayatollah, appealing for the release of the hostages."

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United Nations
Press Release

Department of Public Information
Press Section
United Nations, New York

GA/6061
NAM/473
29 October 1979

ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT ON NAMIBIA SOLIDARITY WEEK

The following is the text of the statement by the President of the General Assembly, Salim A. Salim (United Republic of Tanzania), today at the Solemn Meeting of the Council for Namibia held to commemorate the Week of Solidarity with the People of Namibia and their liberation movement, SWAPO:

The observance of the Week of Solidarity with the People of Namibia and their liberation movement, SWAPO, had added significance this year for, as members are aware, the General Assembly has proclaimed 1979 as the International Year of Solidarity with the People of Namibia.

Active solidarity is indeed indispensable if we are to demonstrate effectively our support for the suffering people of Namibia by more than mere words and if we wish to make a positive contribution to the struggle they have been waging for so long against the forces of repression and inhumanity. The responsibility of the world community in this regard is indeed a grave one, in view particularly of the acknowledged international accountability in respect of the Territory.

After a long series of unsuccessful attempts and after intensive and arduous negotiations, it appeared for a while that a solution had finally been found which would put an end to the bloodshed and enable the people of Namibia to exercise at last their inalienable right to self-determination and independence. For the adoption of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) and the follow-up implementation plan by the Secretary-General had indeed heralded the hope for a new beginning for Namibia. This, however, has not come to pass and, to our deep regret, Namibia continues to suffer the ordeal and humiliation of South Africa's illegal occupation.

The current stalemate over the issue has one, and only one cause: it is South Africa's intransigence and its continued defiance of the will of the international community alone, which is preventing the process of fulfilling the objectives of the decisions of the Organization, particularly those of Security Council resolution 435 (1978). Thus, the efforts of all concerned to bring about the early independence of the Territory through free elections under the supervision and control of the United Nations remain obstructed, as South Africa continues to resort to various manoeuvres in order to maintain its domination over the international Territory.

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It is also a matter of serious concern that the South African authorities, in the process of further consolidating their illegal rule in the Territory, have intensified their repression of Namibians. Particular victims of the repression had been the Namibian patriots, members of SWAPO, who, as to be expected, have consistently opposed South Africa's attempt to keep the entire Namibian people under subjugation. Equally disturbing is the fact that, in addition to the internal repression, the South African authorities have also intensified their armed aggression against the neighbouring independent States of Angola and Zambia. These events alone, as members will agree, constitute a serious threat to peace and security of the region, with far-reaching implications for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Against this background, the reported detonation of a nuclear device by South Africa gives ground for an even greater source of concern and alarm. For, if the report proves valid, it will have to be viewed within the context of the overshadowing implications of the most serious threat to peace and security not only of the region but also of the world as a whole.

The international community, which has assumed the responsibility for the administration of the Namibia until its independence, is left with a very clear-cut course of action. In view of South Africa's defiance of its will, the United Nations must let it be made clear that it will not tolerate further manoeuvres, and it must, in no uncertain terms, demonstrate its determination to bring justice, freedom and independence to Namibia and to its oppressed people.

In this undertaking, it is imperative that, having long recognized Namibia's valiant national liberation movement, SWAPO, as the true representative of the people of the Territory, the world community continue to intensify its all-out support for the struggle of the people of Namibia to regain their dignity and to attain their genuine national independence.

As we meet here today to pay tribute to the gallant people of Namibia and their national liberation movement, SWAPO, it is only proper that we should also acknowledge the important role played by the United Nations Council for Namibia, under the dynamic leadership of my colleague, friend and brother, Ambassador Paul Lusaka, in ensuring the implementation of the decisions of the General Assembly in regard to the international Territory. Steadfastly and patiently, the United Nations Council for Namibia has worked towards, and has indeed succeeded, in enlisting world support for the just struggle of the Namibian people, and in mobilizing world public opinion in their favour.

It is my sincere hope that this meeting will provide a fresh opportunity for the international community to demonstrate its commitment to bring into reality a genuinely independent Namibia, and, at the same time, to underscore its determination to assist the Council for Namibia in its noble task and in the discharge of the important mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly.

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United Nations
Press Release

Department of Public Information
Press Section
United Nations, New York

GA/6059
26 October 1979

GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT CONGRATULATIONS ST. VINCENT AND GRENADINES ON ACCESSION TO INDEPENDENCE ON 27 OCTOBER

Following is the text of a message sent today the the President of the General Assembly, Salim A. Salim (United Republic of Tanzania) to Sydney Douglas Gunmunro, Governor-General of St Vincent and the Grenadines, at Government House in Kingston, St. Vincent:

On behalf of the General Assembly of the United Nations, I have the honour and pleasure of extending to you, to the Government and to the people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines our warmest congratulations on the occasion of your country's accession to independence on 27 October.

I am particularly proud and pleased to greet St. Vincent and the Grenadines on its attainment of the objectives of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples -- those objectives which the United Nations Special Committee of 24 works unceasingly to attain with respect to the remaining colonial Territories.

I take pleasure in sending to the people of your country the best wishes of the Members of the United Nations for a peaceful and prosperous future. I am confident, that, as a new sovereign nation, your country will make a significant contribution to the cause of world peace, and I look forward to co-operating closely with your Government in securing the objectives of the United Nations.

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United Nations
Press Release

Department of Public Information
Press Section
United Nations, New York

5

GA/6057
26 October 1979

TEXT OF STATEMENT BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT
ON DEATH OF PRIME MINISTER OF SWAZILAND

Following is the text of a statement made this morning in the General Assembly by the President, Salim A. Salim (United Republic of Tanzania), in tribute to the memory of the Prime Ministef of Swaziland, who died on 24 October:

"We have learned with deep sorrow of the untimely passing of the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Swaziland, Major General Maphevu Dlamini, on Wednesday, 24 October, in Mbabane.

"The death of Major General Dlamini is an irreparable loss not only to Swaziland, but to Africa as a whole, particularly at a time when wisdom, leadership and guidance of all concerned are so essential in the nations' search for peace and justice with respect to the evolving situation in southern Africa.

"His death is also a loss to the international community.

"His passing away has deprived us of a committed African leader who had devoted a greater part of this life to the cause of a united Africa and to the restoration of human dignity and equality.

"On behalf of the General Assembly, I wish to convey my deep condolences and heartfelt sympathy to His Majesty, King Sobhuza II, and the Government and people of the Kingdom of Swaziland, and to the bereaved family, on their grievous loss. I would request the delegation of Swaziland to be so kind as to transmit to them our message of profound condolences.

"I invite members of the Assembly to stand and observe a minute of silence in tribute to his memory."

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Department of Public Information
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4

GA/6053
24 October 1979

ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FOR DISARMAMENT WEEK

The following is the text of a message in connexion with United Nations Disarmament Week, which begins today, by the President of the Assembly, Salim A. Salim (United Republic of Tanzania):

The establishment of the United Nations was in response to the inevitable necessity to provide for alternatives to confrontations and wars. It was a practical proclamation of the resolute commitment of the States founders of this Organization to the establishment and maintenance of a new world which would be more secure and more harmonious, without dependence on armaments and general military strength. The decision taken by the General Assembly during its tenth special session to proclaim the week starting 24 October as a week devoted to fostering the objectives of disarmament is therefore significant in that it links the desire of the international community to seek peace with the day of the founding of the United Nations. It also symbolizes the desire of nations to embark on pursuing the elimination of instruments of war, which casts a grim shadow on the future prosperity of mankind, and indeed threatens its very existence.

Not only have the stockpiles of armaments and the arms race been a source of tension and insecurity, they have also affected the developmental process of the world. The imbalance between the luxury of exorbitant military expenditure and the necessity for developmental expenditure requires much serious dedication and determination to redress. The poverty and squalour which coexist side by side with such unnecessary spending on armaments represent a serious challenge to the declarations and resolutions of the United Nations designed to promote the objective of development and particularly to facilitate the establishment of a new international economic order. All citizens of the world must participate in the common endeavour in pursuit of this noble goal, and, so as to secure their full and effective participation, it is imperative to increase their understanding of the dangers of the arms race and the need for its cessation. In observing Disarmament Week, all nations must resolve to take concrete measures in order to mobilize world public opinion, thereby generating the required international atmosphere conducive to implementing practical steps leading to the cessation of the arms race and working towards general and complete disarmament.

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But while it is of great importance to launch a programme of promoting global awareness, it should be recognized that such endeavours would be of limited effect in so far as the actual cessation of the arms race and disarmament are concerned if nations do not make firm commitments to follow them up with the political will to disarm.

Further, while it is desirable that all nations initiate and carry out the dissemination of related information through the mechanisms of international and national fora, extensive collaboration and co-operation through exchange programmes between nations may be necessary to help those who lack the expertise and the technical experience. The establishment of the United Nations Fellowship Programme on Disarmament will undoubtedly make an important contributions towards this goal.

In paying tribute to the unique role played by the non-governmental organizations in promoting public awareness of the dangers of the arms race and the necessity to establish more rational policies responding to the pressing needs of the world, it is hoped that the United Nations Centre for Disarmament will intensify its activities in the presentation of information concerning the armaments race and disarmament. I hope, further, that the United Nations agencies concerned, especially the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), will embark on a sustained campaign of activities aimed at facilitating research and publications on disarmament within their fields of competence. It is gratifying to note that concrete measures have been, and are being taken, to link the activities of the non-governmental organization and those of the United Nations Centre for Disarmament.

In commemorating this week as a week devoted entirely to fostering the objectives of disarmament, we should seek to promote dialogue and co-operation and be guided by the inherent desire for peace of the citizens of the world. We should work to ensure that the significance of the occasion is not diminished by its being permitted to degenerate into mere annual symbolic gestures. The occasion should, indeed, provide an opportunity to reaffirm our determination to redouble our efforts in promoting the objectives of disarmament and the implementation of the recommendations and decisions taken by the General Assembly during its tenth special session devoted to disarmament.

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United Nations
Press Release

Department of Public Information
Press Section
United Nations, New York

GA/6048
19 October 1979

ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT ON DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH SOUTH AFRICAN POLITICAL PRISONERS

The following is the text of a statement by the President of the General Assembly, Salim A. Salim (United Republic of Tanzania) at the meeting of the Special Committee Against Apartheid to observe the Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners:

By designating for annual observance 11 October as a Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners, the General Assembly in 1976 clearly underscored the determination of the international community to take up, as its own, the struggle of those people in South Africa who continue to be persecuted for their opposition to the abhorrent policy of apartheid. At the same time, the Assembly demonstrated its firm resolve to see that struggle carried to a successful conclusion and to strive towards the day when South Africa's aberrant disregard for humanity becomes, once and for all, a thing of the past.

As we meet again today to express our solidarity with the oppressed people in South Africa in their valiant struggle for freedom, human dignity, equality and justice, it is appropriate that we should clearly indicate once again that theirs is also our struggle. For, as I stressed in my statement at the outset of the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly, the negation of humanity anywhere is a negation of humanity everywhere.

Today more than ever, it is widely acknowledged that the creation of those conditions of stability and general well-being which are necessary for the conduct of normal relations among nations, is closely related to the struggle against injustice, racial discrimination and inequality. That these conditions are not met in today's South Africa is self-evident. Equally clear to us all is the fact that the system of apartheid continues to constitute a serious threat to international peace and security. Moreover, South Africa's persistent manoeuvres continue to undermine the efforts of the Organization to bring about an internationally acceptable solution to the problems engulfing the entire southern African region. This contemptuous disregard of the will and commitment of the international community therefore represents one of the most serious impediments to the achievement of the objectives of the Charter of the United Nations.

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In the sixteen years that have elapsed since 1963, despite renewed calls from both the General Assembly and the Security Council for an end to violence and repression committed by the apartheid regime against the African people and despite repeated requests and pleas for the release of persons arbitrarily detained or imprisoned, there has been no lessening of repression, as South Africa rigorously continues its inhuman application of the hated and unjust laws, defying the will of the international community. Indeed, the situation has moved from bad to worse, as evidenced by the murder, while in detention, of political prisoners.

It is imperative that the international community should redouble its efforts to bring about compliance by the South African regime with all the relevant decisions adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council. At the same time, one cannot emphasize too strongly the urgent need for all those who support the Charter of the United Nations and who genuinely believe in the dignity of man, to unite in solidarity with the courageous people of South Africa and their national liberation movements in their defiance of injustice and tyranny.

And, on this special day, as our hearts bleed for the suffering millions in South Africa, our minds should be particularly focused on how best to translate our solidarity into concrete action. More specifically, we should intensify our efforts in support of those heroic South African patriots who are languishing in prison simply because they believed, and dared to advocate, in that unhappy land of apartheid, the noble ideals and objectives for which our United Nations stands: freedom, self-determination, equality and human dignity.

There is no single issue on which we, the Members of the United Nations, dedicated to maintaining peace and security among nations, are more solidly united than the one before us. We shall have realized our ideals in this regard only when that issue no longer requires the holding of meetings such as today's, and a just society has been established in South Africa, with freedom and justice triumphing in the whole of southern Africa.

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United Nations
Press Release

Department of Public Information
Press Section
United Nations, New York

3

GA/6047
19 October 1979

TEXT OF CABLES FROM THE POPE TO THE ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT AND HIS REPLY

Pope John Paul II Cable To The President

I am deeply grateful to you for welcoming me to the thirty-fourth General Assembly of the United Nations Organization. May the efforts of all the Members of this very worthy Organization prosper, as you continue to work together for peace and harmony among all nations.

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President's Cable to Pope

Your Holiness, I am very grateful for your kind message. Your visit to the United Nations was truly historic and your address to the General Assembly most inspiring. The moving and important message which you delivered to the representatives of nations assembled here is a monumental contribution to the cause of understanding, friendship and harmony among nations. The inspiring and timely support for the United Nations which you expressed has given added momentum to our collective quest for peace, security, freedom and justice. Your Holiness' visit to the United Nations will long be remembered and cherished by us all and we shall continue to be encouraged by your own commitment and dedication to the cause of peace and harmony among all nations.

With the assurances of my highest esteem and consideration.

SALIM AHMED SALIM
PRESIDENT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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United Nations
Press Release

Department of Public Information
Press Section
United Nations, New York

CAUTION: ADVANCE TEXT
For use in connexion with the observance of United Nations Day 24 October 1979

GA/6039
UND/759
16 October 1979

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SALIM A. SALIM, ON THE OCCASION OF UNITED NATIONS DAY, 1979

Thirty-four years ago today, the 51 founding Members of this Organization embarked upon one of the most difficult and challenging tasks of our time: to rebuild, after the devastating effects of the Second World War, a world in which peoples of all nations, large and small, could live in peace, co-operate and co-exist, despite differences on the ideals to be attained and the political, economic and social orders to be established. Indeed, the Organization's accomplishments since its formation patently demonstrate its vital importance to the community of nations. That the United Nations continues to be the only forum for effective international co-operation and dialogue, is eloquent and irrefutable testimony to the consistent wisdom and validity of the principles and objectives enshrined in the instrument for lasting peace and justie and universal respect for human rights.

Throughout the years of its existence, the United Nations has awakened the conscience of humanity to the grave injustices and anomalies existing throughout the world: hunger and starvation; deprivation and disease; racism, discrimination and colonial domination; and other forms of inequalities and indignities. Through its humanitarian and development programmes, the Organization with its family of agencies and institutions has acted to reduce these injustices and has brought relief to millions of children, refugees and the indigent, whenever and wherever it could. It has also moved to focus world public opinion onto a series of new and pressing problems of all dimensions, requiring the co-operation of all nations: disarmament and international security; population pressures; the threatened environment; order in the use of outer space; ocean resources; energy and non-renewable natural resources, to name but a few.

The magnitude and complexity of these important issues which confront our Organization are self-evident. Equally clear is the collective resolve and manifest determination of all nations of the world to promote the progressive development of international relations based on co-operation, mutual trust and respect. At the same time, we are keenly cognizant that pledges alone will not eradicate the suffering of millions who have been denied their fundamental rights, those who have known no peace in their lives and those who find life itself a perpetual battle against hunger, poverty and disease. All of them look to the United Nations, hoping, anticipating and wondering whether its help is forthcoming.

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No year is more appropriate for a concerted United Nations action than this year. For, as we solemnly celebrate the thirty-fourth anniversary of the United Nations, the twentieth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child is being observed, and at the same time the International Year of the Child is drawing to a close. Our responsibility towards the well-being of the world's children is indeed a grave and unceasing one, as we must continue to strive towards the day when each and every child, in all corners of the world, is cared for and provided for without exception.

Let this anniversary be an inspiration to us all to renew our collective commitment to redouble our efforts so that, consciously and resolutely, we can take another step towards making our world a better place in which to live.

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United Nations
Press Release

Department of Public Information
Press Section
United Nations, New York

GA/6008
2 October 1979

WELCOME ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SALIM AHMED SALIM (UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA), ON VISIT OF HIS HOLINESS POPE JOHN PAUL II

Following is the text of the welcoming address by the President of the General Assembly to Pope John Paul II in the General Assembly today.

Your Holiness,

It is a great honour and a privilege for me to welcome you on behalf of the General Assembly of the United Nations. Since the assumption of your position as Head of the Catholic Church, you have inspired all of us who have followed your pronouncements with renewed hope and a sense of reassurance for the world.

We recall with fond memories the visit of your predecessor, His Holiness Pope Paul VI, on 4 October 1965, when he joined with us here in this unique embodiment of global aspirations, to issue his historic call of "Never Again War, War Never Again".

Today, 14 years later, you have renewed that call.

While tending to your spiritual responsibilities you have also directed your energies, with great dedication, to the efforts to solve the major problems of mankind today -- problems with which this Assembly is also confronted. Your concern for the suffering of so many throughout the world -- those in refugee camps, those living in conditions of squalor and abject poverty, those under racist and oppressive regimes and those caught in cross-fire in areas of conflict -- is eloquent testimony of the trust which has been placed in you in search for peace, security and justice for all. As a son of the African continent which has suffered so much and still suffers from all these evils, I am particularly conscious of the historic significance of the visit of Your Holiness.

Today you address us in a mission which has been described as carrying "the word of peace, love, brotherhood and collaboration among the peoples of the world". We at the United Nations are pursuing the same mission. We attempt to build for a future of peace for man, perhaps falteringly, but

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always with profound hope and abiding faith in the goodness of man. Together with you, we share the belief that peace, love and brotherhood are attainable in our time.

Coming as it does when the United Nations is seized with an array of complex problems, your visit is at once an inspiration and an encouragement. It will also serve to renew the confidence of nations and peoples in our Organization.

We welcome you today, a "master" who journeys and teaches, attentively, soberly, and conscious of the world around him.

We welcome you, Your Holiness, as a traveller of peace and hope.

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United Nations
Press Release

Department of Public Information
Press Section
United Nations, New York

19

GA/5992
19 September 1979

TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS CONFERENCE BY SALIM A. SALIM (TANZANIA),

PRESIDENT OF THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Headquarters, 19 September 1979

YASUSHI AKASHI (Under-Secretary-General, Department of Public Information): I need hardly introduce the new President of the General Assembly, Ambassador Salim. We will have about 30 minutes, or, if need be, a few minutes more, for questions and answers... So I shall open the floor for questions immediately, unless the President wishes to say a few words.

The PRESIDENT: First, I want to thank Mr. Akashi for organizing this meeting. I really do not have any statement to make. I think after my statement yesterday it would really be over-imposing on you to try and make yet another one. But I should like to say that I value tremendously the contribution made by the United Nations Press corps and by the Press and media in general to the work of the United Nations.

In my statement yesterday, I spoke in terms of involving world public opinion in the activities and efforts of the United Nations and there is no doubt that the role of the media is pivotal in this exercise. I want to asure you that during my term as President I will co-operate with you and -- to the best of my ability -- try to meet with you whenever I can. I want to assure each and every one of you that -- depending of course on the circumstances and it being understood that on issues the President does not really have a personal position -- I shall be ready to give background briefings and to discuss related issues. Once again, I am looking forward to your co-operation. I should say also that I have always had excellent co-operation from the media and from the United Nations correspondents, in particular during the time that I have been in the United Nations.

Mr. AKASHI: Thank you very much, Mr. President, for your most reassuring words about co-operation with the Press and media.

QUESTION: Ambassador Salim, yesterday, in your statement you mentioned the world community's sorrow at the death of President Neto of Angola. I wonder if you could say how that will affect the liberation movements in southern Africa.

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The PRESIDENT: To the extent that the loss of a person and of a leader of President Neto's calibre, statesmanship, dedication and personal involvement is certainly a loss to Africa and to the liberation struggle in Africa, it is bound to have its effect on that struggle. However, Angola's commitment, and the new government and the new leadership that will emerge in Angola, will ensure the continuation of the policies of President Neto. To that extent, I do not expect any change in the position of Angola or, for that matter, in the nature and tempo of the struggle in southern Africa. We will miss President Neto's wise counsel and wise advice, and I hope that not only the leaders of Angola but the leaders of Africa and the liberation movements, will continue to be inspired by what President Neto stood for and fought for.

QUESTION: In your statement yesterday you spoke of the necessity of providing for broader and enhanced participation by all nations in the United Nations. Your predecessor spoke of "this diverse assembly of States, juridically equal and each with its own voice which no one can silence". In the light of those two statements, what is your attitude to South African participation in the work of the General Assembly?

The PRESIDENT: I do not have an attitude. It is the Assembly, in its wisdom, that has an attitude. I refer to the previous Assembly. This Assembly has not had to take a position on the question of South African participation. But the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly took the decision that, in view of the non-representativeness of the regime in South Africa and in view of its consistent violations of the positions of the United Nations and of the Charter of the United Nations, it could not be allowed to participate at that session. That was the decision that was taken, and I think that it would be premature for me to say anything about South African participation in the United Nations, unless I am faced with a situation that requires me to take a position.

QUESTION: In your opening remarks here, you spoke of the high value you put on the United Nations press corps. I wonder if you know that yesterday, when we came to hear your speech in the General Assembly hall, we found that our press gallery had been taken away from us and that we had been shunted to the fourth balcony, from which we could not see anything in the hall and where we have nothing to write on. Is this a form of appreciation?

The PRESIDENT: Perhaps Mr. Akashi would reply to that question.

Mr. AKASHI (Under-Secretary-General, Department of Public Information): I am fully aware of this new situation, which has arisen as a result of the expansion of the Assembly hall. I intend to take up this matter with Mr. Clayton Timbrell, Assistant Secretary-General for General Services, who is responsible for the remodelling and repairing of the building. Also, it is my intention to get together in the course of today or tomorrow with the President of the United Nations Correspondents Association (UNCA) to deal with the question of television coverage of the proceedings of the general debate after 6 o'clock in the evening because, according to the existing procedure, the coverage has to cease at 6 p.m., and I understand that many voices have been raised to say that because of this limitation on the seating capacity for the press in the Assembly hall the correspondents would like to have coverage

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at least through television in their rooms, and we shall see to what extent we can assist them in that area.

QUESTION: Mr. President, in view of your stated positions on the Middle East and some African questions, I was wondering whether you would find it somewhat difficult to maintain impartiality as President of the Assembly, where it is usually the custom for Presidents to maintain impartiality.

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think that there was anything in the statement that I made, either in respect of developments in the Middle East or in the context of southern Africa, that would in any way affect my impartiality as President of the General Assembly. The positions that I have taken on both those issues are positions that have been articulated, defended, espoused, championed and reiterated by the General Assembly year in and year out, and in that respect I do not see that it should be in any way difficult for me to maintain impartiality. Of course, it depends on how one defines "impartiality".

QUESTION: In yesterday's speech you gave great importance to the problems of colonialism, a subject that you know so well and about which you feel with great intensity. A few days ago, the Secretary-General, Mr. Waldheim, referred during his press conference to the importance and effectiveness of what he called "quiet diplomacy".

Do you think that, if you as President of the General Assembly were to combine your knowledge of colonialism with this "quiet diplomacy", you would be ale to convince the United States of America to do the following two things: first, to transfer soon all powers to the people of Puerto Rico as called for in the August 1979 resolution on that country approved without a negative vote in the Committee of 24, so as to enable that country to attain its independence and self-determination; and secondly, to help the Micronesian people to attain their independence as a unit, instead of trying to split that Territory with the purpose of keeping parts of that Territory as direct or indirect colonial entities?

The PRESIDENT: I do not know, but I will say that I will only be able to use the Office of the President informally, to promote those issues and situations where it is possible to make some headway. One is only in a position to use one's good offices -- particularly talking in terms of preventive diplomacy -- when the parties concerned are willing and ready to accept the efforts that one can make. Otherwise, if you try to volunteer your services in a situation where your services are not wanted or required or welcomed, then the best you are doing is engaging in an exercise in futility.

QUESTION: In your speech yesterday, you referred to the problems in the economic sphere faced by the developing countries. The matter is going to come up before the United Nations General Assembly; it is on its agenda. The problem at the moment is that the economic problems of the developing countries which have no oil have been accentuated in recent years, and if the process of debate continues at its present pace, either at the United Nations or UNCTAD, I suppose that it will take a very long time for these developing countries with no oil resources to solve their problems. Do you, thus, have

any plans for a major initiative in the course of the current session of the Assembly in this direction?

The PRESIDENT: For one thing, I think that it is not very helpful to talk of major initiatives; one of the difficulties with initiatives is that if you have one too many, you can suffer from the problem of a proliferation of initiatives.

But I think that I should make a few remarks on that question. First, that it is a fact that developing countries which have no oil are suffering most in the adverse economic situation of the day. But it should be stressed that this suffering is caused not simply by the price of oil; their economic situation is what it is because of a combination of factors in the international economic situation. Secondly, it is also clear that there is a greater awareness that the question of energy has to be discussed in the context of international economic negotiations. Within that context, I believe that there have been efforts and informal discussions dealing with the question of energy not in isolation but in the context of other fundamental economic issues that face us in the international economic situation.

As you know, there were discussions in Havana during the meeting of the non-aligned States. There have also been discussions here in the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole; there are informal discussions going on and there will be more. My hope is that the concept of trying to engage in global negotiations with a view to the amelioration of the present plight -- not only of the non-oil-producing countries, but of the developing countries in general -- will be taken seriously in the forthcoming session in preparation for other sessions that are to follow. What is important, however, is that we have had a number of sessions in many forums at which not merely discussions, but comprehensive discussions, have taken place and at which intentions have been declared.

My point in my statement yesterday was to stress that perhaps the time has come now to try and translate into concrete actions the intentions which have been declared in so many regions.

QUESTION: If I may turn to the question of refugees, I think you yourself and the Secretary-General have been very much concerned with the proliferation of refugees, whose numbers are running into the millions, and the situations that create them seem, of course, to be out of control at the United Nations. Is it your opinion that perhaps the situation is running out of the control of the High Commissioner for Refugees, given the extent to which it requires his help? Nothing is said about augmenting his powers or his facilities. He is still operating on the premises of the old refugee problem. I have not heard any mention of this aspect of the problem, and I wonder whether you might comment on it to the extent to which you are able.

The PRESIDENT: I do not think the situation is getting out of the control of the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees. It is the refugee situation itself that is getting out of control. So far as the efforts of the High Commissioner for Refugees are concerned, they can do their very best, but they can only do what is within their means to perform. One of

the significant things about the High Commissioner for Refugees is that we have had two excellent, distinguished, eminent personalities who have held that office, Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan and now Mr. Poul Hartling. Both have been and are dedicated individuals. They have done their very best, travelling all over the place to try to mobilize resources. But resources have to be forthcoming, and I think that the magnitude of the refugee situation is now such that the international community must really do more to augment the resources of the High Commissioner for Refugees.

In mentioning the number of 10 million, I was making the point that recently, for example, there has been the question of the refugees in South-East Asia, and it has received a lot of publicity. And yet the refugee situation in South-East Asia is simply a fraction of the totality of the problem of refugees. In Africa alone, we have something like 4 million refugees. So I think it is extremely important for Governments, both individually and collectively, to do their utmost to augment the resources of the High Commissioner for Refugees. But, as I was also saying yesterday, in addition to helping the High Commissioner for Refugees, it is more important for us to try to do our level best to make the refugee situation unnecessary.

QUESTION: May I ask a substantive question about your proliferation-of-initiatives statement? Do you not think we might need an initiative to consolidate some of these countries that come in that are not viable and by their very nature are going to be in trouble? We now have 152 Members. Could we not have 1,500 at the rate we are going -- dots and spots rather than viable areas?

The PRESIDENT: In the first place, I do not know that we will ever have 1,500. But if we were to have 1,500, there would be nothing wrong with that if in fact the world was such that we were to have 1,500 independent nations. And, talking of viability, I think that the United Nations Charter does not mention the viability of States. The United Nations Charter and the principles of the United Nations speak about this equality of States and the sovereignty of States. This Organization was meant to be an organization of all States irrespective of their size, irrespective of their geographical locations, irrespective of their resources. If we are going to make a study of the viability, say, for example, of small States, then we may have to make another study of the level of representativeness of given States. And once we do that, we shall have to think in terms of what will be our governing criterion. Is it going to be military power? Is it going to be financial power? Is it going to be resources? Is it going to be population? In this context, you can imagine that we would never come to a common position because, if you take population, then quite clearly China, India and some other Asian countries would be the super-Powers of the world.

If you take military power, then you may have only the United States and the Soviet Union and a few other countries. And so I think what the Charter provides is the best alternative for an institution that is supposed to solve the interests of the international community as a whole.

QUESTION: In your opinion, do you see the continued presence of Tanzanian troops in Uganda as becoming contentious or analogous to the Vietnamese situation in Kampuchea? And if not, do you think it might be a case that might be judged in the context of an attempted solution to the Kampuchean matter?

The PRESIDENT: I do not know if the President of the General Assembly has an opinion on that. If you want to have a Tanzanian opinion, you should ask the representative of Tanzania, and he will let you know. But from what I have seen thus far in this Assembly, there has been no effort to try to link the two questions. I have noted no complaints by the Government of Uganda about the presence of Tanzanian forces in Uganda, and since we are talking in terms of the country's sovereignty, non-intervention in internal affairs, I would expect that the Ugandan Government will perhaps raise this matter and complain about the Tanzanian presence in Uganda. In that case, perhaps, I as President could give an opinion.

But quite frankly, I do not think that it would be right for me to explain. Had you asked me this question two days ago, I could definitely have given you the Tanzanian point of view. In fact, in an informal meeting I had two days ago with senior editors, this question was asked, and I did give that point of view, so I would refer you to the record of that meeting, where you will find my views on that subject.

QUESTION: In that vein, the same problem that cropped up last night at the end of the session was facing the delegates of the non-aligned countries in Havana. This is a different place. And it is not prejudged, as a delegation is sitting. Can you give us any indication as to the mood of the General Assembly with regard to the options that are open to it?

THE PRESIDENT: The podium is a very lonely place. I think you are in a better position to judge moods than I am, sitting where I am seated. But think one thing is obvious. The United Nations has its rules, its procedures and its precedents. The Assembly itself is the master of its own procedures. It will be up to the Member States to explore all options. Right now, the Credentials Committee is meeting today, and it will submit its report to the General Assembly. In that Assembly, the Members will decide what the best option is, given the circumstances.

I think, frankly, that it would be premature for me to speak of the possibilities or options. They are numerous, and it is up to the Member States to decide which is the best.

QUESTION: In his report the Secretary-General appeared quite concerned about the many bedevilling problems affecting the globe and mankind, and of course the United Nations, and he pointed them out. I am wondering whether you share his views, and what you think the United Nations, which is the organ for world peace, can do about these problems?

THE PRESIDENT: I definitely share the concern expressed by the Secretary-General on the state of the international situation generally, whether it is in the area of conflict situations or in the area of international economic problems. I also share his view that the United Nations is the only forum that can attempt to do something to lessen the conflicts and tensions that prevail in the world today.

As to what the United Nations can do about it, I really think that in spite of its limitations -- and it has limitations -- the Organization is well equipped to cope with many of these crises and many of these problems, if only Member States themselves, and in this respect particularly those Member States which are most directly concerned, are prepared to use the Organization as an instrument to try to resolve some of these problems. Unless that willingness is there, it become exceedingly difficult for the Organization to be as effective and as helpful as it could be. As I said yesterday in my statement, this tendency to use the United Nations as an instrument of convenience is not helpful to the Organization, nor to the peace and security of the world. The United Nations must be used in the way it was intended to be -- as a perpetual instrument for the promotion of peace, security and international co-operation.

QUESTION: You are often referred to in the press as a possible candidate for Secretary-General. Would you eventually consider running for the post?

THE PRESIDENT: We have a Secretary-General of the United Nations. In my opinion, my very frank opinion, he is doing a superb job in an extremely difficult situation. I think we must not add to the burden of his responsibility by indulging in idle speculation. The responsibility of the Office of Secretary-General is such that I really think what the international community must do is to support the incumbent effectively for as long as he is in office.

QUESTION: On the question of Namibia, if no further satisfactory progress can be made by the Contact Five and South Africa, do you expect it to be brought back to the Security Council?

The PRESIDENT: I think that would be a fair assumption since the Security Council is the body which decided on the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia -- the Secretary-General's plan which was endorsed by the Security Council. Since the only party which is still recalcitrant -- if I may use that term -- is the South African Government, as was rightly stated in the United States Senate by Ambassador McHenry some time ago, the position now is that there is a convergence of views on the part of the African States, on the part of the Secretary-General and the United Nations, on the part of the Western Five and on the part of SWAPO. The only "missing link" that makes it impossible to bring about the required negotiated solution results from South Africa's opposition. So if the South African Government continues to

maintain its present position of obstructing the United Nations position, clearly the Security Council will have to meet and consider what course of action should be taken. However, if the South Africa Government should now come back and say that it is prepared to implement the Secretary-General's plan, then of course that would be in the best interests of all of us, in the best interests of the United Nations and in the best interests of peace and security in southern Africa.

QUESTION: To omit the question of disarmament from this press conference would be an insult to the intelligence of the world. I do not know what question to ask you on disarmament, except possibly this one. I think it was during the last session of the General Assembly that the majority of nations finally rebelled against the arms race and began to assert themselves more forcefully. There was a sort of reactivation of something that seemed to have been forgotten, and I think a new committee was established. But of course the fury of the arms race has continued and even increased during the past year. Do you think that the heroic effort that was made last year by the majority of nations will be continued? Or will there be a tendency to say we are licked, that the situation is simply out of our control, and that there is nothing which can be done about it?

The PRESIDENT: Disarmament is a very important issue. The irony of this issue is that, invariably, everybody talks about disarmament. I do not know of one single State that professes its opposition to disarmament. It is the implementation of this call for disarmament which defies all efforts at this point. There is no doubt that, despite all the talk of disarmament, in the final analysis the arms race is continuing. We see agreements here and agreements there, but with every agreement there is another tendency to create more sophisticated weapons and different concepts of weapons systems and, ultimately, the balance of terror -- or the balance of fear or the fear of mutual destruction -- remains. And this is not in the interest of disarmament; it is not in the interest of international peace and security.

I think that the goal of disarmament has unfortunately remained more of an ideal than a realizable objective. But I am confident that, since there is an intention on the part of everyone to try to reverse this process, we shall make use of forums like the General Assembly to achieve this reversal before it is too late, because, quite frankly, there is no doubt that contrary to popular belief this element of security through the stockpiling of the most sophisticated types of weapons is not really security but an expression of total insecurity.

I can only say that I fully endorse what the Secretary-General has repeatedly said: that there must be more serious efforts regarding the process of disarmament. With regard to what will happen during this regular session of the General Assembly, I really cannot foresee. But I have no doubt that the spirit of the special session on disarmament will continue to be maintained during this session.

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QUESTION: Will you call upon the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) if it desires to speak in the General Assembly, and have you received word from Mr. Arafat that he wants to come?

The PRESIDENT: I do not know the answer to the first question. One can call upon a representative only when he asks to speak, and I have not seen the representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) asking to speak as yet. The answer to the second question is that I do not know when he is coming or if he is coming.

QUESTION: Yesterday in the General Assembly, you spoke of your view that the PLO must be brought into the peace process. Do you see a realistic way of bringing that about, in view of the fact that Israel, one of the main parties to any settlement, is resolutely opposed to negotiating with the PLO?

The PRESIDENT: I would not venture to say how the PLO should be brought into the negotiating process. All I can say very unequivocally, and without fear of contradiction, is that we are all calling for peace and justice and a durable settlement of the Middle East problem. We are all saying that the situation in the Middle East is not the concern of only the people of the area. What happens in the Middle East is a matter of vital concern to the security of the world and the international community. We are all saying that we are searching for a genuine and lasting solution to that problem.

What I said yesterday -- and I do not believe that it was anything new -- was that for such a solution to be reached in the area, the Palestinians must form an indispensable part of the negotiating process. The Palestine Liberation Organization is the representative of the Palestinian people and, therefore, must be in the negotiating process. As far as bringing that about is concerned, I am fully aware that the Israeli Government is opposed to any discussions with the Palestine Liberation Organization. But I do not think that this opposition should be the basis for avoiding another realistic situation, and that is that there can be no permanent peace in the area without taking account of the reality of the existence of the Palestinian people and the existence of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

In my statement yesterday, I also stressed that, in addition to the rights of the Palestinian people, there are certain other basic prerequisites for the peace and security of the area. I stressed the question of the right of all States in the area to independent existence and I want to stress this point again. I also emphasized the fact that there can be no peace when the concept of retaining the fruits of conquest is accepted.

Those are elements which I elaborated. I realize only too well that they are not new elements because others have pointed them out before. But I think that the fact remains that unless these elements are fully taken into account, real peace in the area will continue to elude the international community.

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QUESTION: Are you contemplating any new procedural innovations during your presidency to make the General Assembly session very businesslike, avoid night meetings and, above all, have the Assembly adjourn on 18 December as planned?

The PRESIDENT: I do not know that all that can be achieved. To begin with the question of avoiding night meetings, perhaps sometimes one of the best ways of streamlining the procedures is to ensure that there are night meetings. Quite seriously, concrete recommendations have been made by the Secretary-General in terms of rationalizing the procedures of the General Assembly and improving its efficiency. I believe that we can achieve that objective; at least I believe that we can make a serious effort during the current session at improving the Organization's efficiency.

Again, like many other things in this Organization, on the question of efficiency and the streamlining of the procedures almost all Member States are agreed. Take, for example, the simple question of punctuality. There is not one single delegation which will not say that the meetings should start on time; and yet meetings have been known -- to put it mildly -- not to start on time. At this session we shall say, "Let us start meetings on time". When we say "start on time", we mean if the meetings are scheduled for 10:30 o'clock let us start at that time, not at 10:35, 10:40, 10:50 or 11 o'clock.

I have very honourable intentions, but the implementation of those intentions will certainly depend on the co-operation of Member States.

QUESTION: If I may return to your reply to a previous question, I wonder whether you consider resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) as being a sort of foundation for peace in the Middle East. If so, would you view the acceptance of those resolutions by the PLO as absolute before there could be some kind of settlement? Do you see the possibility eventuating that the PLO will accept resolution 242 (1967) so that movement can be made in the direction of what we all want?

The PRESIDENT: Resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) were very carefully elaborated in given circumstances. Everybody is agreed also that they are solid foundations for peace in the area. But there also is almost near consensus of view that what is lacking in resolution 242 (1967) is the element of the Palestinians as a people -- a people with rights which is also entitled to the right to self-determination -- as distinct from seeing the question simply as one of refugees.

I shall not say anything is "absolute", except the absolute importance of the parties to the Middle East conflict understanding that there is no alternative to negotiation, and that only a negotiated solution can bring about peace in the area. The concept of saying that one would never negotiate with a given party is somehow alien to the very spirit of the United Nations.

As far as the PLO's position is concerned I think that the PLO has a strong position against Israel as Israel has a strong position against the Palestinians. And in the final analysis, somehow, some way -- there must be a

way -- those principal parties to the conflict must find a way of negotiating a mutually acceptable solution which will ensure the security of all the peoples in the area and the rights of the people of the Middle East.

QUESTION: Mr. President, you did not quite answer that question. You said that everyone is agreed that resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) are solid foundations. But the PLO has not agreed. Would you ask the PLO to agree to resolution 242 (1967) and accept Israel's existence as a precondition for negotiation?

The PRESIDENT: I think I answered that very clearly: I said there are solid foundations. But I said also that the missing link in resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) was the way the Palestinians are treated. Now, I am quite prepared to ask the PLO to accept the fact of Israel; in fact, I do not even have to be converted to that. In all the discussions we have had with the Palestinians and with the Arab countries, we have always stressed this point of the existence of Israel. But I must also be equally prepared to ask the Israelis to accept the fact of the Palestine Liberation Organization. Now, I am not sure whether I will be able to convince the Israelis on that.

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STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SALIM A. SALIM, AT OPENING OF THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION, 18 SEPTEMBER

I am deeply moved by the confidence you have demonstrated in electing me President of the thirty-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly. I consider this unanimous decision as a tribute and honour to my country, the United Republic of Tanzania, whose Government and people have steadfastly and consistently supported the United Nations and actively worked for the implementation of the principles and purposes for which our Organization stands. It is also a recognition to my continent and the Organization of African Unity (OAU), which through their trust in me made this election possible.

The Presidency of the General Assembly is a heavy responsibility, but in the discharge of this responsibility I am following a tradition and a line of very distinguished personalities whose qualities of excellence I can only attempt to emulate, and from whose achievements and accumulated wisdom I intend to learn and profit.

I also know I can count on the advice and co-operation of my immediate predecessor, Ambassador Indalecio Lievano, who presided over the thirty-third session with such distinction, dedication and skill. In recognizing his contribution, I pay tribute to a distinguished diplomat and an outstanding spokesman for justice and international amity.

For over nine years now, I have had the honour and privilege of representing my country at this Organization. This period has not only given me the opportunity to know more about the United Nations at close quarters, its successes and shortcomings, but has also afforded me the opportunity to make acquaintances and develop friendship and co-operation with many outstanding personalities, including a great many who are in this Assembly.

Among the relationships which I will always cherish has been my close association with our Secretary-General, Dr. Kurt Waldheim. I have been particularly privileged to work closely with him on many issues of common concern to the Organization in my capacity as Chairman of the Special Committee on decolonization, and during the period that I was honoured to represent Tanzania in the Security Council. His total dedication to our Organization, his commitment to the cause of freedom, justice and peace, as well as his over-all appreciation and management of delicate situations are rightly admired. I therefore feel very much encouraged that I can look

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forward to his continued co-operation and assistance, as well as the co-operation of all members of the Secretariat in the fulfilment of my responsibilities.

With deep sorrow and grief, we have learnt of the most untimely passing away last week of His Excellency Dr. Agostinho Neto, President of the People's Republic of Angola. This untimely death of President Neto has robbed Angola of its founding father and illustrious leader; Africa of its vanguard freedom fighter and valiant revolutionary and the world of an outstanding statesman.

I have had the unique honour of personally knowing President Neto, both in the course of the liberation struggle in Angola and after the liberation of that country. He was undoubtedly one of Africa's towering figures. His modesty and simplicity were remarkable. Angola, Africa and the international community are certainly poorer today with his passing away. I wish, therefore, to take this opportunity to associate myself with the remarks made by the outgoing President of the General Assembly and to convey my deepfelt condolences to the family of President Neto, to the MPLA Worker's Party, the Government and people of Angola, as we mourn this irreparable loss.

The current international situation imposes on the United Nations a heavy and urgent responsibility for action in many areas if we are to dispel the gloom that is now overshadowing the world; if we are to regain hope for mankind in the efficaciousness of international mechanisms to solve urgent problems and bring peace and justice to humanity.

Today is not the darkest hour of mankind nor is it a sunny day. For it is still one of the unpleasant facts that millions of the world population continue to live in economic misery and other deprivations; many others, especially in Africa, the Middle East and Asia, are suffering from the humiliation of being a subject people under colonialism, racism, and other forms of domination and indignities.

In another area, disarmament talks continue to take place against the background of the philosophy of security through balance of terror. It is no wonder therefore that the arms race, and the danger this poses to international security, the waste it brings in the use of resources, continues unabated. Above all, the conditions which have created and perpetuated the great divide between the North and the South have now been accentuated under global recession and inflation, resulting in the further condemnation of millions of the world's peoples to absolute poverty in perpetuity, without hope of reprieve.

Yet the irony is that year in and year out the nations represented in this Assembly pledge themselves to work for a humane and more just order. But it is precisely because the situation continues to be wanting, and in some cases even has worsened, that we find ourselves again with the same tasks unaccomplished, the problems unmitigated and some even solution-resistant!

How is it that despite our commitment to work towards a new international economic order, meaningful action continues to elude the community of nations resulting in the deterioration of international economic relations? Why is it

that despite our collective abhorrence of racialism and condemnation of colonialism, this twin evil still prevails in southern Africa? These and many other pertinent questions cry out for genuine answers.

These are questions that touch on the daily lives of the people we represent as indeed they affect the very peace and security of our world. At any given time these questions are pertinent and prescient. But I would suggest that they are even more relevant today, considering that our session is taking place on the threshold of a new decade, as another decade is fading away. For it must be our collective objective and endeavour to prepare grounds for a better and more just order as we enter the 1980s. I think this should be the beacon to guide the United Nations during this session so that the coming decade should be recorded in the annals of history as the decade that turned dialogue into action, promise into fulfilment.

The United Nations came into being after the war which had borne witness to vast destruction of human life, institutions and property. Nations which were gathered in San Francisco for the signing of the Charter were guided by their apprehension of the inherent vulnerability of a fragmented world. They were also guided by the desire of their peoples that this world be a more secure place to live in through the reduction of conflict. Hence, the vigorous promotion of the ideal of liberation, human rights, equality, dignity and justice, as elements conducive to a stable and peaceful order.

Today, over three decades later, the community of independent nations represented here has increased threefold. This in itself is eloquent testimony to the relevance of the United Nations Organization. It represents a realization that only in circumstances of unity and collective effort can it be possible to make the world more peaceful. After its formation, this Organization has not only survived more than 30 years, but remains the only effective and meaningful institution for international dialogue and co-operation. The truth is that all our political, social and economic differences notwithstanding, we have continued to have faith in the United Nations and turned to it for solutions in times of difficulties.

But this Organization will fail to meet its lofty ideals as enunciated in its Charter if we as individual nations choose to use it as an instrument of periodical convenience. It will only meet our expectations if we proceed deliberately to build it and use it as the instrument for the reconciliation of our differences for all time and as the option of unilateral action predicated on the use of force becomes less and less attractive, because of its futility.

In the final analysis, therefore, the existence and the conduct of this Organization rest on the will of nations. Its making or unmaking is the responsibility of the Member States. Thus, the failure of the international community in resolving some of the major problems and conflicts is a failure of its constitutent Member States, both individually and collectively. Much remains to be done by nations to translate their faith in the United Nations into concrete action. Nations still need to demonstrate greater political

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will which is an essential asset in the establishment of a more secure world in which nations, big and small, can contribute in the implementation of the goals and objectives of the United Nations Charter.

To date, the world is entangled in conflicts and nobody can claim that peace, freedom, human equality, dignity and justice have triumphed. The General Assembly has a duty to address itself to the root causes of these conflicts in order to formulate and implement measures aimed at resolving them. For unless we go into the root cause of the problems, real peace will continue to elude us.

Of all the needs of our time, the greatest is peace. Peace for the individual so that he can live out his existence without fear for his life. Peace for each nation to live with its neighbours without fear for its national life. Peace for the world derived from an arrangement for interaction between the nations of the world without fear of survival. Peace such as this provides for freedom and justice for every individual and every nation. Peace such as this provides for human rights for everyone within all nations and for equal rights for each nation within the international community.

All nations have underlined their commitment to the promotion of human rights. This commitment has found expression specifically in the numerous covenants, declarations and resolutions adopted by Member States of this Organization. Regimes which have consistently denied their people such rights have been condemned. It is nonetheless regrettable that violations of human rights in various forms still continue to exist.

And nowhere has such violations taken such a massive and grotesque form as in southern Africa where institutionalized racism is entrenched and where a human being is judged, not by his contribution to society, not by his humanity, but by the pigmentation of his skin and the origin of his race.

But whether in Africa or elsewhere on the globe, the people who have been denied their fundamental rights have not failed to resist such oppression, humiliation and exploitation. This resistance has taken different forms, including, as a last resort, armed struggle. To those millions of oppressed people who suffer the ordeal of colonialism and racist domination, and to millions more elsewhere who languish under foreign occupation, they have known no peace and no reprieve from burdens of living. These situations are a negation of peace; indeed, they constitute a threat to it in that they affect the security of the world as a whole.

It is therefore only logical that Member States of this Organization have not been found lacking in their support for the struggle waged by liberation movements against the systems and regimes practising the obnoxious policies of colonialism, foreign occupation and apartheid.

The conflict in southern Africa is about the choice between domination and freedom, apartheid and non-racialism, inhumanity and human dignity. It concerns the right of all human beings to freedom and equality regardless of

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race or colour. It is a struggle which must be of concern to all of us, for the negation of humanity anywhere is a negation of humanity everywhere. To the people of that part of the world, it has meant a perpetual nightmare of constant resistance against oppression by the racist white minority regimes.

This constant oppression of the people of southern Africa is equally an arrogant repudiation of international norms and a scorn to civilization. It becomes a challenge therefore to the civilized world to put an end to this tragic absurdity.

The pernicious system of apartheid and its brutal instruments of repression and oppression of the African people continue to reign supreme. The continued illegal occupation of Namibia by the South African regime in defiance of international law and the will of the international community and in total obstruction of the United Nations' plan for the independence of that Territory, the deteriorating and uncertain situation in Zimbabwe are all clear manifestations of the shortcomings that face our Organization in our collective search for freedom and human dignity.

Yet, as we lament our failures, we must also recognize the achievements that our Organization has made in the field of decolonization. Indeed, there is no doubt that the process of decolonization has been one of the glorious chapters of the United Nations. The very growth of our membership to its present level testifies to this process.

Next year we shall be commemorating the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. That occasion will be significant in that it will provide an opportunity for nations to reaffirm their unflinching support for decolonization. The world community will also be able to review strategies in conformity with the contemporary realities with a view to liquidating the last and remaining vestiges of colonialism and racism.

In the Middle East, the situation remains fluid and complex. Recent developments have given birth to new realities and also new problems which have to be reckoned with while the international community endeavours to find a just and lasting solution to the conflict. It must however be stressed that peace in the Middle East will continue to elude the area if the root cause of the conflict is not taken fully into account. The core of the Middle East problem is the continued denial of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including the right to establish an independent state.

The realization of that right, the refusal to give legitimacy to the fruits of conquest, the respect of the right of all States in the area to an independent existence, are conditions necessary for the attainment of a genuine, viable and permanent peace in the region. Furthermore, it is evident that in the search for such a just solution, the role of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), the representative of the Palestinian people, is pivotal. It is the responsibility of all nations to give unlimited support

and encouragement to all efforts designed to attain this objective. It is my hope that during this Assembly we shall be able to make a contribution towards that end.

The tragic situation in Lebanon continues to cause serious concern to the international community. The senseless bombings of civilian targets causing considerable loss of life and destruction further threaten the peace and security of the region. The world community must redouble its efforts to bring an end to this tragedy so that the freedom, independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon are respected.

In Cyprus the situation remains polarized. It is regrettable that despite the efforts of the United Nations, there seems to be no end in sight to the tragedy of Cyprus. The international community must redouble its efforts in support of a solution which will ensure the respect for the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-alignment of Cyprus, as well as a new era of harmony between the two communities. But whatever the intentions and actions of the United Nations, these cannot be a substitute for the efforts and determination of the Cypriot people themselves.

I am therefore taking this opportunity of appealing on behalf of the United Nations to the Cypriot leaders to promote a more meaningful and effective dialogue in order to bring to an end the tragedy which faces their country. In this respect, it is regrettable that the positive dialogue undertaken earlier this year between President Kyprianou and the leader of the Turkish community, Mr. Denktash, at the initiative of the Secretary-General, has not been followed up by the parties concerned. It is my hope that the spirit which permeated those talks will be revived in the interest of Cyprus and its people.

I would now like to turn to one of the serious problems which has rightly preoccupied the attention of the international community, namely, the growth of the refugee population. When people are denied their rights, they feel insecure. But so do those who deny them these rights. As a result of the combination of fear, on the one hand, and political, cultural, economic and sometimes religious persecution or deprivation, on the other, more and more people are fleeing their national territories. International and regional conflicts have increased the tempo and circumstances of flight. With over 10 million refugees, the world has not seen so many, in peace time, a crying testimony of man's inhumanity to man.

The United Nations, through its office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, has done a great deal to alleviate the plight of refugees. But Member States can and should do more to stem the tide of refugees and to ameliorate their condition. They can respond as required by accepting their humanitarian obligation to receive and protect the people affected. They can also help by increasing their contribution to the resources of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. But above all, they can make such human flights unnecessary in two ways. Firstly, on the national level, they can observe or enforce the various covenants and norms of human conduct and government responsibility, so that none of their citizens will be obliged, for whatever reasons, to vote with the feet! Secondly, they can uphold the

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principles of the Charter of our Organization, resolve international disputes peacefully and build constructive relations with neighbours and within regions. In this way, they will make human migration across frontiers unnecessary.

The United Nations is an instrument of peace. It was established primarily to promote this objective. But the achievement of this goal continues to be frustrated by the development of new and even more sophisticated means of human destruction. That is why peace cannot be considered without reference to the instruments of war.

Despite detente and the spirit of rapprochement among the great Powers, the world is still living in a very fragile peace. For while the international atmosphere has certainly improved as a result of the reduction of tension among the major Powers, the danger of a nuclear war has not been eliminated. For some time now, the final objective of the efforts of all States has been general and complete disarmament under effective international control, while the immediate goal is to eliminate the danger of nuclear war, to halt and reverse the arms race and to clear the path towards lasting peace.

The relaxation of international tensions through detente and peaceful coexistence has contributed greatly towards this process and also towards the initiation of other negotiations. Today, the mutual reduction of forces in Europe, the Conference on European Security and Co-operation and the implementation of the Declaration on the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace and SALT negotiations, are characteristic of the attempts to establish a new era of peace. While co-operation should replace confrontation, there is need to ensure that this co-operation is universal and not confined to a group of nations. It should ensure the establishment of a more secure world in which peace is based on lesser dependence on armaments, and not on the outmoded theory of the balance of terror and mutual destruction. It should also ensure the participation of all nations in determining the modalities of peace, taking into consideration the sovereignty and independence of all the nations -- big and small.

The entire international community has come to realize that international peace and security is indivisible. It has to be total and global to be viable and lasting. This must enable nations to give priority to the economic well-being of the world's people instead of piling up armaments.

Disarmament, decolonization and human rights are not the only ingredients of international security. Lasting peace can only be ensured if it is also based on a foundation of economic justice and equality. It is in recognition of this principle that at the sixth special session of the General Assembly, the international community proclaimed its determination to work urgently for the establishment of the new international economic order based on sovereign equality, interdependence, common interest and co-operation among all States. For we cannot talk of political and civic rights in isolation from economic and social rights.

Today, the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations is being convened at a most critical moment in the history of on-going

North/South dialogue and international economic negotiation processes. In this year alone, the entire question of international economic relations has been examined in several major world conferences. The Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 in Arusha, the Fifth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Manila, the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy, the United Nations Committee of the Whole established under General Assembly resolution 32/174, the Northern Economic Summit in Tokyo, the second regular session of the Economic and Social Council of 1979, the FAO World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, also in Lusaka at the Commonwealth Summit as well as in Havana at the Sixth Summit Conference of Non-Aligned States.

But I think the time has come when the realm of dialogue has to give way to the realm of action. The discussions in various fora on a new international order have been long and comprehensive. They have been able to isolate and bring into focus many practical areas of international co-operation to make interdependence a reality. These practical elements continue to be denied application through the pursuit of narrow, short-term interests. The political will to implement solutions which have obtained overwhelming advocacy continues to be lacking from those we expect to lead in shaping this world into a truly interdependent one, mutually supportive and reinforcing.

Many decisions and resolutions adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations have remained by and large unimplemented. Dialogue must produce concrete results or confrontation becomes inevitable. As my President, Mwalimu Julius K. Nyerere, in his address at Howard University in August 1977 said: "Confrontation is not a desired strategy of the weak; but if reason, justice and dialogue all fail to bring international changes needed to win the war against world poverty, then economic conflict is bound to follow".

We are meeting at a time when the final days of this decade are closing. This decade has been a decade of serious economic negotiations, yet the international economic situation of low growth rates, run-away inflation, unemployment, serious balance of payments difficulties, particularly for the developing countries, has persisted. The gap between rich and poor nations is widening and will continue to do so. But more importantly, living standards in developing countries, particularly among the poorest, are falling. Conditions that have given rise to abject poverty are worsening instead of ameliorating, out of a combination of many factors, both new and old.

The experience of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, which is soon coming to an end, should guide us in our deliberations for the preparation of the new strategy for the Third Decade. All available data demonstrates clearly that the present strategy has miserably failed in meeting the aspirations of the developing countries. The existing strategy was based on the notion that the development of the developing countries could be achieved through the transmission or "trickle down" of growth from the developed countries. This process has not only failed to bring about meaningful changes, but has indeed served to

perpetuate the dependence of the developing countries on the developed ones instead of promoting independence.

The present strategy has failed to bring about meaningful changes in international economic relations because it did not address itself to fundamental structural changes in the existing international economic system. As we move to the next decade, therefore, these fundamental structural changes should be the target of negotiations in the preparation of the new strategy. The new strategy must indeed be designed to promote the development of the developing countries, and it should be formulated within the framework of and directed to achieve the objectives of the new international economic order in all its aspects -- international trade, commodities, transfer of real resources, science and technology, industrialization, food and agriculture, and promoting economic and technical co-operation among developing countries.

It is said that knowledge of the past is essential in order to understand the present and plan for the future. I submit that this truism is equally relevant in the context of our quest for a new international economic order. We must properly diagnose the pitfalls and set-backs of the present decade, whether in the realm of political changes or the domain of economic problems, so as to equip ourselves to confront and overcome the challenges of the next decade -- the decade of the 1980s.

This decade has been one of the most eventful. The world has been through political turmoil which has perhaps changed to an extent the structures and the balance of power. Developing nations are increasingly demanding their rightful share and participation in international politics, as well as in international economics.

The non-aligned movement, in which the overwhelming majority of the third world countries are represented, has played a vanguard role in the struggle for democratization of international relations and establishment of a new international economic order based on equity, justice, mutual benefit and genuine interdependence. Only nine days ago, the heads of State and Government of the non-aligned countries at their Sixth Summit Conference in Havana gave a fresh and dynamic impetus and momentum to these lofty goals. As a result of these efforts, coupled with imaginative leadership displayed in some sections of the developed world, the need for change is no longer contested. Rather, it is the nature and pace of that change which continue to encounter varied reactions, which in some cases border on obstruction.

The challenge of the 1980s, therefore, must first and foremost include how to make good the necessary changes. In this context, it behoves upon those countries which, while professing acceptance of change, continue to cling to policies geared to the maintenance of the status quo, to desist from such policies and join the mainstream of the world community. At the same time, it should be emphasized that for such changes to be meaningful, they must be all-encompassing.

Both the developed and the developing countries must play their part in ensuring that the changes we seek result in the greatest moral and material benefits for our peoples. Above all, it must be stressed that certain

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prerequisites are basic to the very foundation of the new order that we are all aspiring for. Thus, it would not be enough to demand national rights without ensuring human rights within nations. It would likewise be of limited effect if nations demand change and embark on the establishment of new international norms without establishing corresponding ones at the national level. We must aim at the strengthening of national foundations of power and the elimination of glaring inequalities between peoples within nations and between nations.

There is no better instrument, or for that matter no real alternative institution for bringing about such change, than the United Nations. The United Nations is the most representative institution, particularly considering that the goal of universality is almost within our reach. We must therefore endeavour to ensure that the United Nations family of organizations is equipped to face the new challenges. To make it accommodative to such change, it is necessary to provide for broader and enhanced participation of all nations. It is equally imperative to ensure the democratization of the United Nations institutions. Above all, we must work to improve the effectiveness of our Organization. This becomes all the more relevant when we take into account the fact that the United Nations today faces what has been described as a crisis of confidence.

We in this Assembly can make a sound beginning towards that objective by ensuring that our deliberations and the decisions we arrive at enhance the United Nations as an instrument for the promotion of peace, freedom, justice, international security and international co-operation. Perhaps the time has come that we should be more concerned in the implementation of the decisions that we arrive at rather than in the proliferation of the resolutions that we adopt. We should also aim, wherever possible, to adopt decisions which will mobilize the capabilities and meet the aspirations of the people we represent. Equally important, we must seek to involve the commitment of world public opinion towards the noble goals to which the United Nations is committed, that is to say, universal freedom, equality and justice -- in a word, genuine peace.

The hope for peace burns eternal in the breast of mankind. The quest for enduring peace is an arduous but glorious crusade, bringing together all nations of different political persuasion and diverse cultures in one splendid and fulfilling march.

There is not, and never has been, any one cause of war. But never in the recent history of man and international intercourse have there been so many causes for war as prevail today. I have referred to some of them: the monumental poverty of two thirds of the world's people, the widespread deprivation of political and human rights, the escalating arms race and the refusal to respect the sovereignty of others, including their sovereignty over their national resources.

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Each and every one of these represents a stream of potential unrest, impatience and revolt. Their confluence could be the flood waters of world instability and war. But that confluence could also be turned into a giant dam of mankind's hope for development and peace.

Our United Nations was instituted to promote that second challenge. It is not beyond the will of man or nation to work for peace. I believe that our Organization is capable of strengthening this will. With your co-operation we can make this thirty-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly a turning point in man's eternal journey towards freedom, unity, equality and co-operation -- the true cornerstones of peace. And I could think of no better way of crowning a year which the United Nations has dedicated as the International Year of the Child to strengthen our commitment to these lofty objectives.

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THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Message from the President of the General Assembly,
His Excellency Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim,
on the occasion of the Memorial Service held for
the late General Josiah Magama Tongogara
on Sunday, 30 December 1979
at the United Nations Church Center, New York City

I have learned with profound sorrow of the tragic death of our brother, General Josiah Magama Tongogara. As a founding member of ZANU and one of the leading members of the Patriotic Front, he dedicated his active services to the cause of the people of Zimbabwe throughout the most difficult period of their struggle for liberation.

As Chief of ZANU's defence forces for more than a decade, General Tongogara played an important role in the arms resistance of the Zimbabwean people against racist minority domination. It is through his dedicated leadership, as much as through the dedicated leadership of the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe as a whole and the sacrifices made by so many sons and daughters of Zimbabwe, that we are now witnessing important positive developments in Zimbabwe giving us the hope for the birth of a new independent nation. His death is therefore a tremendous loss to the people of Zimbabwe and more particularly all those who have been engaged in the struggle for the liberation of that country. It is also an enormous loss to all those in Africa as well as to those within the international community who have worked persistently in

support of the freedom struggle in Zimbabwe. He will certainly be missed. I am convinced, nonetheless, that his untimely death, like the passing away of many gallant leaders of the freedom struggle before him, both in Zimbabwe and elsewhere in the African Continent, will serve to inspire us all to do everything possible to ensure the realization of the objective for which General Tongogara dedicated his life, namely, the freedom and dignity of his people.

I very much regret that due to circumstances beyond my control it is not possible for me to be personally present to participate in this memorial service. I wish to take this opportunity to express my deep sympathy and condolences to the leaders and militants of ZANU and the entire Patriotic Front on the irreplaceable loss they have suffered in the untimely death of this dedicated and militant freedom fighter. I wish also to request the representatives of the Patriotic Front present to be kind enough to convey my heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the bereaved family.

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