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NOTE

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FOURTEEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY-EIGHTH MEETING

Held in New York on Wednesday, 6 November 1968, at 11 a.m.

President: Mr. Otto R. BORCH (Denmark).

Present: The representatives of the following States: Algeria, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Ethiopia, France, Hungary, India, Pakistan, Paraguay, Senegal, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

Provisional agenda (S/Agenda/1458)

1. Adoption of the agenda.

2. Admission of new Members:

Letter dated 25 October 1968 from the President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea addressed to the Secretary-General (S/8883).

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Admission of new Members

Letter dated 25 October 1968 from the President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea addressed to the Secretary General (S/8883)

1. The PRESIDENT: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the application for membership of the United Nations submitted on 25 October 1968 by the President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea. His letter has been circulated in document S/8883.

2. Mr. BOYE (Senegal) (*translated from French*): The delegation of Senegal, in its turn, is happy to congratulate the President on his assumption of the presidency of the Security Council. Having had the opportunity, throughout the past few months, to appreciate his warm-heartedness, ability, wisdom and courtesy, I am sure that the Council will benefit from his exceptionally wide experience.

3. My delegation takes this opportunity to extend its best wishes to Mr. Wiggins, the new Permanent Representative of the United States, and hopes that he, like his predecessors, will make a fruitful and constructive contribution to our work.

4. Senegal is privileged today to introduce, on its own behalf and on that of Algeria, Brazil, Ethiopia, India, Pakistan and Paraguay, a draft resolution [S/8888] recommending to the General Assembly the admission of Equatorial Guinea to membership in the United Nations.

5. I should like to draw the attention of the members of the Council to the letter dated 25 October 1968 from the President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea addressed to the Secretary-General [S/8883],¹ requesting the admission of that State to membership in the United Nations. The members of the Council should also bear in mind the statement made on the same date by the Head of State of Equatorial Guinea accepting the obligations set out in the Charter and undertaking to fulfil them.

6. We are all familiar with the physical, economic, social and political characteristics of Equatorial Guinea, and there is no need to dwell on them. I should simply like to say that the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, adopted eight years ago by the General Assembly, speeded up the process whereby a number of colonial peoples and countries have acceded to independence. Thus, after the recent accession to independence of two countries, Mauritius and Swaziland, and their admission to membership in the United Nations, it is now the turn of another African country—Equatorial Guinea—to accede to international sovereignty.

7. On 12 October 1968, Equatorial Guinea's independence was proclaimed after a referendum which was followed by general elections supervised by a United Nations mission.

8. Senegal is always happy to welcome an independent State into the international community. In the present instance, it wishes Equatorial Guinea every success in the task of national construction which it is about to undertake.

9. The event that we welcome today has certainly been made possible because of the willingness to decolonize and above all thanks to the spirit of co-operation which the administering Power has shown throughout the process which led to the independence of this African State.

10. This is an appropriate place to pay a well-deserved tribute to Spain, which has performed an historic action at the very time when it is about to come to the Security Council—an entry which will be effected under happy auspices.

11. Senegal hopes that Spain's example will finally influence Portugal, which blindly persists in refusing to comply with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV). We note, in any case, that the Government of Equatorial Guinea, which

¹ See *Official Records of the Security Council, Twenty-third Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1968*, page 109.

is a small but industrious country, and determined to emerge from a condition of under-development, will fulfil all its obligations towards the United Nations and observe the fundamental principles set out in the Charter.

12. Because it is so convinced, the Government of Senegal, together with the Governments which are co-sponsoring this draft resolution, warmly recommends the admission of Equatorial Guinea to membership in the United Nations.

13. The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of Senegal for the over-generous comments which you made about me.

14. Mr. DE ARAUJO CASTRO (Brazil): It is indeed gratifying to have this interlude in our debates of recent days, for this meeting was convened to consider an application for admission to membership in our Organization submitted by a new, free and proud African nation. My delegation is happy to co-sponsor the draft resolution of the admission of Equatorial Guinea, as contained in document S/8888.

15. Each time the community of nations is enlarged by the accession to independence of a former colonial people, mankind has reason to rejoice and to feel renewed hope. This is particularly true when, as in the case before us, the newly independent nation is fully qualified and firmly determined to contribute with the best of its efforts to the building of world order. The African nations offer an outstanding example of constructive and positive participation in the work of this Organization. We feel, therefore, highly justified in rejoicing at having a new nation join that important group of nations.

16. The accession of Equatorial Guinea to full freedom and sovereignty is the final result of a peaceful process that sets a remarkable pattern of decolonization. This fact enables us today to congratulate, at one and the same time, both the new State, Equatorial Guinea, whose people have demonstrated such a high degree of political maturity, and the administering Power, Spain, whose effective co-operation has been of paramount importance in the task of leading that country to independence.

17. Spain has kept and honoured its pledges both to the people of Equatorial Guinea and to the United Nations and has thereby enhanced its international prestige and its stand in our Organization. It is very gratifying to us to note this at the time when we see Spain about to assume the responsibilities of a non-permanent member of the Security Council. It is only fitting that we should express our high appreciation at seeing Spain living up to its traditions and responsibilities with such foresight and deep sense of history.

18. The emergence of Equatorial Guinea as an independent nation is particularly significant to the people and to the Government of Brazil, as our history and our culture are deeply marked by African and Iberian contributions. The synthesis of elements of different origins constitutes the very essence of the new multiracial civilization that Brazil is building in the tropics.

19. We sincerely hope that Equatorial Guinea will serve as another important factor in the strengthening of the fruitful co-operation existing between Africa and Brazil.

20. On behalf of the people and the Government of Brazil, I wish to convey to the people and the Government of Equatorial Guinea our warmest congratulations and our best wishes for prosperity and well-being in their new and challenging role.

21. Mr. PARTHASARATHI (India): Mr. President, as this is the first time I have spoken since you assumed the high office of the Presidency of the Security Council, may I take this opportunity to offer you my warmest congratulations. My delegation has always regarded very highly your outstanding ability, infinite patience and sincerity of purpose. Your leadership will be invaluable in dealing with the important and intricate issues affecting peace and security that will come up before the Council this month. We wish you every success in your task and offer you our fullest co-operation. I would also like to associate myself with the well-merited tributes paid to your two distinguished predecessors.

22. May I also say a word of warm welcome to our new colleague, the Permanent Representative of the United States? Having been a journalist myself for many years, I am particularly happy to have the opportunity of working closely with a personality of such distinction and experience in public affairs as Ambassador Wiggins.

23. It is with great pleasure that my delegation supports the application of Equatorial Guinea for membership of the United Nations. The achievement of independence by Equatorial Guinea last month was a joyous event not only for its brave people but for all those who stand for freedom. India has followed with great interest and sympathy the heroic struggle of its people for independence. As a member of the Special Committee of Twenty-Four,² the Indian delegation has actively participated in the discussions concerning the future of Equatorial Guinea. More recently we lent our support to the measures taken by the United Nations to observe and supervise electoral processes with regard to the referendum and the election of a new President and legislators in that country.

24. As the people of Equatorial Guinea emerge from political subjugation into independent nationhood, great tasks and great opportunities lie ahead of them in shaping their future according to their cherished desires, and building a modern State based on rapid economic development, social justice and progress. We wish them all success in the fulfilment of their aspirations.

25. My delegation had the privilege and honour of making the acquaintance of the distinguished President of Equatorial Guinea, His Excellency Mr. Francisco Macias Nguema, when he came to the United Nations as a petitioner on behalf of his country. We were deeply impressed by his statesmanlike qualities and his distinguished bearing. We are confident that under his able

² Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

guidance and that of his talented colleagues his country will make great strides on the road to progress.

26. My country looks forward to co-operation with Equatorial Guinea in our common endeavours at the United Nations and elsewhere, and extends to its President and people our warmest congratulations and a cordial welcome to the family of nations.

27. My delegation sincerely hopes that the motion for the admission of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea to the United Nations will receive unanimous support.

28. The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of India sincerely for his very generous remarks about me.

29. Lij Endalkachew MAKONNEN (Ethiopia): It is with a sense of deep satisfaction that the Ethiopian delegation participates in this historic meeting of the Security Council convened for the auspicious purpose of adding yet another Member to the United Nations family of free and sovereign States.

30. My delegation is indeed happy to note that in less than one year the Council has been called upon three times to consider applications of newly independent States for membership of the United Nations.

31. I may say that perhaps the highest attribute of the Security Council, and undoubtedly the most pleasant duty of a representative accredited to this august body, lies in the kind of exercise in which we are now engaged—that of certifying and proclaiming the birth of a nation State and of accepting it into the membership of our great family. Therefore it is with a profound sense of joy that I now take the floor to applaud the ascent of Equatorial Guinea to the status of independence and to welcome this new Republic as the one hundred and twenty-sixth Member of the United Nations.

32. As a member of the Special Committee of Twenty-Four, my delegation has been following very closely the developments in Fernando Póo, Rio Muni and the other islands situated in the Atlantic vicinity of the western African land mass. Those Territories, having gained their independence from Spain on 12 October 1968, today stand united within the framework of a republic and under the leadership of their President-elect, the Honourable Francisco Macias Nguema, who, in his capacity as head of the Government of this new Republic, has submitted his country's request for admission accompanied by a declaration that his country is fully prepared to abide by the principles and requirements of our world Organization [S/8883]. We welcome this declaration of faith in the United Nations Charter and feel confident that the small but vigorous new Member from the African continent not only will further strengthen the African membership in the United Nations but will also enrich and enhance the African contribution to the United Nations cause.

33. For us, as for many like us, the emergence on the scene of freedom of yet another African State is more than a mere satisfaction as an end in itself: it also constitutes a hopeful sign of our ever determined progress toward the

final goal of complete freedom for our entire continent. The Governments and peoples of the independent African States can never rest or relax in their struggle against colonialism and racism until the march of freedom that has now completed its historic course from the Indian Ocean in the East to the Atlantic shores in the West has likewise traversed the continent from the Mediterranean in the North to the Cape of Good Hope and the entire southern shores of our great continent. It is to the achievement of that goal that we rededicate ourselves on this happy occasion when we add yet another Member to our great family.

34. Before I conclude I should like to express my Government's appreciation of the spirit of co-operation shown by the Government of Spain with regard to the question of Equatorial Guinea. We hope—perhaps against hope—that this example shown by Spain will have at least some salutary influence on those who have so far shown attitudes of blindness to the irreversible and irresistible tide of freedom on the African continent.

35. It is with these sincere sentiments of joy, confidence and pride that my delegation joins the other sponsors of draft resolution S/8888 in presenting the application of Equatorial Guinea for unanimous approval by the Security Council. We congratulate the Government and people of Equatorial Guinea and wish them all the best for the future.

36. Mr. SOLANO LOPEZ (Uruguay) (*translated from Spanish*): On this happy occasion, I hope that my statement, although brief, will convey the sincerity of my delegation's sentiments.

37. I would ask the President to accept our cordial congratulations on his assumption of the honour and responsibility of the presidency of the Council. I shall simply restate our conviction that he will direct the Council's deliberations with the dedication, tact and intelligence which we all know him to possess.

38. At the same time, very briefly but very sincerely, I should like to express our gratitude to his immediate predecessors, Mr. Liu and Mr. Ignatieff, for the services which they rendered the Council during the months of September and October.

39. We should also like to welcome Mr. Wiggins of the United States, and we hope that he, like his predecessors, will collaborate fully in our work.

40. On 23 October, in speaking in the general debate at the twenty-third session of the General Assembly,³ I addressed a most cordial welcome on behalf of the Government and people of Paraguay to the youngest of the free and independent African States—the Republic of Equatorial Guinea—which, on 12 October, entered upon a new era by assuming full and sovereign control of its own destinies.

41. The Republic of Equatorial Guinea is now applying for admission to membership in the United Nations. We are

³ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Session, Plenary Meeting, 1705th meeting, para. 154.

gratified by that decision and, in order to facilitate its fulfilment, we have sponsored, together with the representatives of the African, Asian and Latin American countries in the Council, the draft resolution which the representative of Senegal has just introduced on behalf of all the sponsors in terms that have my whole-hearted support.

42. I need only add that we are sure that this draft resolution will be unanimously approved by the Council.

43. Finally, on this happy occasion, we should like also to express our gratitude to Spain for having led the Republic of Equatorial Guinea from the dependency of yesterday to the full and unrestricted sovereignty of today.

44. The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of Paraguay for the good wishes he addressed to this month's President.

45. Mr. SHAHI (Pakistan): Mr. President, may I associate myself wholeheartedly with the felicitations offer to you by our colleagues on your assumption of the Presidency of this Council. You hail from a country which is held in high respect by the world and by this Organization for its dedication to peace and freedom and its own enlightened traditions of humanism. Danish representatives are well known to all of us for the quality of their performance and for their calibre. In your own person these qualities have found their highest expression, and give us complete assurance that you will guide our deliberations with conspicuous success.

46. I also take this occasion to offer my delegation's welcome to the new representative of the United States, Ambassador Wiggins. Though new to the United Nations, he comes to this Council with impressive credentials. As an outstanding commentator on the affairs of his country and the world, he has demonstrated a breadth of vision and human sympathy which, combined with the power of the country he represents, places him in a unique position to advance the cause of peace and justice in the world. We look forward to collaborating with him in the discharge of the Council's difficult tasks.

47. Pakistan has great pleasure in supporting the application of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea for admission to the United Nations. This occasion, as has been said by one of our colleagues, marks the third time this year that we welcome a new State to the comity of nations. Equatorial Guinea is the thirty-eighth African State to accede to independence since this Organization was founded. Its independence marks yet another significant step forward in the process of decolonization, which has been the historical phenomenon of the second half of the twentieth century.

48. My delegation extends, on behalf of the President, the Government and the people of Pakistan, its warmest congratulations to the President, the Government and the people of Equatorial Guinea on this auspicious occasion. We extend to them our best wishes for peace, prosperity and happiness. The doors of the future lie open before them, and we wish them all success in the great task of consolidating the independence of their country. We look forward to the participation of the new State in the work

of the United Nations, and are confident that it will make its own distinctive contribution to the high purposes and principles of the Organization.

49. We should like to pay a special tribute to President Francisco Macias Nguema and the other leaders of Equatorial Guinea for having led their country to independence. At the same time, we are proud of the active role of the United Nations in accelerating the process of independence of Equatorial Guinea. This achievement comes at a time when the authority of the United Nations is being questioned and defied in southern Africa. The emergence of Equatorial Guinea to independence will serve to fortify the resolution of those elsewhere in the African continent who are struggling for human rights against racist and oppressive régimes, and to fortify them so that they do not weaken or falter until they have vindicated their right to freedom and independence.

50. With its admission to membership of the United Nations, it will be possible for the Republic of Equatorial Guinea to derive in full measure the benefits of international co-operation in the economic and technical fields which the Organization provides to developing nations.

51. I commend to the Council the draft resolution contained in document S/8888, which Pakistan has co-sponsored with the African, Asian and Latin American members of the Council and which has been so eloquently presented to the Council by Ambassador Boye.

52. The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of Pakistan for the kind remarks he made not only about my country but also about me.

53. Mr. BOUATTOURA (Algeria) (*translated from French*): Equatorial Guinea's accession to independence affords the Security Council an opportunity to perform an agreeable duty, in contrast with its usual functions. For we are more often convened to discuss problems constituting a threat to international peace and security than to welcome and support the emergence of a country into the life of the international community.

54. In the case of Equatorial Guinea, we are especially happy to offer Algeria's support to a people that has succeeded in freeing itself from past dependence through its perseverance and dignity. We should also like to emphasize, in the second place, that Spain's encouraging attitude—to which we pay a proper and deserved tribute—should serve as an example to countries which, like Portugal, still cling to the bitter and nostalgic pleasure of an obsolete past.

55. There could, indeed, be no better illustration of the irreversible and historic nature of the natural evolution of peoples towards independence than this transformation in the status of territories which but yesterday were still subject to Powers whose greatness was founded on the acquisition of territorial empires. Greatness cannot endure on a territorial basis; it can survive only if the country concerned is prepared to move on with a view to establishing new relationships based on confidence, co-operation and mutual respect of sovereignty.

56. In conclusion, Algeria wishes to extend its warmest greetings to the people and Government of Equatorial Guinea; we all know that they are capable of making an important contribution to the international community, both with respect to peace and harmonious relations among peoples.

57. Mr. IGNATIEFF (Canada): The Canadian delegation will be pleased to vote for the draft resolution before the Council recommending to the General Assembly that Equatorial Guinea be admitted as a Member of the United Nations. The independence of a former colony, as my colleagues have noted, is always a memorable and happy occasion and we are very pleased to join in the recommendation that this new State should enter into our ranks.

58. We offer our congratulations as well to the Government of Spain, which has brought the people of Equatorial Guinea peacefully to independence. Indeed, the date on which Equatorial Guinea attained independence—12 October—is significant for all the peoples of the Americas of whom so many have their cultural roots in the great Hispanic tradition.

59. Although independent for only a short time, the Government of Equatorial Guinea has already provided the world with a good example of international co-operation through the assistance which that Government has provided to the Red Cross for the transport of humanitarian relief to civilians in areas of Nigeria affected by the current hostilities.

60. Every new nation must take particularly difficult decisions concerning its development. On such decisions will depend its growth as a viable stable nation. On behalf of Canada, I offer Equatorial Guinea our very best wishes in meeting the great challenge ahead of it.

61. In conclusion, may I express the hope that those colonial peoples which have not yet achieved independence may soon join Equatorial Guinea in the ranks of free nations.

62. Mr. BERARD (France) (*translated from French*): As on every other occasion when the right of peoples to self-determination is exercised, the French delegation cannot fail to be gratified at Equatorial Guinea's accession to independence. Spain's enlightened policy has enabled Equatorial Guinea to choose its future freely, in an atmosphere of peace and good understanding with the former administering Power.

63. Although the new State is small in size, it possesses considerable resources. At the end of the last century, the island of Fernando Póo impressed a traveller as a "fairlyland of gold and amethyst". Without losing any of its charm, it has considerably developed its resources. Rio Muni, for its part, possesses adequate timber and coffee. As a result, the average *per capita* income in Equatorial Guinea is particularly high. The same applies to the school attendance rate.

64. Equatorial Guinea thus accedes to independence under happy auspices. We have no doubt that a wise administration will enable it to develop its capital further to ensure

not only the well-being of its inhabitants but also its effective participation in international life, in particular in the work of the United Nations, a participation which, as we know, entails a considerable financial burden.

65. The French delegation is glad to extend its best wishes to the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, to its people and to its leaders—and in the first place to Mr. Macias Nguema, the first President of the Republic—for their happiness and prosperity, and welcomes the new State into the United Nations.

66. The PRESIDENT: As President of the Security Council, I now call on the representative of China, who is the next speaker on my list.

67. Mr. LIU (China): The Chinese delegation is happy to welcome the birth of another sovereign nation on the continent of Africa. The Republic of Equatorial Guinea has achieved independent statehood in an orderly manner in which, as noted in the report of the Chairman of the United Nations Mission for the Supervision of the Referendum and Elections in Equatorial Guinea,⁴ all democratic freedoms were fully respected, testifying to the political maturity of the people of Equatorial Guinea and their leaders. We are confident that this new nation will contribute constructively to the work of the United Nations.

68. I should like to take this opportunity to pay a deserved tribute to the former administering Authority, which has faithfully and fully discharged its mandate in Equatorial Guinea. It has assisted the people of the Territory in the progressive development of free political institutions and in the promotion of educational and economic advancement. The Government of Spain is to be congratulated for having played so significant a role in the formation of the new Republic.

69. The Chinese delegation will vote in favour of the proposal to admit Equatorial Guinea as a Member of the United Nations. In so doing, we wish the people of Equatorial Guinea prosperity and success in the new era that lies ahead.

70. Mr. WIGGINS (United States of America): Mr. President, before addressing myself to the item on our agenda, permit me to extend my very best wishes to you on your assumption of the Presidency for the month of November and to congratulate you on the impartiality, objectivity and courtesy with which you have already addressed yourself to the problems of the Security Council, and to assure you of my desire to support your able efforts in every way.

71. I also wish to convey my deep appreciation to the many members of the Security Council who have extended such kind words of welcome to me. I am grateful for these good wishes and I reciprocate them in full measure.

72. This Council is about to recommend that the United Nations admit its one hundred and twenty-sixth Member State, the Republic of Equatorial Guinea. I believe this step is one of which the United Nations, the former adminis-

⁴ Document A/7200/Add.4 (Part II).

tering Authority and, most important, the peoples of Equatorial Guinea can be rightly proud.

73. Over a billion people have stepped from colonial dependence to equal and independent status in the family of nations in the last quarter century. The independence of Equatorial Guinea is a noteworthy step in this historic process. But Equatorial Guinea's application for membership is of particular importance to the United Nations because this Organization, through a Visiting Mission and the dispatch of observers for the recent elections and referendum, played a significant role in the process by which Equatorial Guinea achieved its independent status.

74. The Government of Spain is also to be complimented for its recognition of and adherence to the principle of self-determination as expressed in the United Nations Charter and for its guidance of Equatorial Guinea through a peaceful process of decolonization.

75. My Government has watched with interest the progress of Equatorial Guinea, and particularly the ability displayed by the leaders of that country during recent years. Many members of its Cabinet, and the President of Equatorial Guinea, are well known to my delegation and to other Members of the United Nations as a result of their appearances before this Organization.

76. This young nation of nearly a quarter of a million people and an area of nearly 12,000 square miles has declared that it accepts and will fulfil the obligations set forth in the Charter of the United Nations. Having already recognized the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, the United States wholeheartedly endorses the application before us. On behalf of the United States, I am happy to extend to President Macias, the people and the Government of Equatorial Guinea our warm and best wishes on this occasion.

77. The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of the United States for the good wishes which he has extended to me.

78. Mr. CSATORDAY (Hungary): The Hungarian delegation has examined with great satisfaction the request of a newly independent African State, Equatorial Guinea, for admission to membership of the United Nations and its statement that it accepts the obligations contained in the United Nations Charter.

79. We welcome the birth of a new sovereign State on the African continent where millions of Africans are still waging their embittered and heroic struggle against colonial and racist oppression, for freedom and national independence.

80. The emergence of another independent country in Africa is the result of the tireless struggle of the people of Equatorial Guinea, together with other freedom-loving peoples, for the liquidation of the shameful colonial system.

81. The attitudes of the Hungarian people towards the people of Equatorial Guinea were recently expressed in a

telegram of congratulation by the President of the Presidential Council of the Hungarian People's Republic, Mr. Pál Losonczy, to President Francisco Macias Nguema, as follows:

"On the occasion of Equatorial Guinea becoming independent please accept my good wishes expressed on behalf of the Presidential Council and Government of the Hungarian People's Republic and in the name of the Hungarian people. I am pleased to inform Your Excellency that the Government of the Hungarian People's Republic recognizes Equatorial Guinea as an independent and sovereign State. I wish to express my hope that our countries will in the future establish relations for the benefit of our peoples."

82. While considering the admission of Equatorial Guinea to membership of the United Nations, we cannot lose sight of the dangerous situation still prevailing in the southern part of Africa.

83. Events on the African continent, as can be seen from the latest Security Council debates on Namibia and Southern Rhodesia, cause serious anxiety and require efficient measures from the world community against all manifestations of colonialism, *apartheid* and racism.

84. Since Equatorial Guinea has had more than ample bitter experience of colonialism, my delegation is convinced that newly independent Equatorial Guinea will use every effort to overcome the difficulties resulting from its colonial inheritance and will achieve progress in every field of its national life.

85. We express the hope that, as a Member of this international Organization, Equatorial Guinea will contribute to the common efforts to liquidate all remnants of colonialism and to preserve international peace and security. The Hungarian delegation is looking forward to cooperating with the delegation of Equatorial Guinea to the United Nations in the promotion of the noble purposes and principles of the Charter.

86. Finally, the Hungarian delegation supports the application of Equatorial Guinea contained in document S/8883, and is ready to vote in favour of the draft resolution contained in document S/8888.

87. Mr. MALIK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (*translated from Russian*): The Security Council has before it the application of a new sovereign African State—the Republic of Equatorial Guinea—for admission to membership in the United Nations.

88. The struggle for national liberation of the people of Equatorial Guinea—a former Spanish colony—has been crowned with success. On 12 October 1968, the country was proclaimed independent.

89. The Soviet delegation welcomes the emergence of yet another sovereign State on the African continent. It expresses the firm conviction that all the other African countries whose peoples are still under colonial domination will achieve independence in the near future.

90. The Soviet Union, in conformity with its fundamental position of lending full support to peoples struggling for their freedom and independence, has emphatically and consistently championed the independence of Equatorial Guinea, and the application to that country of the United Nations Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

91. The feelings and views of the Soviet people in connexion with the successful conclusion of the struggle of the people of Equatorial Guinea for independence are expressed in a telegram of greeting sent by Mr. Podgorny, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, to the President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea. The telegram reads as follows:

“In connexion with the proclamation of independence of Equatorial Guinea, I send to you, Mr. President, and to the people of your country, the congratulations of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and of the Government and peoples of the USSR. I wish the people of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea success in strengthening the political and economic independence of the country.

“The Soviet Union declares its recognition of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea and expresses its readiness to establish diplomatic relations with it.”

92. The USSR delegation supports the application of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea for membership in the United Nations and, in so doing, expresses the hope that the participation of this newest State in the activities of the United Nations will contribute to the strengthening of international peace and the development of co-operation among peoples, as well as to the complete and final eradication of the shameful system of colonialism.

93. The USSR delegation will vote in favour of the draft resolution submitted by the representative of Senegal jointly with the representatives of other African, Asian and Latin American States, recommending to the General Assembly that the Republic of Equatorial Guinea should be admitted to membership in the United Nations.

94. Lord CARADON (United Kingdom): I join with other members of the Council in saluting Equatorial Guinea as the forty-first independent African State, and I am happy to join with others in supporting its application for membership of the United Nations.

95. By making that application the newly independent State has shown its readiness to abide by the requirements and responsibilities of the United Nations, and by the promptness of the application, it has shown eagerness for international co-operation. That readiness and that eagerness will win an immediate and whole-hearted response from all of us in respect and friendship.

96. I wish also to pay my sincere tribute to Spain for the lead given by the administering Power in this advance to independence. I am sure that my friend the Spanish Ambassador will understand me when I say that, since during the past decade I have so often been in the happy

position in which he finds himself today, I can all the better appreciate the pride in achievement and the sense of joyful fulfilment which he feels today. Today we can rejoice together in respect for the will of the people and the fundamental principle that the interests and wishes of the people should be paramount.

97. I myself remember the fruitful co-operation which existed between the authorities in Equatorial Guinea and those in Nigeria when I was in West Africa years ago, and my own country has had an historic and honourable association with Fernando Póo. For many years in the first half of the nineteenth century the Royal Navy, with the consent of the Spanish Government, used the Island of Fernando Póo as a base for its West African anti-slavery patrol, and my country recalls with pride the leading part we played for more than half a century in fighting the evil trade.

98. At the beginning of this session we welcomed Swaziland as a Member of the United Nations and the seventeenth former British Territory in Africa to achieve independence. Very shortly before that, Mauritius joined us here. Indeed, almost every session of the Assembly has in recent years seen one or more former dependencies of my country added to the list of sovereign Members of the United Nations. It is with equal pleasure that we take up today the application of Equatorial Guinea for membership of this Organization.

99. On behalf of the Government of the United Kingdom, my delegation extends to the people and Government of Equatorial Guinea warmest good wishes for their future peace and prosperity.

100. The PRESIDENT: There being no more speakers on my list, I should like, with the indulgence of the members of the Council, to make the following statement in my capacity as the representative of DENMARK.

101. Denmark also wishes to let its voice be heard and to congratulate the Government and the people of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea on their recently obtained independence. It is certainly a pleasure to welcome yet another free and sovereign African State to the community of nations. The benefits and privileges of independence are, as we all know, also accompanied by its problems. However, we hope and we trust that the Republic of Equatorial Guinea will be able to cope with these problems in a climate of political stability and economic progress, and to play a constructive role in the developments in Africa over the years to come.

102. In supporting the application of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea for membership of the United Nations, we moreover wish the new Republic all success in its endeavours to participate actively and constructively in international co-operation for the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations and to the ultimate benefit of its own future possibilities.

103. Speaking as PRESIDENT, I would repeat that there are no further speakers inscribed on my list. Accordingly, I consider that the Security Council is now ready to vote on

the draft resolution contained in document S/8888, which was introduced by Senegal and is also co-sponsored by Algeria, Brazil, Ethiopia, India, Pakistan and Paraguay.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.⁵

104. The PRESIDENT: In accordance with rule 60 of the Provisional Rules of Procedure of the Security Council, I shall immediately request the Secretary-General to transmit to the General Assembly the text of the resolution just adopted, together with the verbatim record of this meeting.

105. May I just be allowed to keep the members of the Council for one brief moment. Members will recall that at

⁵ See resolution 260 (1968).

our last meeting on the situation in the Middle East [1457th meeting] we adjourned until Thursday at 11 a.m. on the understanding that the President would keep in touch with members in evaluating whether with the consent of the members, there was a possibility for reconsideration, of the time fixed for the next meeting, if circumstances should so develop in the meantime. The wish has been expressed to the Chair that the meeting with regard to the situation in the Middle East should be held on Friday. Accordingly, it is my wish to consult with members on the time of that meeting. When these consultations are completed, which I hope and trust will be early in the afternoon, I shall inform members of my decision concerning the time of our next meeting on the situation in the Middle East. If there is no comment on the statement I have just made, I shall declare the meeting adjourned.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.

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