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**President: Prince WAN WAITHAYAKON**

**AGENDA ITEM 25**

**Admission of new Members to the United Nations**

**ADMISSION OF JAPAN TO MEMBERSHIP OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

1. The PRESIDENT: I need scarcely say that the admission of Japan to membership of the United Nations will be a source of deep satisfaction to us all; indeed, it is something to which we have looked forward with anticipation—in the knowledge that the positive action of the Assembly would certainly result in a further enhancement of the United Nations by the inclusion of an influential and highly respected State among its Members.

2. I am pleased to draw your attention to the letter I have received from the President of the Security Council transmitting the resolution unanimously adopted by the Council recommending that Japan be admitted to membership of the United Nations [A/3447].

3. I am also pleased to place before the Assembly a draft resolution on this question sponsored by fifty-one Members, namely, Afghanistan, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Burma, Cambodia, Canada, Ceylon, China, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Haiti, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Luxembourg, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and

Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela, Yemen and Yugoslavia [A/3460 and Add.1 to 3].

4. I shall put this draft resolution to the vote by roll-call.

*A vote was taken by roll-call.*

*Israel, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.*

*In favour:* Israel, Italy, Jordan, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Luxembourg, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Syria, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Burma, Brazil, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cambodia, Canada, Ceylon, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland.

*Against:* None.

*The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.*

*The delegation of Japan was escorted to its place in the General Assembly hall.*

5. The PRESIDENT: It is with particular pleasure that I welcome the representative of a great Asian nation, Japan, who will now share our common efforts in promoting world peace and fundamental human rights, justice and the economic and social advancement of all peoples. Japan and the Japanese people are well qualified by their national strength to make a great contribution to the work of the United Nations. They have developed their ancient culture into the modern civilization of an industrial Power, and they are thus in a position to play an important part in promoting social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom, and in furthering the maintenance of international peace and security.

6. From my own experience, I know that the deliberations of the General Assembly will gain by the participation of the representative of Japan, who will give us the benefit of his wise counsel and statesmanship. I am sure I am expressing the unanimous sentiment of all my fellow representatives when I offer our sincere congratulations and good wishes to him and to his country.

7. I shall now call on the Vice-Presidents of the eleventh session.

8. Mr. TSIANG (China): The admission of Japan makes this day a happy one for the United Nations. It is, I am sure, also a day of rejoicing in Japan.

9. Japan is unique among the nations of the world. It is both an ancient and modern nation. It has succeeded marvellously well in harmonizing its ancient culture with modern industry and technology. In this respect, what Japan has achieved is both an example and an inspiration to many countries of Asia which are travelling along the same path. Japan's experience in harmonizing the old and the new will be invaluable to many countries in the old world.

10. Contemporary Japan is sincerely devoted to the ideals of peace and democracy. For these reasons, my delegation has always contended that Japan is fully qualified for membership in the United Nations.

11. So far as this is concerned, no representative either in the Assembly or in the Security Council has ever questioned the qualifications of Japan for membership in this world Organization. Now, at last, Japan is one of us. We are sure that this new Member will play an important role in the United Nations and will make valuable contributions to the important work which this Organization undertakes.

12. We in China are particularly happy today, because, in addition to geographical propinquity, China and Japan have between them many bonds of Eastern culture. In extending my hearty welcome to Japan, I am expressing the feelings of affection which my people have towards the people of Japan.

13. Mr. URQUIA (El Salvador) (*translated from Spanish*): Two equally gratifying circumstances enable me to take the floor at this time as we give expression to our justified enthusiasm at the admission of Japan to the United Nations: the first is my position, a reflection of the honour conferred upon my country, as one of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly; the second and no less honourable circumstance is my position as chairman of the group of Latin American representatives accredited to the United Nations, with the consequence that I can speak on behalf of all my colleagues from that part of the world.

14. Japan should have been admitted a year ago, on 14 December 1955, when, after unremitting efforts over a long period of time, all members of the Security Council, permanent and non-permanent, at last agreed to facilitate the admission of a large number of States whose applications had not previously been approved by the Council, either because they had not received the requisite number of votes, or on account of the persistent opposition of one of the permanent members, expressed through the immoderate use of the anti-democratic privilege of the veto, which had unfortunately been proposed and accepted at the Yalta Conference, then reaffirmed in the Dumbarton Oaks proposals and later endorsed at the San Francisco Conference when the voting procedure of the Security Council was laid down in the Charter.

15. Owing to political interests which are no secret, Japan had to continue to wait for an invitation to enter this Organization as a Member, while sixteen other States were admitted in the last few days of the tenth session of the General Assembly.

16. With the admission of Japan, which has at last become a fact this morning through the impressive unanimous vote of the Members of this Assembly, and the admission of Morocco, Tunisia, and the Sudan, which took place barely a month ago, and that of sixteen States in December 1955, the number of Members of the United Nations has risen to eighty, which means

that, with very few exceptions, all the peoples of the world now belong to this Organization and so have an opportunity of taking part in its work and of exerting themselves to ensure the effective realization of the Purposes and Principles of the Charter.

17. Some nations which, for special historical reasons, are divided despite the efforts of the United Nations to unify them, are still missing from this Assembly. This is the case, for example, of a great European country, Germany, and of an important Asian country, Korea.

18. The Latin American delegations express the hope that both Germany and Korea will soon be unified, and are prepared to continue their efforts to accomplish this object and to do everything possible to secure the admission of those nations to our Organization.

19. On the occasion of today's admission of the great Far Eastern country to membership of the United Nations, these delegations extend their warmest welcome and congratulations to Mr. Shigemitsu, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and through him to His Majesty, the Emperor Hirohito and to the noble, industrious and intelligent Japanese people who, we are all sure, will make a most valuable and efficient contribution to the work of the United Nations.

20. Mr. BROUSTRA (France) (*translated from French*): The French delegation is especially happy to associate itself with the statements just made by the President and by the representatives of China and El Salvador.

21. As I said quite recently in the Security Council, since 1952 France has spared no effort in its endeavour to facilitate the admission of Japan to our Organization. France regretted that that great country failed to gain admission last year, but today these regrets have been mitigated because the delay has made it possible for Japan to be admitted in conformity with the principles and rules of the United Nations Charter, instead of under a compromise regarding which we voiced the most express qualifications at the time.

22. Today's vote in the General Assembly on the draft resolution laid before it was based on solid grounds. By adopting it, the Assembly has signified, without equivocation, that it considers Japan a peace-loving State. It has taken note of the fact that Japan has accepted the obligations laid down in the Charter, and recognized that Japan is able and willing to discharge those obligations.

23. We, for our part, have never had any doubts on this score, and we are happy to welcome here a great country with which France maintains very friendly relations in every respect. France has a high regard for the civilization and culture of Japan, and the French people have the greatest admiration for the qualities so often demonstrated by the Japanese people. The French delegation considers that the admission of Japan to our Organization can only help the United Nations in the discharge of its task.

24. Japan is joining our ranks at a difficult period in our history. We are confident that in this Assembly it will whole-heartedly uphold the principles on which our Organization was founded. For these reasons, the French delegation takes very sincere pleasure in welcoming Japan in our midst.

25. Mr. Krishna MENON (India): The Assembly has the privilege and the pleasure of welcoming a new Member to the United Nations, and the draft reso-

lution recommending the admission of Japan was sponsored by a very large number of Member States belonging to different parts of the world.

26. It is my privilege to represent my delegation in according to the Japanese delegation a welcome to this Assembly and also to point out that among the sponsors of the draft resolution appears the name of every Asian and African Member State of the United Nations.

27. Japan applied for membership in 1952, and my country, along with all other Asian and African countries, has consistently supported its admission to the United Nations. We are also very happy to note that today the Japanese delegation is led by Mr. Shigemitsu, who has been so largely responsible for the emergence of Japan in this age of peace and co-operation, the Deputy Prime Minister and several times Foreign Minister of Japan.

28. My delegation looks forward to a great deal of co-operation, as well as advice and assistance, from Japan, with which we have very ancient cultural ties as well as more recent relations in the economic, political and other spheres. The Government of India desires to state at this moment that during the six years that Japan was under military occupation, it pressed for a generous, early and just settlement with Japan. The Government of India was unable to sign the Peace Treaty of San Francisco for the reason that that multilateral treaty contained provisions which, in its view, did not afford the necessary position of honour and equality to the Japanese people, and therefore we took early steps to conclude a separate peace treaty with Japan and terminate the state of war. Today India has treaties of trade and friendship with Japan, and we hope these relations will continually increase.

29. With the admission of Japan as a Member of the United Nations, we are beginning a new period for that country, which, on the fateful and unfortunate day of 27 May 1933, left the comity of nations by its withdrawal from the League of Nations. This is a signal, therefore, for a more united world, a world in which a great country of Asia, in the space of less than half a century, has emerged from an earlier civilization into all the equipment of modernity, with great industries, and developed its economic life and made itself a great Power. Asia looks to Japan for its contribution to its own territorial neighbourhood as well as to the whole world in the technical, economic and other fields.

30. The countries of Asia and Africa were particularly glad to welcome the Japanese delegation at Bandung in Indonesia last year, where that delegation played an important part.

31. We were unanimous in expressing our sympathy and our feelings in regard to the atomic bombing of Japan during the war, the only country that suffered from this particular form of war punishment. Our sympathies also go out to the Japanese people, who today are more exposed than any other people in the world to the effects of atomic radiation in their neighbourhood.

32. The Government of India will use its best endeavours to co-operate with the Japanese delegation in the General Assembly and in the work of the United Nations. We have no doubt that, whether in its bilateral relations or in our multilateral relations, as in the Colombo Plan or in the various technical and other operations in which Member States of the United

Nations are engaged, Japan will make a very important contribution.

33. It is also of importance for us to point out at this time that the draft resolution recommending the admission of Japan was sponsored by the permanent members of the Security Council, as well as by States which in various ways do not see eye to eye with each other. So far as we are concerned, there is no one who is more welcome and in regard to whose admission we are happier. We hope that the presence of Japan in this Assembly will add to the expression of the voice of the still unheard countries, and that very soon Japan's relations with its neighbours will become more regular and more organic, as they should be and as they have been in past history. To all this our delegation will make its best contribution.

34. Mr. VITETTI (Italy): I wish to associate myself with the inspired words with which the President has welcomed the admission of Japan to the United Nations, and to join with the other representatives who have preceded me in expressing the deep gratification of the Italian delegation at this event, which was strongly advocated by the Italian Foreign Minister during the general debate [588th meeting].

35. Last year, the gratification of Italy at being admitted, together with other States, to the United Nations, was somewhat lessened by the fact that at that time it had not been possible to obtain the admission of Japan. Now we are particularly happy that this lamentable vacancy has been filled.

36. The friendship which has always existed between our two countries and which dates back to the seventeenth century adds a special satisfaction to the privilege I have here in welcoming with warm sympathy the long-expected admission of the Japanese nation as the eightieth Member of the United Nations.

37. The unanimous vote which has just been cast in favour of the admission of Japan reflects clearly the profound respect we all profess for the thousands of years of high civilization of that country, as well as the sincere conviction that the Government of Japan not only will be a strong supporter of the principles established by our Charter, but will also make a highly important contribution to the fulfilment of our basic common aim—the fostering of peace and security throughout the world.

38. The admission of Japan to membership of the United Nations is certainly an important addition to the vast number of peace-loving States which are pledged to defend in every part of the world, with a deep sense of responsibility and with firm determination, the fundamental principles upon which rests the hope of all mankind, and which will ensure the universal triumph of justice, freedom and democracy.

39. Considering the political and economic importance of Japan in the modern world, we feel sure that its contribution in all fields of the vast activities of the United Nations will be of considerable consequence. Its admission is also a new and decisive step towards the final goal of universal membership, which is obviously our common aim. Allow me to express the hope that the few States, and first of all Germany, which are still out of the United Nations for reasons not deriving from their own will, although they meet all the requirements asked for by the Charter, will be able in the near future to acquire full membership and thus ensure to our work the contribution of their experience and wisdom.

40. Let me therefore welcome today the admission of Japan as an important step towards this final goal and as a most valuable acquisition for the United Nations.

41. Mr. KUZNETSOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (*translated from Russian*): The delegation of the Soviet Union congratulates the Japanese people and Government on the admission of Japan to the United Nations.

42. The representatives of the Soviet Union in the United Nations are eager to co-operate with the representatives of Japan in the solution of problems before the United Nations. As you know, the Soviet and Japanese Governments, in their joint declaration 19 October 1956 announcing the resumption of normal diplomatic relations between the two countries, stated that they would base their relations on the principles of the United Nations Charter.

43. Japan's participation in the work of the United Nations will help to promote practical co-operation between Japan and other States. By following an independent and peace-loving policy, Japan will be able to make its own contribution to the work of strengthening peace and security in the Far East and throughout the world.

44. The admission of Japan to the United Nations is another step forward in the process of implementing the principle of the universality of the United Nations. The Soviet Union supports this important principle and, for its part, is doing everything possible to ensure that the United Nations becomes a real centre of practical co-operation between all States in the interests of peace and international security.

45. It should, however, be noted that there is still evidence of a policy of discrimination in the United Nations in connexion with the realization of the principle of universality. While expressing satisfaction at the admission of Japan, a large Asian country, to the United Nations, the Soviet delegation regrets that another Asian country—the Mongolian People's Republic—still remains outside our Organization. A few days ago, certain members of the Security Council, including the United States, the United Kingdom and France, again prevented the admission of the Mongolian People's Republic to the United Nations, and thereby once again flouted the will of the overwhelming majority of the General Assembly which, in its resolution [918 (X)] of 8 December 1955, recommended the admission of the Mongolian People's Republic to the United Nations.

46. The Soviet delegation is confident that the United Nations will find means to overcome the obstacles artificially raised by certain Western Powers and will become a truly universal organization.

47. The Soviet delegation welcomes the Japanese representatives who are present and hopes that the United Nations will receive the support of Japan in its efforts to maintain peace.

48. Sir Pierson DIXON (United Kingdom): It is a great pleasure for me to join in welcoming the eminent Foreign Minister of Japan and the distinguished delegation which accompanies him, as they take their seats here among us today.

49. Justice has at last been done to the Government and people of Japan, and it is a privilege for us to be here to witness this event. It will give great pleasure to my Government and the British people to know that Japan has taken its rightful place in this Organization.

50. Japan has an important role to play here and can contribute much to our deliberations. Its great experience in the field of international affairs will be of inestimable value, and in the economic and social fields the United Nations will derive much benefit from the collaboration of a country with so many achievements to its credit. In particular, as one of the great nations of Asia, Japan's presence will do much to assist us in our consideration of matters affecting that most important area of the world.

51. History and a community of outlook bind together the island countries of Japan and the United Kingdom. My delegation looks forward to the closest co-operation here in the United Nations with our Japanese friends.

52. Mr. LODGE (United States of America): It is a great pleasure to extend the warm welcome and greetings of the United States to the newest Member of the United Nations, a country with one of the oldest civilizations in the world: Japan.

53. Out of the productive springs of Japanese culture have come some of the finer things of life which have benefited the entire world. Classical Japanese drama, the delicate feelings of Japanese art, the simple beauty of Japanese architecture and the subtlety of Japanese poetry have enriched the lives of all humanity. Furthermore, with the admission of Japan to our membership, we bring into our midst not only an ancient civilization, but also a country with an advanced technology and a modern outlook. This advanced level of technology will enable Japan to contribute greatly to the industrial development of less developed areas. As an industrial nation with a large international trade, Japan can be expected to contribute in many different ways to the work of the United Nations.

54. Japan began its ties with the modern world a century ago. The United States was actively involved in those new contacts from the very beginning. Our relations, with the exception of the tragic period of the Second World War, have always been cordial and close, and we confidently believe that they will continue to be so in the future.

55. We are gratified that a few years ago Mr. Dulles, who is now the Secretary of State of the United States, personally undertook the negotiations which resulted in the Peace Treaty with Japan, restoring Japan to its proper sovereign role in the community of nations.

56. The steady and vigorous efforts of many Governments and many peoples have finally resulted in Japan's admission to this great world forum, after it had been unjustly denied its rightful place for many years by a clear-cut abuse of the veto. Let me in particular pay a tribute to the untiring efforts of the representative of Peru, Mr. Belaúnde, as Chairman of the Good Offices Committee. The part that Mr. Belaúnde played was indispensable and is a monument to his sagacity and statesmanship.

57. As the representative of the host Government, I extend a cordial greeting to the Foreign Minister of Japan, Mr. Shigemitsu, and assure him that the United States delegation to the United Nations is looking forward to the constructive contributions which we are confident the Japanese delegation will make to the United Nations in all the complicated issues with which we must deal.

58. The admission of this great nation marks a very important day for the United Nations. Japan's ad-

mission will greatly increase the influence, vigour and value of our Organization.

59. The PRESIDENT: I now have the great honour and pleasure of calling on the representative of Japan.

60. Mr. SHIGEMITSU (Japan): On behalf of the Government and people of Japan, I wish to express our profound gratitude for the warm and friendly words just spoken by the President in welcoming my country to the United Nations. It is indeed a matter for gratification to us that our admission to this great world Organization has taken place during the presidency of this Assembly of a distinguished statesman and diplomat who represents our traditional friend, Thailand. I wish also to express my sincere thanks for the kind greetings of the Vice-Presidents of this Assembly.

61. Japan first applied for membership nearly five years ago. It has been a long and anxious wait for us. But our people fully understand that our failure to be admitted until today has been due to external reasons beyond our control. This has given us all the more cause to receive with a deeper sense of gratitude the words spoken by the representatives of those friendly States which have so ardently supported the admission of my country.

62. I wish to avail myself of this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to the eminent representatives of those States which have endeavoured unsparingly during these long years to enable us to realize our cherished hope. Let me also tender our heartfelt thanks to the Secretary-General, who has steadfastly supported our cause with his great wisdom, from which we have benefited enormously.

63. The people of Japan today desire peace for all time, and are deeply conscious of the high ideals controlling human relationships. We have determined to preserve our security and existence, trusting in the justice and faith of the peace-loving peoples of the world. We recognize that all peoples of the world have the right to live in peace, free from fear and want. We desire to occupy an honoured place in an international society striving for the preservation of peace and the banishment of tyranny and slavery, oppression and intolerance, for all time from the earth. We believe that no nation is responsible to itself alone, but that the laws of political morality are universal; and that obedience to such laws is incumbent upon all nations that would sustain their own sovereignty and justify their sovereign relationships with other nations.

64. These sentiments express the firm conviction of the people of Japan, a conviction which is expressed in the preamble of our Constitution and which is in complete accord with the Purposes and Principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations.

65. The application for membership submitted by Japan on 16 June 1952 [S/2673] stated:

"The Japanese people have an earnest desire to participate in the work of the United Nations and to utilize the purposes and principles of the Charter as a guide to the conduct of their affairs."

The declaration accompanying the application stated:

"The Government of Japan hereby accepts the obligations contained in the Charter of the United Nations, and undertakes to honour them, by all means at its disposal, from the day when Japan becomes a Member of the United Nations."

We solemnly renew these pledges today as we take our seat among you.

66. Many grave problems now beset the world. The United Nations is faced with a momentous challenge—the crises in the Middle East and in Eastern Europe. They are evidence of the need for vigorous action by this Organization in order to maintain peace and security.

67. In the effort to solve the Middle East crisis and thereby relax international tensions, the United Nations, with the overwhelming support of its Members, has played a tremendous role, the effectiveness and importance of which is indeed incalculable. It is epochal that it has created an international Emergency Force and is effectively employing that Force as a new instrument in coping with a most difficult situation. It is our earnest hope that the United Nations will always command the widest possible power consonant with its mission as an instrument of world peace. I feel it appropriate at this point to pay a tribute to the Secretary-General, who has played an effective role in implementing the decision of the United Nations.

68. In regard to the situation in Eastern Europe, we Japanese cannot but feel deep sympathy for the plight of the people of Hungary. We fervently hope that the voice of the Hungarian people will be heard and that their situation will be relieved in accordance with the resolutions of the General Assembly.

69. Japan is gratified that, together with the maintenance of peace, the United Nations places great importance on humanitarianism. It has taken up the problem of disarmament as a major task in the pursuit of its objective of maintaining peace. It is also devoting its efforts to the prohibition of weapons of mass destruction, because of its vital concern for humanity.

70. Being the only country which has experienced the horrors of the atomic bomb, Japan knows its tragic consequences. It was from this standpoint of humanity that, in response to the earnest desire of the people, both Houses of the Diet of Japan adopted in February 1956 a resolution calling for the prohibition of the use and testing of nuclear bombs. It came from a prayerful desire that mankind might not again be visited by the horrors of mass destruction.

71. We earnestly hope that, under the leadership of the United Nations, the great task of disarmament will be successfully consummated and mankind secured from a calamitous fate and relieved from the inhibitive psychology of fear. It is most encouraging that the United Nations is now taking an active initiative in facilitating the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

72. Whatever the uncertainties and the tension in which the world is placed today, and whatever their causes, there should be no problems that cannot be resolved peacefully with the united strength of the eighty nations which now constitute our Organization. It would be utter folly for mankind, which today has entered upon the atomic age, to pursue a path that would lead to its own annihilation.

73. In the region of Asia in which Japan is situated, the world situation is reflected and here, too, tensions have not receded. No one can say with certainty that a situation like that in the Middle East will not arise in Asia. I am moved to say that the United Nations, in the spirit of the Charter, must constantly be alert to situations which are a potential threat to peace; it must not simply cope with crises after they have occurred, but devise measures to prevent them.

74. Especially in East Asia, where conditions of peace have not yet been fully restored, there are still many potential dangers. In this connexion, I believe that we should separate ourselves from ideological issues and devise a realistic approach to the practical problems involved. From this standpoint, Japan has resumed diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, terminating an abnormal technical state of war which had continued for eleven years. We took this step in the belief that it would contribute to peace and security in East Asia. It goes without saying that to find the basis for lasting peace and stability in East Asia is an obligation of East Asian nations.

75. The basis for peace and progress in Asia is to be found in the economic development of the countries of the region. The countries of Asia today are devoting their full efforts toward their economic advancement. Not a few of them require the further assistance of the United Nations and its Members in order to make their efforts more fruitful. Japan's relations with them are those of mutual co-operation and common destiny, whether in the political or economic fields, and it holds great expectations from the growth and development of those countries.

76. Nationalism thrived in Eastern Europe after the First World War, and has risen in the Arab and Asian regions since the Second World War. It is a natural process in the liberation of mankind. I believe it should be fostered with understanding, but that it should avoid running into excesses or into extreme nationalism.

77. Japan today faces many difficulties in maintaining the livelihood of its people. Foremost among these difficulties is the problem of supporting an excessive population in its small territory. I need not say that the motive power to maintain livelihood and raise living standards lies in the industry of the people. Our people do not shirk hard work. Both men and women are labouring industriously at their places of work. But the great problem of national policy is how to make effective the labours of our people. We know that the best solution to our population problem is to be found in internal economic development and in the promotion of foreign trade through increased production. Hence we are extremely sensitive to obstructions to international trade.

78. Japan, therefore, welcomes any efforts of the United Nations to promote the freer flow of people and goods across national boundaries as an effective policy of peace. In this respect, all of us would be building a firm basis for peace and justice by developing the unexploited resources of the world and making life more abundant for peoples everywhere.

79. Japan is a country that has a world-wide interest in trade and commerce. At the same time, it is a country with the history and traditions of an Asian nation. Herein is to be found the reason for our participation in the Asian-African Conference at Bandung last year. We whole-heartedly support the ten principles of peace adopted by that Conference, which are in complete accord with the spirit of the United Nations Charter. Peace is one and indivisible. Japan believes that the United Nations is the world's central driving force for peace.

80. The substance of Japan's political, economic and cultural life is the product of the fusion within the last century of the civilizations of the Orient and the Occident. In a way, Japan may well be regarded as a bridge between the East and the West. It is fully conscious of the great responsibilities of such a position.

81. May I close my remarks by expressing again before this great Assembly the resolve of Japan to serve sincerely the high cause of the United Nations.

#### AGENDA ITEM 59

#### Question of amending article 2 of the Statute of the International Law Commission to increase the membership of the Commission

REPORTS OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE (A/3427 AND CORR.1) AND THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/3461)

*Mr. Bailey (Australia), Rapporteur of the Sixth Committee, presented the report of that Committee and then spoke as follows:*

82. Mr. BAILEY (Australia), Rapporteur of the Sixth Committee: The Committee wishes me to draw the attention of the General Assembly to paragraph 13 of the report, for that paragraph places on record the existence of certain understandings reached between groups of delegations as to the manner of allocating the additional seats on the International Law Commission.

*Pursuant to rule 68 of the rules of procedure, it was decided not to discuss the report of the Sixth Committee.*

83. The PRESIDENT: As no Member of the Assembly wishes to explain his vote on the draft resolution recommended by the Sixth Committee [A/3427 and Corr.1], I shall put the draft resolution to the vote.

*The draft resolution was adopted by 75 votes to none, with 1 abstention.*

#### AGENDA ITEM 18

#### Election of the members of the International Law Commission

84. The PRESIDENT: May I draw the attention of the representatives to two notes by the Secretary-General: one containing the list of candidates nominated by Member States for membership of the International Law Commission [A/3155/Rev.1]; the other outlining the method of election of members of the Commission [A/3459].

85. In accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure, the election will be held by secret ballot.

86. I recognize the representative of Paraguay on a point of order.

87. Mr. MONTERO DE VARGAS (Paraguay) (*translated from Spanish*): On behalf of the delegations of El Salvador and Uruguay, who do me much honour, and of my own delegation, I request the President and the representatives to the General Assembly to agree to the postponement of this item until tomorrow afternoon, because for weighty reasons we are not yet able to state our positions with respect to this election. I therefore hope that the President will agree to my request, with the concurrence of the Assembly, and that this item will be postponed until tomorrow afternoon, 19 December.

88. Mr. QUIROGA GALDO (Bolivia) (*translated from Spanish*): The Bolivian delegation opposes the postponement of the election of the members of the International Law Commission which is scheduled for today. We consider that there are no reasons that could justify a postponement. All the representatives present here are ready to vote, and for at least a month the Foreign Ministries of all the countries have been committed to positions with which we are all familiar; these

commitments could hardly be affected by a twenty-four-hour postponement of the vote scheduled for today. A further consideration is the fact that the General Assembly elects the members of the Commission on the basis of the personal qualifications of each candidate. Accordingly, the Assembly votes not for States but for individuals, and hence it would be wrong and improper to draw up lists of candidates, and *a fortiori* for the various regional groups which exist informally in the United Nations to present such lists.

89. For these reasons the Bolivian delegation requests the General Assembly to proceed immediately with the election of the twenty-one members of the International Law Commission.

90. The PRESIDENT: I shall now put to the vote the proposal that the election of the members of the International Law Commission be postponed.

*The proposal was rejected by 27 votes to 4, with 27 abstentions.*

91. The PRESIDENT: We shall now proceed to the election of the members of the International Law Commission.

*At the invitation of the President, Mr. Mangasha (Ethiopia) and Mr. de Gripenberg (Finland) acted as tellers.*

*A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

Number of ballot papers:	78
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	78
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	78
Required majority:	40
Number of votes obtained:	
Mr. Spiropoulos (Greece).....	68
Mr. Pal (India).....	64
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Mr. Cang (Cambodia).....	32
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Mr. Ruiz Moreno (Argentina).....	29
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Mr. Myint Thein (Burma).....	22
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Mr. Pratt de María (Uruguay).....	12
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Mr. Ocampo (Chile).....	8
Mr. Ibérico Rodríguez (Peru).....	6
Mr. Aycinena Salazar (Guatemala).....	4
Mr. Balladore-Pallieri (Italy).....	4
Mr. Escudero (Ecuador).....	4
Mr. López Pineda (Honduras).....	4
Mr. Núñez (El Salvador).....	4
Mr. Ramírez Boettner (Paraguay).....	3
Mr. Sangoudhai (Thailand).....	3
Mr. Sapena Pastor (Paraguay).....	3
Mr. Rolz Bennett (Guatemala).....	2
Mr. Argüello Vargas (Nicaragua).....	1
Mr. Valle Candía (Nicaragua).....	1

*The first twenty-one persons listed above, having obtained the required majority, were elected to membership of the International Law Commission.*

#### AGENDA ITEM 5

#### Constitution of the Main Committees and election of officers

#### AMENDMENTS TO RULES 31, 38, 39 AND 101 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY: REPORT OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE (A/3404)

*Mr. Bailey (Australia), Rapporteur of the Sixth Committee, presented the report of that Committee.*

*Pursuant to rule 68 of the rules of procedure, it was decided not to discuss the report of the Sixth Committee.*

92. The PRESIDENT: Since no representative wishes to explain his vote on the draft resolution presented by the Sixth Committee [A/3404], and since the Committee approved its draft resolution without a vote, I presume that the Assembly will adopt it in the same way.

*The draft resolution was adopted.*

93. The PRESIDENT: Before adjourning the meeting, I have to announce that the French delegation will have a statement to make in connexion with the question of the Middle East at the end of this afternoon's meeting.

*The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.*