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President: Miss Angie E. BROOKS (Liberia).

AGENDA ITEM 77

Appointments to fill vacancies in the membership of subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly:

- (a) **Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;**
- (c) **Board of Auditors;**
- (d) **United Nations Administrative Tribunal**

REPORTS OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE
(A/7731, A/7733, A/7734)

1. Mr. WOSCHNAGG (Austria), Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee: I have the honour to submit on behalf of the Fifth Committee the Committee's reports on the elections held so far to fill vacancies in the membership of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions [A/7731], the Board of Auditors [A/7733] and the United Nations Administrative Tribunal [A/7734]. In the case of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions the election related to the vacancy resulting from the resignation of a member of that Committee. In each report the Fifth Committee has recommended a draft resolution which it is hoped will receive the approval of the General Assembly.

Pursuant to rule 68 of the rules of procedure, it was decided not to discuss the reports of the Fifth Committee.

2. The PRESIDENT: The first report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 77 [A/7731] refers to the vacancy in the membership of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions as a result of the resignation of Mr. André Ganem with effect from 15 November 1969.

3. The recommendation of the Fifth Committee appears in paragraph 5 of its report. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Assembly adopts the draft resolution recommended by the Committee.

The draft resolution was adopted [resolution 2493 (XXIV)].

4. The PRESIDENT: The next recommendation of the Fifth Committee, concerning the appointment to fill a vacancy in the Board of Auditors, appears in paragraph 5 of its report [A/7733]. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Assembly adopts the draft resolution recommended by the Committee.

The draft resolution was adopted [resolution 2494 (XXIV)].

5. The PRESIDENT: The next report concerns appointments to the United Nations Administrative Tribunal. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Assembly adopts the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 5 of its report [A/7734].

The draft resolution was adopted [resolution 2495 (XXIV)].

AGENDA ITEM 33

Effects of atomic radiation: report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE
(A/7722)

6. Mr. AKONGO (Uganda), Rapporteur of the Special Political Committee: It is my privilege as Rapporteur of the Special Political Committee to present to this Assembly the report of the Committee's examination of agenda item 33—the first of the items allocated to it at this session.

7. The need to ensure that the effects of radioactive contamination are studied and widely understood is recognized by all. The report of the Scientific Committee is important because it attempts to meet this basic need. That report was considered by the Special Political Committee at

its 643rd and 644th meetings, during which some 20 representatives took the floor.

8. The suggestion that the Scientific Committee should consider the responsibility of producing, in addition to complete detailed reports such as those that have hitherto been produced, a short summary of its findings written in layman's language for purposes of wider circulation received broad support.

9. On 17 October the Committee adopted unanimously a draft resolution sponsored by 16 delegations. The text of the proposal is contained in paragraph 7 of the Special Political Committee's report [A/7722] which is now before the Assembly.

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

10. The PRESIDENT: Since the draft resolution recommended by the Special Political Committee and reproduced in paragraph 7 of its report [A/7722] was adopted unanimously by the Committee, if I hear no objection I shall take it that the General Assembly also adopts it unanimously.

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously [resolution 2496 (XXIV)].

AGENDA ITEM 8

Adoption of the agenda (continued)*

FOURTH REPORT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE (A/7700/Add.3)

11. The PRESIDENT: In paragraph 2 of its report [A/7700/Add.3] the General Committee recommended that an additional item entitled "Co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity: Manifesto on Southern Africa" should be included in the agenda of the twenty-fourth session. It further recommended that the item should be considered directly in plenary meeting.

12. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the General Assembly approves the Committee's recommendation that this item should be included in the agenda and that it should be considered directly in plenary meeting.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 25

Celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations: report of the Preparatory Committee for the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the United Nations (continued)**

13. The PRESIDENT: Before calling on the first speaker, I should like to inform representatives that if there is no

objection I shall close the list of speakers in the debate on agenda item 25 at 5 p.m. today. That will enable us to organize our work as we shall then have an indication of the number of representatives who wish to speak. If there is no objection, I shall take it that it is agreed that the list of speakers on item 25 will be closed at 5 p.m. today.

It was so decided.

14. The PRESIDENT: It would be of great assistance if delegations intending to submit draft proposals or amendments on agenda items 25 and 24 did so as soon as possible so that I could give the Assembly a clearer idea of the schedule of work.

15. Mrs. GAVRILOVA (Bulgaria): Madam President, the head of my delegation, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, had the opportunity of congratulating you on your election to the high post of President of the General Assembly this year; nevertheless, since I believe that I am the first woman to speak in a plenary meeting at this session, I am happy to express the satisfaction of my delegation at the skilful manner in which you have guided the work of the Assembly for more than a month. We are very proud that you have proved once again—I do not wish to say the superiority—of the female sex, but at least the equality of the ability and capability of both sexes in all fields of human activity, as well as the equality of the capabilities of men and women from all countries, from all continents, races and nations. We thank you for that and wish you further success.

[The speaker continued in Russian.]

16. The delegation of the People's Republic of Bulgaria is a member of the Preparatory Committee for the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the United Nations. It took part in the work of the Committee and its Bureau with pleasure and profound satisfaction, mindful of the importance of the forthcoming event—the twenty-fifth anniversary of this eminent international forum whose fundamental principle is the defence of peace and the strengthening of international co-operation.

17. The United Nations is the first world organization of its scale in the political history of mankind. With its 126 Members it is the first interstate organization to have existed so long—for a quarter of a century.

18. Historically, of course, this may not seem a very long time; but since other world political bodies and organizations have not survived so long in the past, we can say that this in itself is an event of great historical significance.

19. The very fact that the United Nations has stood fast, that it has withstood and still withstands all the upheavals and complexities of contemporary international life, that it has not surrendered during these 25 years and is not surrendering in the face of all manner of present-day trials and tribulations and in spite of all the contradictions, political, economic and ideological, from which under the present conditions of our society there is no escape—this indeed is proof that it is both vital and necessary and meets not only the legitimate aspirations of the peoples for peace, but also the objective needs of social development in our time.

* Resumed from the 1885th meeting.

** Resumed from the 1788th meeting.

20. The work of preparing for the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations is not only an honour but also is a continuing source of moral satisfaction. Although the everyday work of the United Nations and particularly its machinery for implementing its political decisions still, as we all know, leave much to be desired.

21. The twenty-fifth anniversary of the Organization seems, however, a good opportunity to lay the foundations for its future consolidation and, as the Secretary-General himself said not long ago, it should constitute a turning point in the development of the United Nations. We are of the opinion that all the essential conditions are present to enable the United Nations truly to become one of the most reliable means of maintaining international peace and security.

22. The delegation of the People's Republic of Bulgaria considers that the twenty-fifth anniversary should provide an opportunity for Members—since it is upon us Members that the United Nations depends both for its efficiency and sense of purpose and for the practical political effectiveness of its decisions—to ensure that the main attention and the main efforts of all its organs are directed towards progress and the solution of the problems on which the strengthening of peace and international security depend.

23. In our opinion the anniversary year should not be primarily a year of solemn functions. Rather it should be marked by doubled and redoubled efforts of Member States by a strengthening of their readiness to co-operate in order to achieve by collective means a further relaxation of international tension and, within the possibilities open to the United Nations, to remove the causes which have for so long prevented the easing of situations in very important areas of the world.

24. In this connexion the Bulgarian delegation considers the proposal made at this session by the Soviet delegation and the Soviet Government [A/7654] concerning the creation of a system of international collective security to be most timely, and one of the most important factors for eliminating the danger of another world war and for preserving peace not only in specific regions but throughout the world.

25. The delegation of the People's Republic of Bulgaria considers that the most important part of the report of the Preparatory Committee [A/7690 and Corr.1] lies in the proposals directed towards the political strengthening of the Organization, towards the creation both within it and outside it of conditions, of an atmosphere in relations between Member States that will make it possible to promote more successfully than before, more successfully than during the first 25 years of the existence of the United Nations, the realization of its fundamental principles and noble purposes: to maintain peace throughout the world, in every region and corner of our beautiful planet, to promote the progressive social and economic advancement of the peoples of all lands, the eradication of all forms of enslavement of man by man, and the elimination of the last traces of colonialism, oppression and all other kinds of inequality and discrimination against national or racial minorities which are out of place in our civilized society.

26. The Bulgarian delegation fully supports the proposals contained in the report of the Preparatory Committee and in the draft resolution [A/L.568/Rev.1 and Corr.1] requesting the Secretary-General to co-operate with the principal organs of the United Nations and the Committees of the General Assembly in preparing for discussion in the coming anniversary year documents of greatest significance for further strengthening the effectiveness and authority of the United Nations—a milestone on the road to realization of its fundamental purposes and principles. The main topics involved are disarmament, the strengthening of international security, the affirmation of the principles concerning friendly relations among nations, the definition of aggression, and renewed efforts by the Organization to eliminate all traces of colonialism, all the most glaring infringements of human rights, such as the policy of *apartheid* with all its inhuman consequences, and all manifestations of racism, nazism and every other policy and propaganda tending to stir up warfare and chauvinistic hatred among nations.

27. The Bulgarian delegation considers these activities the most important of all the measures proposed in the report, and will do its utmost to share in carrying them out, since efforts to solve these problems and to carry out these measures next year would indeed be a worthy contribution towards celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, in keeping with the Organization's political and humanitarian purposes and a sign to the whole world that both the individual Members and the United Nations as a whole are sincerely seeking peaceful means of solving all the controversial problems of our time and establishing among States relations which will truly meet the pacific and creative aspirations of all peoples of the world.

28. The Bulgarian delegation would like to touch upon another question in connexion with the Preparatory Committee's report: the participation of youth in the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations. We are of the opinion that the interest recently shown in the problems of youth by certain organs of the United Nations is completely justified. For the United Nations and its aims and tasks are not confined to the present day, to the events of the moment, but also are directed towards the future. Not for the present generation alone does the United Nations strive to keep the peace, but mainly for the young people, for the future generations of mankind. There can be no need to recall here that the effort to preserve life is a characteristic of youth, that young people are essentially enemies of destruction, enemies of all forms of annihilation, since they represent the powerful and creative, not the destructive reactionary forces.

29. To our delegation it seems that measures should long ago have been taken to ensure the participation of the young people of our time in the life and work of this supreme international political body in which are discussed and sometimes decided the fate of individual nations, the problems of their future development, and questions of peace and war in one or other region of the world.

30. The participation of representatives of youth in the measures to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations at the national, regional and international levels is entirely justified. The inclusion of representatives of the younger generation in the national delegations to the

twenty-fifth anniversary session of the General Assembly is also in our view altogether appropriate.

31. There is, however, one extremely important point to which our delegation has repeatedly drawn attention in the work of the Preparatory Committee but which in the report now lying before us is mentioned very much in passing, in chapter V, paragraph 37, sixth line, in the following words:

[The speaker continued in English.]

“One view was that a world youth assembly should provide opportunities for participation of youth representatives from all over the world—from Member States as well as from non-Member States.” *[A/7690, page 7.]*

[The speaker resumed in Russian.]

The “one view” referred to is in fact not one view, since it represents the opinion not of one but of several delegations, and is officially shared by ISMUN (International Student Movement for the United Nations), the only international youth organization so far consulted by the United Nations Secretariat in connexion with the proposals for convening an international youth assembly during the coming year. At its General Conference in Kampala, Uganda, a few months ago, ISMUN officially adopted a memorandum requesting the United Nations to ensure participation in the international assembly of representatives of young people of all countries, including those which are not yet Members of the United Nations.

32. It is true that a decision by the General Assembly on the convening of an international youth assembly or congress, as mentioned in the draft resolution concerning the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, has not yet been taken. This is still only a proposal. There has not yet been any precise definition of the aims and character of such an assembly, although obviously in itself it is a good and a positive idea. But, as a number of delegations stated several times in the Preparatory Committee, even before the decision is taken to convene an assembly of this kind and before youth organizations are invited to participate in it, its purpose, nature and composition should surely be clearly defined.

33. How, roughly, will the invitation be worded? Can we really say: “Youth of the whole world, the United Nations invites you to a world assembly or world congress; but only young people from the 126 countries which are Members of the United Nations can participate in its work—nobody else”? Why only those countries? If the General Assembly takes a decision to convene a world youth assembly as such and not as a subdivision or conference for the youth of the United Nations, if it decides that the theme of the assembly should be “peace and progress”, then clearly the rules of the United Nations should not apply to participants in the assembly. Who gives us the right to prevent young people from taking part who are also on the side of peace and progress but who have the “misfortune” of having been born in a country which for various reasons has not yet been admitted to, or has been deliberately excluded from, membership in the United Nations? On what principle can we take upon ourselves the responsibility of refusing young people from these countries the right to participate in the

one international assembly where the youth of the whole world can freely exchange opinions on the most burning questions of our time—how to avoid war between the nations and mobilize young people everywhere to strengthen international co-operation?

34. Participation of representatives of youth organizations from all countries is not the same thing as participation of representatives of States and Governments in the work of the United Nations.

35. If the General Assembly decides to convene a youth assembly, this should in our view be sponsored by the United Nations but should at the same time be a free international forum for young people, dedicated to the theme of peace and progress. In that case we should have nothing to fear from inviting to it youth from every country and every organization in the world, except of course, of those which are militant and which have included in their programme propaganda for racist or nationalist hatred and incitement to war. Clearly, in this instance, there are no grounds for discriminating against a section of the young people of the world, for dividing them according to whether they belong to Member countries or non-member countries of the United Nations. There is no reason to be afraid of giving young people from literally all countries an opportunity to sit round the same table in the same room and discuss the one truly vital question—the question of maintaining peace throughout the world.

36. Our delegation is convinced that the young from different countries and from organizations with various ideologies will find a common language. They are bound to find one in which to discuss peace and how to put an end to present military conflicts and other hostile activities between individual States in different parts of the world. Surely we can all be convinced of this if we honestly consider contemporary trends in international youth movements.

37. If, on the other hand, we do not do so but decide to make a distinction between young people, to exclude some of them from participation in the first youth assembly devoted to peace since the end of the Second World War; if we exclude, for example, the young from the two German States, or those who even now are burning in the flames of war imposed by alien forces on the people of Viet-Nam, or those again from other very important or very large countries; then indeed we shall be transplanting and extending the unsound tendencies and defects of our own interrelationships to the outlook, now in process of development, of the younger generation in the four corners of the globe, an outlook which is clearly dominated by feelings of solidarity, mutual respect and understanding. This too we should take into consideration.

38. The question whether the assembly should include young people from Member countries only or from all nations in the world should not in our view be subject to considerations of temporary expediency. If, as we see it, the idea and purpose of the assembly is to encourage the youth of the whole world and of every creed actively to support the aims and tasks of the United Nations, in other words, the maintenance of international peace and security, then we cannot exclude any part of the world's youth,

since these ideas kindle the imagination and affect the lives and future of all young people, without exception, whether they live in a country which is a Member of the United Nations or do not.

39. It is for this reason that the delegation of the People's Republic of Bulgaria earnestly calls the attention of the General Assembly to the question of the "one view", that is on the convening under the sponsorship of the United Nations of a free and truly universal youth assembly, since only that kind of assembly would either be justified or make sense. But if we consider that conditions and views are not yet ripe for it, then it might perhaps with advantage be postponed for about a year in order to make the best possible preparations by consulting many more youth organizations, rather than to convene prematurely a merely quasi-universal assembly.

40. Before concluding I should like to remind the General Assembly that the United Nations is in large measure the heir to the fundamental principles of the former League of Nations. Naturally we are striving not to repeat its shortcomings and mistakes. At the same time, however, its few positive achievements must not only be studied and used but also developed. I am thinking particularly of the world youth movement in defence of peace which was born in the thirties as a result of precisely this kind of international youth assembly convened on the initiative and under the sponsorship of the League of Nations. Both the youth movement and the League of Nations itself were of course brought to an end when Hitler invaded the free countries of Europe, just before the movement's last assembly was scheduled to be held in New York in the autumn of 1939.

41. I do not wish to dwell any further on the universal nature of the movement nor on the assemblies which were held successively in Brussels, Geneva, Paris and even New York. I merely want to emphasize that 33 years ago, in spite of the menace of nazism in Europe, the League of Nations, a far less representative and international organization than the United Nations, did not hesitate, in fact considered it an achievement, to invite young people to the assemblies from both Member and non-member States, from all the corners of the earth, regardless of their ideological, political or religious convictions, excepting only those prevented from attending by the reactionary Governments or colonial Powers of the day. The young people at the assemblies discussed with complete freedom and great enthusiasm the very same themes of peace and progress which are proposed for the youth assembly today.

42. Perhaps before the final decision is taken on convening a youth assembly next year we might suggest to the Secretariat and the Preparatory Committee that the youth assemblies of the thirties should be studied more deeply and in greater detail. There is undoubtedly something we can learn from them.

43. The last question I should like to touch upon is the possibility of considering, before coming to a definite decision about the assembly, the opinion and proposals of several delegations who feel that it should not necessarily be held in New York. It seems to us to be an essential criterion for such an assembly that young representatives

from all countries, whether they are on friendly terms with the host Government or not, should be absolutely free to enter the country and attend the assembly. In this connexion it would seem appropriate to discuss the proposals put forward in the Preparatory Committee that the assembly might be held, for example, in Geneva, Paris, Vienna or Rome, all of which of course have headquarters of organizations within the United Nations system.

44. With these concluding remarks, I thank you for your attention.

45. The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of Bulgaria for the compliments she paid the Chair.

46. Mr. MOJSOV (Yugoslavia): Next year we shall be celebrating the anniversary of our Organization which has been in existence for a quarter of a century. That important date makes it incumbent upon all of us to consider carefully the ways and means of marking that jubilee in a most meaningful and most appropriate manner—in a way which would best reflect our common aspirations and projections of the future role of the United Nations.

47. It was at the end of the most devastating war in the history of mankind that the United Nations was born. It was created for the sole purpose, as clearly stated in the Charter, "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war . . . to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the . . . equal rights of . . . nations large and small . . . to live . . . with one another as good neighbours," developing their material and spiritual potentials on the basis of equitable co-operation.

48. Much has changed in international relations since the adoption of the Charter. The present-day world obviously greatly differs from the one envisaged by the founders of our Organization. However, in spite of all the changes that have taken place in the international constellation, the Charter and the fundamental principles enshrined in it have not diminished in their timeliness and significance. On the contrary, if we were to seek a common ground and incentive for the observance of any anniversary of the United Nations in a manner that would best serve the solution of the countless pressing problems, in my opinion, it is to be found in the fact that even after 25 years the principles governing relations among States as formulated in the Charter remain a lasting pillar of all our actions. The sovereign equality of States, the right of all peoples to self-determination and unobstructed development, the renunciation of the threat or use of force, the inviolability of the territorial integrity of States, the peaceful settlement of conflicts, and the economic and social progress of all—all these are the very principles whose universal respect, application and practice among all States, without exception, should constitute the guidelines of the United Nations.

49. The celebration of the anniversary next year should, in our opinion, commence with a full rededication to those principles and to their further implementation, in conformity with the exigencies of our time. My delegation, like many others in this Assembly, attaches great importance to the twenty-fifth anniversary of our Organization. A large number of statements made in the general debate are a clear

indication of a lively interest on the part of Member Governments in not only an appropriate presentation of the commemoration, but, above all, in having it acquire a working character—that is, in having it serve as a general reorientation, strengthening the role and increasing the effectiveness of the United Nations in international relations. Furthermore, we are of the opinion that the commemorative session should serve for the adoption of decisions on some important matters that have become ripe for solution and on those matters on which substantive preparatory work has already been completed.

50. Kindly allow me to quote at this point from a statement made in this year's general debate by the Yugoslav Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs:

“... it will be essential, at the present session and in the period preceding the anniversary session, to settle at least some of the more urgent questions that this Organization has been discussing for so many years. I have in mind first of all the drafting of a declaration on the principles governing friendly relations between States, the formulation of an international development strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, and the preparation of a programme of action for the abolition of colonialism.” [1763rd meeting, para. 132.]

51. My Government has already communicated these suggestions to the Preparatory Committee for the twenty-fifth anniversary in its reply, on 8 May 1969, to the Secretary-General, who asked for views and specific recommendations and suggestions from Member States [see A/7690, annex I]. I feel that there is no need to stress further the importance of the so-called seven principles of friendly relations that have been considered and elaborated for years by the Special Committee of the General Assembly;¹ they are all based upon the Charter. However, their specification and formulation in a form of declaration taking into account all our experiences and the progressive development of international law would make a substantive contribution to the struggle for a more consistent respect and application of all those principles in international life. The primary objective of the United Nations is to preserve peace and security in the world. However, the history of the last quarter of a century has on innumerable occasions demonstrated that the source of instability and crises lies precisely in the violation of these fundamental principles, owing to the more frequent use of force and the attempts to impose upon other peoples foreign domination and hegemony.

52. The only course open for the overcoming of such a practice lies in concerted efforts of the widest circle of States with a view to having the United Nations play the role it has been entrusted with, that is, to act as a true and universal forum of the broadest equitable international co-operation by promoting friendly relations among all States. The anniversary session provides the most propitious occasion not only for the reassertion of such an orientation of our Organization but also for the adoption of a pertinent decision—a declaration, as I have already said, would be one such document needed by all of us.

¹ Special Committee on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States.

53. I do not wish to reiterate the expectations and importance which the developing countries, among them my country, attach to the Second United Nations Development Decade. It is extremely important to have this task completed in time and in a satisfactory manner. The General Assembly decided last year [resolution 2411 (XXIII)] that a draft of an international development strategy should be prepared by the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Development Decade and it has been suggested this year that this declaration should be proclaimed at the time of the twenty-fifth anniversary of our Organization. This would have particular meaning and significance for mobilizing world public opinion for the purpose of assisting the United Nations to cope successfully with the challenge posed by the Second Development Decade. My delegation is firmly convinced that we should decide now and take upon ourselves an obligation to the effect that we shall not spare efforts to have the jubilee celebration crowned with such a programmatic document.

54. My delegation has studied with keen interest the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the United Nations [A/7690]. The report contains a number of useful ideas and suggestions which can contribute towards having the anniversary observance exercise a greater influence upon the possible results. I should like to emphasize that my delegation appreciates especially those efforts aimed at having the anniversary utilized for the strengthening of the United Nations by reaffirming the faith of Governments and peoples in the purposes and principles of the Organization and, as stated in the report, by renewing their endeavours

“to maintain international peace and security... to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples... and to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion” [ibid., para. 28].

55. The recommendation of the Preparatory Committee that the objective of the commemoration should be the highlighting of substantive matters while recognizing of course its ceremonial aspects is also very useful. It is only natural that the entire twenty-fifth session should be a commemorative session. However, a certain period prior to 24 October 1970 should be distinguished by special celebrations. During special ceremonial occasions, possibly with the participation of the largest possible number of Heads of State or Governments, final documents of the session could be adopted. These documents would undoubtedly have to be prepared in advance by the existing Preparatory Committee or another special committee or committees of our Organization. The work on these documents would have of necessity to be speeded and brought into line with the priorities to be determined by the General Assembly. Documents thus prepared would be submitted to the General Assembly for approval in the early phase of the twenty-fifth session. For this reason my delegation feels that the work of these Committees should be considered their direct contribution to the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.

56. As regards the choice of topics and the adoption of eventual documents during the commemorative session, we are of the opinion that primary United Nations activities in political, economic, social, humanitarian and legal areas should be covered. A number of such topics have already been indicated in the report. In addition to this it would be useful to examine the possibility of adopting a general document, as suggested originally by the Secretary-General, which would review the past activities and progress of the United Nations and chart the main course of the future activity of our Organization. Here I should like to point out that my delegation is firmly convinced that the future and more effective role of the United Nations is inconceivable without the full universality of the United Nations, that is, unless all States are admitted into membership of our Organization—more specifically to have all States represented by their lawful Government. We all must make additional efforts to harmonize our views on this issue with a view to overcoming every form of exclusiveness or discrimination with respect to this or that State or its lawful government, which is, through artificial barriers, being prevented from joining the Organization.

57. I should like to add in conclusion that my delegation, together with some other delegations, will eventually submit some more concrete suggestions and proposals, or take part in further consultations with other delegations at the stage when we shall consider a draft resolution on the subject with a view to contributing in formulating the most appropriate resolution—one that will enjoy the support of the majority of our Organization.

58. Mr. LEGNANI (Uruguay) (*translated from Spanish*): Now that the United Nations is preparing to celebrate its foundation and its coming of age—it is still very young—I believe that the most appropriate thing to do is to plan commemorative activities which will make all the world aware of the importance of its existence as an institution. These activities should be educative and be designed to teach and to inform people on the vastest imaginable scale about the Organization's weighty tasks, about its instruments and its machinery, about the functions of its organs and about the tasks which each of these is accomplishing within its special sphere. These tasks should emphasize definitely how important the existence and strengthening of this international organization of States are for the world, whatever reorganization or changes may be required for its improvement, and how vital it is that the influence and authority of the United Nations should progressively increase in world affairs and in the shaping of world opinion.

59. But, besides those commemorative activities and the others of equal or greater importance proposed here by other speakers, my delegation considers that this anniversary which we are to celebrate would be a particularly appropriate occasion for the United Nations to promote measures for increasing mutual understanding among peoples. In other words, my delegation is advocating measures which will strengthen and consolidate the United Nations itself.

60. We would bring societies closer together, particularly those living in remote regions and shut off from others as though by water-tight compartments. We would stimulate

and encourage human relationships and, to this end, make peoples known to each other who are still unknown. For instance, we would make the peoples of Europe and America known to the rest of the world. That would promote the formation of a real and effective social community, which would truly correspond to the internationally-organized legal community which links the States Members of the United Nations.

61. The press, books, radio, cinema and television have indeed done, and are doing, much to promote understanding among peoples. It is also true that in the last few years, as a result of many very varied cultural, scientific, economic, sporting, commercial and recreational interests, there has been and continues to be an increase in exchanges of people from different countries of the world, extending man's personal knowledge of his fellow men. It is this knowledge, obtained through direct personal contact, which my delegation believes the United Nations can help to promote by undertaking, on the occasion of the coming anniversary, an extremely important task, in which it can enlist the co-operation of Member States, the regional organizations, the international non-governmental organizations, national and international transport companies, and all other public or private bodies which might help it to achieve its purpose.

62. In specific terms, my delegation proposes that the United Nations, at the twenty-fifth anniversary of its foundation, should promote through the Secretary-General or the appropriate organ an exchange of group visits: between groups of students, teachers, members of professions, workers, businessmen, industrialists and people from the most important walks of life in each country. In particular, these exchanges should be promoted between the peoples of the West and the East, between the peoples of Africa, Asia and Oceania and those of Europe and America, and between the peoples of the developed and the developing countries. To this end the Secretariat, or whichever organ is considered appropriate, would request Member States and the other organizations and bodies I have mentioned to co-operate by reducing fares and providing all kinds of other concessions for the transport and accommodation of the visiting groups.

63. Getting to know personally peoples other than one's own or similar societies, peoples with different features, customs and ways of life, is one of the surest ways to mutual understanding, to comprehension of the problems and difficulties which beset the family of man and to acceptance of them as one's own, and rightly so, since they extend beyond the sectors and groups where they arise and affect all other members of the community.

64. Contribution to direct personal understanding between societies which know practically nothing about each other will open ways to material progress through emulation, invitation and assimilation of the experience of others. Man's moral sense will also tend to improve, since his mind and heart will be led by his ever-growing knowledge to assess the soundness and justice of human goals and to assist in framing them.

65. Our proposal is that the human community should acquire a clearer self-consciousness, and then the United

Nations would be strengthened and its work would improve. The measure my delegation is proposing may seem modest compared to the important anniversary we are to celebrate. Still, representatives could perhaps adopt it as a complement to other more definite or further-reaching proposals, reflecting with the classical Spanish author that the smoke from a few straws usually points a good road.

66. Mr. SPACIL (Czechoslovakia) (*translated from Russian*): The Czechoslovak delegation regards the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations as an important landmark whose significance goes far beyond mere pomp and ceremony. We should therefore not only take a decision on the scope and intensity of the celebrations but should, above all, also use this anniversary for taking stock of the achievements the United Nations has to its credit and of its possibilities and tasks at the present stage of development of international relations. The United Nations certainly deserves such analysis. With all its problems, which we take into account, we shall always stress that it is an organization which has much to its credit and has often played an important part in solving problems of peace and security. It seems to us essential to stress the practical aspects of the twenty-fifth anniversary celebrations. In our view the silver jubilee should not be merely an occasion for a few solemn speeches, but rather an opportunity to decide how best to improve the work and increase the effectiveness of the United Nations. It should also be used to commemorate the 25 years of the Charter on which the activities of the Organization are based and to highlight and reaffirm both the principles on which it rests and the concept from which it springs. If the Organization has achieved any positive results, as indeed it has, during its first quarter of a century, it has done so only when it has been guided by strict adherence to the principles of the Charter. In our view it would be unwise and indeed fatal for the future of the United Nations, if the anniversary were used to initiate changes in the basic principles and concepts of the Charter. We cannot conceal that we have found cause for apprehension in certain speeches made in the discussion of other items on the agenda of this session.

67. A second point which we feel should be stressed when discussing the coming celebrations is that the anniversary should provide a stimulus to the solution of certain problems which have preoccupied the United Nations for many years. We are very glad that the Preparatory Committee has reached the same conclusion, as is clear from its report [A/7690 and Corr.1]. There are many such problems, ranging from the obvious problems of disarmament, problems concerning the removal of all traces of colonialism from the world, economic and social development and the universality of the United Nations, to problems of codification. As a representative of the delegation which a few years ago initiated work on a declaration relating to principles of international law concerning friendly relations and co-operation among States, I should like to express our conviction that the twenty-fifth anniversary should be used as an occasion to complete and adopt that important document.

68. When the First Committee of the present General Assembly was still discussing the strengthening of international security, the Czechoslovak representative pointed out

that it would be unrealistic to imagine that codification of the principles of international law concerning peaceful coexistence would by itself provide a miraculous means of getting the principles automatically adopted and applied in relations between States. Of course we all realize that this depends mainly on the willingness and readiness of the States concerned. Nevertheless there can be no doubt that the existence of an international instrument like the proposed declaration on the principles of international law concerning friendly relations and co-operation among States would do much to ensure that States were guided by such principles in their dealings with each other. It is enough to recall that what we now term peaceful coexistence, which was achieved mainly by the socialist countries, was until very recently regarded with suspicion or rejected out of hand. Yet today hardly an international meeting goes by without somebody stressing the need for peaceful coexistence. Thus if the Czechoslovak delegation takes the view that the twenty-fifth anniversary should provide an opportunity for completing work on codification of the document which for brevity's sake we may call a declaration of the principles of peaceful coexistence, then it is merely meeting in accordance—and of this we are firmly convinced—with the needs of the current state of international relations. We are very pleased that our conviction is shared by many other delegations, as has been clearly shown in the present discussion.

69. The report of the Preparatory Committee for the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the United Nations contains many recommendations summing up the views of Member States, and on the whole we are in agreement with them. In general we also approve of the basic ideas expressed in the draft resolution arising out of these recommendations [A/L.568/Rev.1 and Corr.1]. We realize, however, that the draft resolution has not yet been formally introduced, and we therefore do not wish to make any formal comments at this point. We should, however, like to make a few remarks, which we hope the sponsors will still be able to take into account. We agree that the theme of the anniversary should be "Peace and progress", and we should also welcome the adoption of another idea: that 1970 should be declared the "Year for Peace", as suggested by the delegation of India. But if we do decide to declare the coming year a year for peace, we must see to it that this does not remain a mere empty slogan, but in fact reflects the true situation. It is therefore essential for the peace-loving forces to redouble their efforts against war until they succeed in eradicating it from the regions in which it still rages or where its embers still smoulder.

70. The report of the Committee and the draft resolution both propose that a final document should be prepared assessing the past record of the United Nations and at the same time outlining the tasks which lie before it. We consider such a recommendation appropriate. In this connexion we think we should stress that the work of the Preparatory Committee will be made considerably easier if, as we sincerely hope, the present General Assembly adopts the proposal of the Soviet Union for an "Appeal to all States of the world" [A/7654]. We are of the opinion that any document which is solemnly adopted on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations should include the basic principles of the "Appeal to all States of the world", and possibly even the full text.

71. The recommendations of the Preparatory Committee and the draft resolution also provide for the convening of a world youth assembly. We consider that this would be a good way of emphasizing the role of youth in the world in which we live and showing that we understand its problems, while at the same time giving its representatives a chance of realizing their responsibility for the world in which their generation will grow up. We feel, however, that it should be stressed that such a measure can only be meaningful and show results if it does not remain a mere formality but is carefully prepared and above all given a definite sense of purpose. Since the English text refers to a "world assembly", it is also essential that it should be attended by representatives of youth from all States of the world. On this point we are entirely in agreement with the Bulgarian representative who has just given such a full and detailed explanation of the need for universality in connexion with the proposed world youth assembly, and we have nothing to add.

72. Moreover, we are not content with the wording of article or paragraph 13 of the draft resolution, which has not yet been formally introduced, the appeal to "complete as early as possible consideration of important conventions still to be concluded". In view of the need to finish work on such important international instruments as the Declaration on principles of international law concerning friendly relations and co-operation among States, the definition of aggression, etc., we should prefer that in the English text, after the words "important conventions", the words "and other instruments" be added. If necessary we can make a formal proposal; but we hope that the sponsors of the draft resolution will feel able to take our suggestion into account and perhaps explain to us that their wording is in fact to be interpreted in this way.

73. In conclusion I should like to stress that the Czechoslovak delegation, as indicated by its remarks in the Preparatory Committee, considers that an essential part of the commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary should be the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Everything possible should be done to ensure that the celebration, especially this part of it, is accompanied by a real attempt to remove the last traces of colonialism from the world and bring independence to all peoples still suffering under the colonialist yoke.

74. With regard to the new draft resolution [A/L.570], which has only been issued today and has not yet been formally introduced, I should like to reserve my delegation's right to comment on it if necessary at a later stage.

75. I should like to state that the Czechoslovak Government, moved by the desire to play a constructive part in the commemoration of the silver jubilee of the United Nations and in the preparations for it, will hold fast to the principles I have just outlined and will be guided by the same spirit in celebrating the anniversary in our own country.

76. Mr. SCHRAM (Iceland): I should like, on behalf of my delegation, to congratulate the Preparatory Committee, its Chairman and its Bureau on the excellent work they have done in producing their report [A/7690]. We warmly

endorse and recommend the draft resolution concerning the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations [A/L.568/Rev.1 and Corr.1].

77. We do agree that the commemorative event should provide us with an opportunity of re-evaluation and even soul-searching in connexion with our own record for the past 25 years. It should be an event for renewed efforts to make the United Nations a much more effective instrument for peace and progress throughout the whole world. Only if we succeed in this all-important task will the anniversary have served a positive purpose, pointing to new milestones on our way to a more peaceful and prosperous world.

78. In our view it is especially important that the commemoration shall serve to emphasize the importance of reaching the young people of our countries, telling them about the aims and ideals of our Organization. We live in a world and at a time in which youth has lost its bearings in many respects and is searching for a new purpose in life. With rededication of the original ideals of the United Nations, adapting them to a new and changing world, we should be able to provide young people of all countries with something worth-while to believe in. Therefore, we heartily endorse the ideas of a youth assembly, a United Nations volunteer corps of young men and women, and an anniversary declaration with emphasis on the new generations who are the inheritors of this Organization. If the young people of this world grant us their interest and dedicated support, we are certainly not a declining institution. After all, it is the youth of today to whom we will hand over the United Nations tomorrow. Youth is entitled to know, and should know, what this inheritance means.

79. Therefore, my delegation would like to add a new idea to the ones already found in the Committee's report, for this express purpose. We suggest, as already mentioned in the statement of the Foreign Minister of Iceland to this session of the General Assembly [1762nd meeting], that the Assembly should recommend that all Member Governments make arrangements, through their respective Ministries of Education, that during the scholastic year which begins in 1970 one hour of class in every month should be devoted to studies of the United Nations, its purposes and activities during the last 25 years. These studies should be conducted in every classroom at all ages and levels, from elementary school to the highest institutions of learning. This monthly hour of instruction and study about the United Nations in schools throughout the world should be in addition to any instruction and curricula now in effect.

80. Although this action is proposed only as a gesture in observance of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations and the International Education Year in 1970, it is our hope that Member States might like to adopt the idea as a permanent feature in their school systems and that it could be the beginning of an established and required curriculum in the future in all schools of Member States—a goal which I am sure the Assembly will agree is a desirable one.

81. Thus, the youth of the world at school, millions of pupils, many of whom will become the leaders of their fellow men in the next decades, will have about nine hours of instruction about the United Nations during the scho-

lastic year. This would have a tremendous impact on the growing generations and such an impact might actually make the difference in international relations that really matters.

82. In our opinion, it would, indeed, be the greatest anniversary present for the United Nations to give youth an opportunity of learning and understanding the idea behind its existence, that should and, we all hope, will "save succeeding generations from the scourge of war".

83. The information needed for the required teaching material is already available within the Secretariat of the United Nations. With little effort and minimal expense the educational authorities in each Member State should be able to adopt and prepare the available information for the different school levels to suit their own special needs in accordance with circumstances and traditions.

84. Finally, may I be permitted to add that such a recommendation would be in the Assembly's best tradition. The General Assembly has from the outset recognized the importance of education in disseminating knowledge and understanding of the United Nations. Thus the Assembly, as early as at its second session in November 1947, the Economic and Social Council and UNESCO, on several occasions, have reiterated their interest in the furthering of education about the United Nations. From reports submitted by Member States to the Secretary-General during the years it is clear that, although considerable effort has been made in many countries to increase and improve teaching about the United Nations, there is still room for improvement in this regard.

85. There was not time to present this proposal to the Preparatory Committee for the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the United Nations before it completed its excellent report; but it is our own earnest hope that the new anniversary committee which is to be established will find it a worth-while element in the forthcoming celebrations.

86. Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand): Madam President, as one of the founder Members of the United Nations, New Zealand welcomes this opportunity of speaking on the item now before us—the question of how we might most appropriately celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of our Organization. New Zealand may without complacency, claim to have played an active role at the founding Conference of the United Nations in San Francisco, particularly in relation to questions concerning decolonization and trusteeship. We have affirmed our continuing faith in the United Nations in the years since then and can speak today of an honest and determined effort to fulfil our obligations under the Charter. We can point to sustained and conscientious endeavours in that time to play a modest part in the activities of the Organization whether in the field of trusteeship, collective security, peace-keeping, economic and development aid or the promotion of social and human rights. In the reflective and sombre mood of today's Assembly let us not overlook however significant achievements of our Organization in these and other matters during the last 25 years.

87. However, this is or should be an occasion to look forward rather than backward. The New Zealand delegation

has read with considerable attention the interesting report issued by the Preparatory Committee for the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the United Nations [A/7690] and would offer its congratulations to the Chairman and members of the Committee for the able manner in which they have sought to come to terms with this extremely complex question. Indeed, on reading their report it becomes abundantly clear that this subject is one which has aroused the great interest of many delegations and on which there appear to be as many opinions as there are Members of this Organization. I have no intention of adding to the plethora of ideas already put forward, but I should like, on behalf of my Government, to offer some general remarks and comments on the Committee's conclusions.

88. As a starting point my delegation fully endorses the view of the Secretary-General in his introduction to his annual report on the work of the Organization [A/7601/Add.1, para. 198] that the most fitting manner in which to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the Organization would be to make progress in the coming months towards the goals of the Charter, in particular in relation to international peace and security, including disarmament, and in economic and social development. May I add that in order to make progress in these critical areas of international relations, the small States look in the first instance to the major Powers for leadership and example.

89. In this respect my delegation fully shares the belief expressed by the representative of the United States [1788th meeting] in his eloquent and constructive statement to the Assembly that perhaps the Charter needs in some respects to be amended, but more important and more urgent it needs to be implemented. We are indebted also to the representative of Mexico [ibid.] for an indication of modifications which might be made to the Charter in order to bring about necessary structural changes and improve the functioning of various organs of the United Nations.

90. The addresses made in this year's general debate indicated, in my delegation's view, a widespread recognition of the Secretary-General's words. Almost everyone who spoke displayed a deep awareness of the significance of our forthcoming anniversary at a time when we should take a long, cool and, one would hope, objective look at our Organization—at its successes, at its failures, at the relationship of its practice to its principles, at its structure and its methods of work, and most important at the attitudes of its Members and their responses to its activities in all fields.

91. My own Prime Minister was among the many speakers who urged that our anniversary ought to be approached in this spirit when he said:

"For the vast and growing human family, the United Nations and its ideals are still of primary significance. Each year up till now we have rededicated ourselves to the Charter's magnanimous spirit and resolved to translate its principles into action. In this coming anniversary year something more is required, I suggest. I believe there is a serious new duty incumbent upon individual Member States—and upon the Organization as a whole—to take account of the increasing questioning among the peoples

of the countries we represent, not only about the effectiveness of the United Nations machinery, but also about whether the whole concept of San Francisco is still valid and adequate after a quarter of a century's operation." [1757th meeting, para. 135.]

92. The Prime Minister went on:

"In a world that has already seen man walking on the moon, the time surely has arrived for a close and searching inquiry about whether the Charter is adequate to deal with the problems of today. We should also look closely at the structure of the Organization which we set up so long ago; we should look to see if it is even adequately suited to our new circumstances. We believe we should consider whether the highly formalized procedures of the General Assembly are still appropriate. We are not satisfied with a Security Council which is used for discussion without result and which impairs the status of the Council itself. I believe that we must ask ourselves what is needed to ensure that what we describe as debates are something more than a dialogue of the deaf." [Ibid., para. 136.]

93. My delegation believes that it is in the light of considerations such as these that we must examine the various suggestions and recommendations set out in the report before us. The New Zealand delegation has therefore been pleased to note that a number of suggestions put forward by Members have centred on the need for the twenty-fifth anniversary to be an occasion for serious study of some of the more important problems currently facing the United Nations. In so far as such problems relate to the possible reform of our procedures, patterns of work and organization, studies directed towards practical ways and means of bringing about greater efficiency and effectiveness in these areas could serve an extremely valuable purpose. We are less certain, however, about the utility or indeed the value of suggestions that such studies might also include more wide-ranging problems such as disarmament, peace-keeping, collective security, and the possible uses of outer space and the sea-bed—to mention but a few of the specific issues cited in the Committee's report. Those questions are, of course, already under study within the United Nations. There has indeed been no lack of study of any of them. It is not for want of study that they have so far not been resolved but because of lack of political will on the part of Members to seek their solution. To our mind a practical demonstration of the willingness and determination of all concerned to seek solutions to these urgent and pressing problems would serve to mark our anniversary in a far more positive manner than would initiation of yet further reports, papers and indeterminate, and hence inoperable, resolutions.

94. In those circumstances we have been pleased to note and support the suggestion set out in the report that some form of encouragement be given to the wider acceptance of those international agreements and treaties which, while they have been endorsed and supported by the United Nations, have been rendered ineffective or have been impaired by their limited acceptance on the part of the great Powers or of the international community. Ideally it would be even more satisfactory if, as has also been suggested, it proved possible to secure some new and important international agreement in time to mark our

anniversary. To our mind the most obvious area in which such an agreement would be of the greatest significance is that of disarmament. Any new agreement should, however, be a substantial and significant move leading to actual and effective reduction and control of armaments.

95. For much the same reasons the New Zealand delegation would also be inclined to question the value of declarations, appeals and the like issued in commemoration of the anniversary of an organization, however important in principle might be their subject matter. One of the major problems at this stage of the Organization's existence is how to translate the innumerable words we produce into positive action. To add yet further to the mass of such statements, however estimable their intentions and however deeply felt their sentiments, will do little to help the international community come to grips with the practical problems it faces. It will do even less to restore the present lack of public confidence in the capability of our Organization.

96. In view of this diminution of confidence, on which a number of speakers commented in the general debate, we believe that there is considerable merit in the various suggestions put forward concerning the need to make the United Nations better known throughout the world. That, to our mind, can best be achieved through the various national programmes which Members will be initiating to mark the anniversary. New Zealand, for its part, has already begun to give consideration to a range of activities which would help to serve that end.

97. Perhaps these national programmes might be usefully associated and co-ordinated with activities to be undertaken by Member Governments in connexion with the International Education Year. Such co-ordination would, we think, greatly assist in the involvement of young people in our activities. There is undoubtedly a very real need for the youth of the world to be made more aware of the programmes of the United Nations, of the purposes that it is designed to serve, and of the role that they might play in these times of accelerating change. We therefore consider the proposed youth assembly to be a valuable step in that direction.

98. While the involvement of youth in the activities of our Organization is a laudable aim in itself, it is yet another factor which serves to strengthen the obligations of Member States themselves to work towards the goal of an effective and positive United Nations. The participation of youth should help us prove that the United Nations is not—as many people, and particularly the young, are beginning to believe—a vast talking shop in which principles are idly tossed from hand to hand until they are worn as smooth as marbles. The young people today are suspicious—and who will say without justification—both of their elders and of the Organization their elders have created. If these suspicions are to be dispelled, it is not enough, we believe, simply to arrange for meetings of young people, to institute international essay competitions for them dealing with the work of the United Nations, or to seek to have young people represented on delegations to the General Assembly. It is necessary to show that these principles to which we all subscribe can and do have a practical application that is beneficial to the future peace and prosperity of mankind.

99. If I have been critical in a number of my remarks, it is not because the New Zealand delegation in any way undervalues its membership of the United Nations, nor do we believe that the United Nations does not have a vitally important role to play in the maintenance of international peace and security. My delegation does not seek to downgrade the importance of the commemoration of the first 25 years of our existence. All of us can be justifiably proud of our past successes, and none of us should allow the memory of past failures to cause us to lose heart for the future.

100. It has been agreed that the theme of our celebration should be peace and progress. This in itself is a reflection of the forward-looking attitude which, we consider, should be adopted towards the whole matter of the twenty-fifth anniversary. It is in accord with this desire to see the anniversary represented not as the last step of the past but as the first step towards the future that the New Zealand delegation hopes that, apart from the formal celebration common to such occasions, such other activities as are to be associated with the anniversary should be positive and practice¹ and serve to carry forward even more successfully than in the past the work of this Organization in its next 25 years.

101. The New Zealand delegation will support the draft resolution sponsored by Canada and 17 other delegations [A/L.568/Rev.1 and Corr.1].

102. Mr. MONTEIL (France) (*translated from French*): The French delegation would like briefly to explain its position with regard to the draft resolution prepared by the Preparatory Committee for the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the United Nations.

103. First of all, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the members of the Preparatory Committee, and in particular its Chairman, Mr. Akwe, and its Rapporteur, Mr. Mario Franzi, for their efforts in carrying out their task. The fact that my country is not among the sponsors of the draft resolution in no way prevents it from paying a well-deserved tribute to the representative of Ghana and the deputy permanent representative of Italy, and their colleagues on the Bureau. Nor does this mean that it disagrees with the main provisions of the draft.

104. Of course, we should have wished certain suggestions to conform more closely to the customary procedures of the Organization. We should have preferred the draft to specify, for the sake of accuracy and effectiveness, that the international instruments which States are called upon to ratify or accede to are those which are, it goes without saying, deposited with the Secretary-General. We should have preferred that the proposals in the text, and in particular the proposal to convene a world youth assembly, should be more detailed and more thoroughly considered, so as to leave nothing vague or unclear. But essentially, I repeat, the provisions of the text do meet with our approval; and therefore France will vote in favour of the draft resolution.

105. Can the delegation of a country such as mine, a founding Member of the Organization, fail to be gratified that the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations will

be celebrated in ceremonies which will enhance its value? In our view, however, this anniversary should first of all be an opportunity for giving careful thought to the future of the Organization. It would be desirable to benefit from the timely opportunity given us to draw up an honest balance sheet of our past activities and decide realistically on the prospects towards which our future actions should be directed. Despite many positive accomplishments, emphasis should be placed on what remains to be done, rather than on what has already been done, to attain the purposes of the Charter.

106. If next year's commemorative session were distinguished by a common and increased desire to intensify the Organization's efforts to ensure respect for law throughout the world, that, in our opinion, would be a step in the right direction. A solemn reaffirmation by Member States of their loyalty to the Charter, perhaps in due course taking the form of a final document adopted by the General Assembly, seems to us an appropriate way of giving that attitude concrete form.

107. In the atmosphere of general goodwill and international co-operation which would thus be created, would it not be to the advantage of all if we could use the most modern information techniques to disseminate simultaneously to all parts of the world and in all languages a general view of the celebrations that will take place here during the period before 24 October 1970?

108. Such an effort would certainly have the not negligible effect of echoing as widely as possible Member States' expression of their faith in the ideals of the United Nations. It would also help to arouse in various circles of public opinion the interest which our work deserves but does not always inspire.

109. Without dwelling on the many causes of this fact, we must recognize that it is particularly regrettable when it affects young people. Since we see that young people in all countries are showing not only a will to participate more directly in the activities of the societies in which they live, but also a strong and often passionate desire to ensure a lasting reign of peace, how can the United Nations, whose essential task is peace, not be involved in this far-reaching movement?

110. Thus my delegation supports the principle of holding a world youth assembly in 1970. A meeting of that kind, which is probably unprecedented, should obviously be prepared with the greatest care. The problems raised by its organization must be settled in the light of experience acquired in such work by specialized agencies such as UNESCO. It will be necessary to avoid placing too heavy a burden on the Organization's budget; and everything must be done to prevent discussions from becoming simple political or demagogic demands, which the sometimes riotous behaviour of some of today's young people might lead us to fear. In our opinion that danger could be avoided if we chose sufficiently concrete and specific topics which could lead to practical and realistic conclusions, and requested the youth organizations in Member States to consider them in advance. A question such as "the role of international organizations in building the society of the future" would certainly be of the greatest interest and

would give scope for the expression of a broad range of opinions and suggestions. Of course many other subjects could be considered, and we should discuss them in the months to come.

111. In conclusion, I cannot fail to mention how very illogical and regrettable it would be if celebrations of the twenty-fifth anniversary were limited to the various headquarters and structure of the United Nations. These celebrations must also be national. In France arrangements are already being made for an impressive commemoration of this anniversary. My Government, which intends to collaborate for that purpose with the competent private association, plans to organize celebrations in which several of its members, and representatives of Parliament, will participate. It also intends to organize conferences in

universities and schools, and to distribute to the public pamphlets on the work of the United Nations.

112. At the beginning of my statement I emphasized the spirit which had prevailed during the discussions of the Preparatory Committee, whose work the General Assembly is now called upon to approve.

113. The draft resolution before us would replace that Committee by one which would prepare and co-ordinate plans and organize activities for the anniversary. I should like to express the hope that the members of the new committee will show a will to co-operate and a desire to succeed like those which moved the Preparatory Committee. My delegation, for its part, is determined to do so.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.