

United Nations  
**GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY**

TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION

Official Records



**2036th  
PLENARY MEETING**

Saturday, 23 September 1972,  
at 10.30 a.m.

NEW YORK

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*President:* Mr. Stanisław TREPCZYŃSKI (Poland).

AGENDA ITEM 8

Adoption of the agenda (*continued*)

FIRST REPORT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE  
(A/8800/REV.1)

1. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): We will now continue our consideration of the recommendations contained in paragraph 16 of document A/8800/Rev.1.

2. Mr. NAKAGAWA (Japan): Mr. President, I am very glad to see you in the Chair, but as we are now discussing a procedural question, I should like to defer until a somewhat later date my further congratulatory remarks.

3. The General Committee, at its 199th meeting on 20 September, decided unanimously to recommend that items 35 and 36 should not be included in the agenda, and also decided by an overwhelming majority to recommend to the General Assembly the postponement of consideration of items 37 and 96 until the twenty-eighth session.

4. The Japanese delegation supports those decisions for the following reasons. Since the last session of the General Assembly we have witnessed further promising signs in Korea pointing towards a relaxation of tension and towards peace. It is clear that the new developments in the area have amply justified our decision on the Korean question at the twenty-sixth session. It may be recalled that at that session we considered that a Korean debate would not contribute to the solution of the Korean problem, and we judged that the United Nations could encourage the direct contacts between the Red Cross societies of South and North Korea, not by interfering with them, but rather by refraining from such acrimonious debates as have taken place in past sessions of the United Nations.

5. That wise judgement and that decision have brought successful results. The Red Cross talks, with the aim of solving humanitarian problems, have made gradual and steady progress since then. They have now developed into full-fledged plenary meetings.

6. Furthermore, the Republic of Korea and North Korea have made direct contacts to ease tension and to achieve

the peaceful unification of Korea; this resulted in the issuance of the Joint Communiqué of 4 July 1972 [A/8727, annex I].

7. In this respect, I should like to draw the attention of members to the provisions of paragraph 2 of that Communiqué, in which the South and the North have pledged officially not to slander or defame each other. I attach great importance to this provision as a concrete measure toward fostering an atmosphere of mutual trust between the South and the North.

8. However, as was pointed out by the representative of the United Kingdom at the General Committee, the papers circulated so far in the United Nations seem to show that a discussion of the Korean problem at the current session of the General Assembly would not bring about any improvement over previous debates in terms of acrimony and the violence of the language used. From that fact I may surmise that the consideration of the Korean question at this session might revive acrimonious arguments between countries friendly to the Republic of Korea on the one hand and countries friendly to North Korea on the other, if not acrimonious arguments between the Republic of Korea and North Korea directly, thus weakening the very foundation upon which the friendly dialogue between the South and the North should be continued.

9. Refraining from going into the substance of the matter, my delegation hopes that the General Assembly will approve the wise and right recommendation of the General Committee and postpone the consideration of items 37 and 96 until the twenty-eighth session.

10. Mr. MACOVESCU (Romania) (*interpretation from French*): The General Assembly once again has to take a decision on the consideration of the item relating to the creation of favourable conditions for the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea.

11. Apart from the procedural aspects involved, this is a question of the political attitude of the United Nations, since the decision adopted on this may constitute an important index of the degree of sensitivity of the United Nations towards the positive developments which have occurred in the world, and the way in which the United Nations proposes to promote these developments and even create the conditions which would accelerate them.

12. In that spirit, the Romanian delegation would like to support with all the firmness it can muster the inclusion in the agenda and the discussion at this session of the item entitled "Creation of favourable conditions to accelerate the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea", an item of which Romania is one of the 29 sponsors.

13. Firmly attached to the ideals of liberty and progress, the Romanian people have always been in favour of the right of the people of Korea to decide freely on their own destiny, and have displayed the utmost solidarity with the efforts of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and of the Korean people to realize their aspirations to national unity.

14. The Joint Communiqué of North and South Korea, the agreements between the Red Cross societies and the other measures resulting from the talks which have taken place between the two parties are very important elements of the history and future of the people of Korea and will contribute substantially to peace and security in the region and the world at large.

15. As is stressed in the message addressed by the President of the Council of State of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Nicolae Ceausescu, to the President of the Council of Ministers of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Kim Il Sung, on the occasion of the publication of the joint statement on the improvement of relations between North and South Korea and the reunification of the fatherland:

“All our people see an event of historic significance for the destiny of the Korean people in the agreement reached as a result of the talks between the North and the South, which are based on the idea of the existence of a single Korean nation and its legitimate aspirations to live in a single State rising above ideological differences about means and ends.”

16. The agreement between the North and the South once again highlights the validity and effectiveness of contacts, direct dialogue and negotiations in finding solutions to controversial problems, no matter how complex they may be.

17. In conditions where the measures taken, which have been welcomed warmly by the world, have opened up encouraging prospects for taking new steps towards the independent and peaceful unification of the country, the United Nations cannot lag behind events or simply live on hopes.

18. It is the duty of the United Nations to act effectively in order to create favourable conditions for the peaceful reunification of Korea, and thus contribute to the elimination of a hot-bed of tension in which it has itself been directly involved, in the conditions with which we are all familiar.

19. Today, when the people of Korea has provided the world with eloquent proof of its determination to make concrete progress, step by step, towards the realization of its supreme ideal of national reunification, the United Nations must, in its turn, take action to further this process; it has the political and moral duty to do so.

20. The merits of the new approach proposed in item 96 and its realistic and constructive nature have clearly emerged in the statements made in the General Committee by its sponsors and have also been recognized by other delegations.

21. In spite of this clear evidence during the debates in the General Committee and the General Assembly, we have heard a repetition of the view that the United Nations should remain on the sidelines on the pretext that the discussion of this item would hamper the process which at present is going on in the Korean peninsula.

22. That statement does not seem logical to me. Neither formal logic nor political logic can accept such a conclusion.

23. In fact, far from hindering the process, the adoption of the measures advocated by the sponsors of the draft resolution submitted [*see A/8752/Add.9*] would make a substantial contribution to overcoming the obstacles caused by the presence of foreign troops under the United Nations flag in South Korea and by the activities of the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea [*UNCURK*]. It is clear that the solution of these problems must be found by the United Nations, because it is under the aegis of the United Nations that these problems arose, and particularly because these steps, which were taken 20 years ago, did not lead to the desired results; quite the contrary.

24. It is also necessary that the debate on this item should be carried on in the light of the positive events which have been occurring and continue to occur in the Korean peninsula in the new climate which has emerged following the resumption of contacts and the agreements reached between the two parts of Korea, all in strict accordance with the principles agreed upon between North and South Korea. For that reason, of particular importance for the United Nations is the principle that the reunification should be brought about independently, without either of the parties relying on outside forces and without outside forces interfering.

25. Experience has shown that problems can be solved today only with the participation of all the nations directly concerned and only if due account is taken of the interests of all the parties concerned. That is why the representatives of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, a party directly concerned, must be invited to take part in the debate in the United Nations on questions relating to Korea.

26. The Romanian delegation would like to stress once again its firm conviction that, by including the item on the creation of favourable conditions to accelerate the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea among the matters of concern to be taken up by the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly and by responding favourably to the concrete proposals made by the sponsors, the United Nations would be proving that, having learned the necessary lessons from history, it has been able to rise above its own weakness and errors and to act in accord with the great changes occurring in our world today.

27. By agreeing to discuss the proposal submitted by the 29 States [*A/8752 and Add.1-10*], the United Nations would be undertaking an act of justice and equity with regard to the people of Korea, which has undergone long tribulations, and would be contributing to the efforts of mankind as a whole to eliminate the hot-beds of tension

and conflict which exist in the world. In this way we would be creating better possibilities for the people of Korea to advance along the road upon which it has set foot in order to build a single, peaceful and democratic Korea in accordance with its deep aspirations and the general interests of peace and security.

28. By adopting these measures the United Nations would be giving concrete evidence that it has understood its role and that it is resolved to apply in practice the fundamental principles which today should govern both relations between States and the actions of the international community.

29. Mr. RAE (Canada): The interests of Korea and the Korean people are what should be uppermost in all our minds. The position of the Canadian delegation is based on the simple proposition that an acrimonious debate in this forum at this time would do nothing to serve those interests and could on the contrary have a damaging effect on the process of negotiations now under way between the two parts of Korea.

30. Last year, when the General Assembly decided that discussion of the Korean question should be deferred [*1939th meeting*], it did so in the hope that the talks between the Red Cross organizations in the North and the South would prove to be the beginning of broader contacts and further-reaching negotiations. At that time there were those who scorned such a hope. They argued that the Red Cross talks were without significance and could lead nowhere.

31. Happily, events in Korea since then have proved such arguments false. The pace and progress of North-South contacts have earned universal commendation. They have fully justified the hopes of those in the United Nations who had confidence in the will and capacity of the Koreans to overcome the most forbidding obstacles. They have fully justified the wisdom of the great majority of Member States which voted at the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly to defer discussion of the Korean question.

32. My delegation welcomes these developments without reserve and congratulates the parties on them. We have long had to endure repetitious and contentious debates on the Korean question. And we had nothing to show for it. For one year we were spared that ordeal, and the results have been impressive. For a while we had hopes that there would be equally remarkable consequences here at the United Nations. We hoped we might see a constructive consensus emerge in response to the concrete developments in the area. When we learned in July of the request for the inclusion in the agenda of a new item by a group—originally of 13 non-aligned States—we hoped we might see develop an even-handed and impartial approach calculated to promote the movement towards a peaceful and durable settlement in Korea. Indeed, the explanatory memorandum attached to that request [*A/8752*] professed precisely this objective.

33. Unfortunately, these hopes did not last. Unlike the hopes we put in the ability of the Koreans themselves to pursue negotiations on equal terms, firmly based on the realities of the situation as they know them—and who can

know them better?—our hopes for an equally constructive approach at the General Assembly have not been fulfilled. In our view, a constructive approach to the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea requires, by definition, the equal and freely given co-operation of both parties. It requires, by definition, the development of areas of agreement and the progressive reduction of the remaining obstacles in a spirit of mutual accommodation.

34. We have seen what can be achieved in this way in the principles agreed upon by both North and South Korea in their Joint Communiqué of 4 July this year, which was cited in document A/8752 as a principal reason for including item 96 in the agenda.

35. But does item 96 really conform to this constructive approach? I am sorry to say that, in our judgement, it does not. Surely an even-handed approach would imply consultations with both parties on the question of the inclusion in the agenda of a new item on Korea. In fact, we understand that no such consultations took place with respect to one of the parties. In fact, it seems to us that developments at the United Nations in recent months have run directly counter to those in Korea. Far from responding to the profoundly different and better situation now prevailing there, we are asked here in New York to include in the agenda and discuss an item which, for all intents and purposes, would have the effect of reinstating the traditional manner of dealing with the Korean question in all its sterility and, no doubt, in all its acrimony.

36. Negotiations have begun in Korea because objective circumstances and the interests of the parties have made them possible, not because of external urging or the wishes of other Governments. A General Assembly debate based on an attempt to alter those objective circumstances, or to undercut the concrete basis on which negotiations now rest, in order to promote the interests of one side at the expense of the other, can only do damage to what we should all be anxious to encourage.

37. In its report to the Secretary-General of 18 August 1972 UNCURK reviewed the developments which took place in the Korean peninsula over the past year. It welcomed new contacts between North and South Korea and in its concluding observations stated as follows:

“The Commission, representing the United Nations presence in the field, considers from its observations that the growing détente in the peninsula benefited from the postponement of the General Assembly deliberations on the Korean items last year. The absence of serious incidents in Korea this year, the progress achieved in the Red Cross talks and the dialogue leading to the Joint Communiqué of 4 July 1972 appear to confirm this and to suggest that the absence of distracting debate continues to be a factor facilitating greater and more fruitful contact between the two parts of Korea.” [*A/8727, para. 155.*]

38. The Canadian delegation fully subscribes to this view. There will undoubtedly be ways in which the United Nations can contribute further in the future to a peaceful and equitable settlement in Korea. But this that is proposed is not the way. There will undoubtedly be a time when it can do so. But this is not the time.

39. Those of us who seriously seek a peaceful and equitable settlement can put our confidence in the demonstrated will and ability of the Koreans to find one, and should do nothing to impede their search. Those who argue that the General Assembly has the duty to inject itself into that process would do well to reflect on their priorities. What comes first, the prestige of a debate in the General Assembly or the solution of an old and intractable political problem which in its time has cost hundreds of thousands of lives? The solution depends ultimately on the parties—both parties—not on us. Such a solution is too important, and above all is beginning to seem too possible, for partisan manoeuvres to be in any way justified.

40. For these reasons, the Canadian delegation supports the recommendation of the General Committee for the inclusion of items 37 and 96 in the provisional agenda of the twenty-eighth session.

41. Mr. ČERNÍK (Czechoslovakia): The Czechoslovak delegation does not agree with the recommendation made by the General Committee to postpone the deliberations of the General Assembly with regard to the ways in which the United Nations could effectively promote the creation of favourable conditions for the peaceful reunification of Korea. The United Nations, under whose name an injustice was committed against the Korean people during the cold war period, cannot stand aside when the removal of the consequences of that injustice is at stake.

42. The Czechoslovak delegation has always supported the just claims of the Korean people and has always consistently interpreted the interests of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the United Nations.

43. We have always condemned the occupation of the southern part of Korea by foreign troops under the flag of the United Nations as one of the infamous chapters in the history of our Organization. We have always opposed the activities of the so-called United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea as being inconsistent with the provisions of our Charter. The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic has welcomed the peaceful initiative on the part of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the basis of which the useful negotiations between the Governments of both parts of the divided country were conducted this year.

44. The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic also supports the new initiative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with respect to the United Nations. It is common knowledge that the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has explicitly stated that it fully supports the inclusion in the agenda of the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly of the item entitled "Creation of favourable conditions to accelerate the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea". The statement of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of 31 July 1972 says:

"The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea fully supports and approves this proposal and strongly contends that this new item must be put on the agenda of the United Nations General Assembly this year". [*See A/8752/Add.7.*]

45. This year the General Assembly has a unique opportunity to make its contribution towards the peaceful solution of a problem which has been a residual consequence of the injustice of the cold war period.

46. The changes that have occurred lately in our Organization, in harmony with the over-all trend of decreasing tension in the world, create one of the pre-conditions for restoring the prestige of the United Nations on the Korean peninsula. Another of those prerequisites for the peaceful reunification of Korea is represented by the very developments on the Korean peninsula and by the new atmosphere which, in our opinion, is being created there. Representatives of North and South Korea have agreed to join their efforts with a view to seeking ways of achieving the peaceful unification of their country. In the Joint Communiqué dated 4 July 1972 this fact has been clearly reflected, together with the statement that the reunification should be achieved without any foreign intervention.

47. In the explanatory memorandum on the item put before the current General Assembly session under the title "Creation of favourable conditions to accelerate the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea", it is stated that:

"The proposed debate is not and cannot be designed to make the United Nations interfere in the discussion of problems which the two Governments concerned wish to solve without foreign intervention." [*A/8752, para. 7.*]

48. What is being proposed is to discuss, in the presence of representatives of both parts of Korea, the significant question of how the United Nations could promote further favourable developments in Korea—and, indeed, in Asia as a whole—using every means at its disposal. The Czechoslovak delegation is of the opinion that, by taking the measures proposed in the draft resolution elaborated by the sponsors of the new-initiative item [*A/8752/Add.9*], the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly would set out on a useful path. We have in mind particularly the proposal that the United Nations suspend the activities of the so-called United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea. It is necessary to abolish the right to use the United Nations flag conferred upon the foreign troops occupying the southern part of Korea and to withdraw all foreign troops from South Korea, thus creating conditions for lasting peace in Korea and for the accelerated peaceful reunification of the country.

49. The Czechoslovak delegation expresses the hope that both sides of Korea will continue successfully the political negotiations already under way in order to conclude a peace agreement, to bring about a reduction in arms, and, indeed, to achieve as soon as possible the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

50. The Czechoslovak delegation fully supports the inclusion of this new item concerning the creation of favourable conditions for the reunification of Korea in the agenda of the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly, and believes that this item should replace all the so-called Korean items on that agenda, including item 37 dealing with the report of the infamous Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea.

51. Sir Laurence McINTYRE (Australia): Mr. President, I am sure that after his arrival the leader of my delegation will wish to offer you in appropriate terms the congratulations of the Australian Government on your election to the presidency of this session of the Assembly as a worthy successor to a long line of distinguished and talented predecessors. In the meantime, Sir, I should like to offer you my personal felicitations.

52. Let me say now that the Australian delegation fully supports the recommendation in the General Committee's report that items 37 and 96 on the provisional agenda, dealing with the Korean question, should be reincluded in the provisional agenda of the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

53. My Government has followed with close interest and attention the developments on the Korean peninsula during the last 12 months, and we greatly welcome the current promising trend towards détente and rapprochement between the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

54. It is particularly gratifying to my delegation to be able to record that, since the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly agreed by an overwhelming majority to defer consideration of the Korean question, very real, and one might indeed say dramatic, progress had been made towards healing the wounds that history and circumstances have inflicted on Korea. We will all of us agree that the Joint Communiqué issued on 4 July 1972 by the Governments of South and North Korea and the recent meetings at plenipotentiary level in Seoul and Pyongyang between the Red Cross societies of South and North Korea were historic occasions of a kind that holds great promise for the future.

55. We need to keep in mind that for a thousand years or more the people of the Korean peninsula were one people, united in every sense, by history, language, culture and a common and imperishable faith in their ultimate destiny. Since 1945 they have been divided; and over those intervening years, as we all well know, the Korean people, and the United Nations on their account, have undergone great stresses. Now at last, after 27 years, there is hope—which all of us in this Assembly will want to share with the Koreans—that the two parts of the peninsula will be able to grow together again and that at some time in the future there will again be one united Korea carrying forward the colourful and indomitable inheritance that is so deeply ingrained in the Korean people.

56. At the twenty-sixth session, last year, it was argued that a debate on the Korean question could in no way promote, and would be more likely to hamper, the delicate negotiations then taking place between the South and North Korean Red Cross societies—the first direct contacts between the two halves of Korea since the formal cessation of hostilities in 1953. By a very substantial majority the General Assembly then recognized that nothing should be done to impede the pursuit of these negotiations or to delay or hinder moves towards an eventual settlement of the problems between the two halves of the Korean peninsula.

57. Everything that has happened since last year's decision has shown how prudent that decision was. There can be little doubt that the bilateral negotiations that produced the Joint Communiqué of 4 July 1972 were made easier by the absence of abrasive propaganda and vituperation during the last session of the General Assembly. The two sides in Korea have achieved in a matter of months what we in our discussions here have been unable to promote or accomplish in years. The Australian Government has applauded the resolution and the patience of President Park Chung Hee of the Republic of Korea in seeking ways of reducing tensions on the Korean peninsula and helping to guide the Korean people towards the ultimate goal of reunification. My Government also welcomes the response of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. We welcome and fully commend the terms of the Communiqué of 4 July, especially those provisions that state that reunification should be achieved through the efforts of the Koreans themselves, without external imposition or interference and through peaceful means, not through the use of force against each other.

58. In the view of the Australian delegation, the situation that confronts us today in this Assembly differs from last year's only to the limit of the progress made after and because of our decision last year. The essential fact is that channels of discussion have been opened, and are still open, between North and South Korea—channels that can be kept open only in a climate of goodwill and co-operation between the two sides. And so the purpose of the Assembly must be to take no action that might disturb the promising atmosphere in which the talks between the two halves of Korea are taking place and can continue to do so.

59. My delegation fears that another debate on the Korean question at this time, leading, as it may well do, to the sterile recriminations and acrimonious exchanges that have characterized it in the past, will only sour the atmosphere for a continuing dialogue.

60. The sponsors of the new item, which is item 96 of the provisional agenda, have argued that they have found a fresh approach to a problem that has been before the United Nations for the last 20 years. Some of the language in their explanatory memorandum and in the draft resolution that they have circulated does indeed reflect a more conciliatory, and perhaps even a more realistic, approach to the problem. But the fundamental elements of their draft resolution turn out on inspection to be much the same as those that have been rejected consistently in past sessions of the Assembly, and rightly, in the view of my delegation. To revive them now and to set the stage for the same kind of rhetoric that we have subjected each other to, at tedious length, would be a disservice to our common aim, which is the reunification of Korea by peaceful and orderly agreement, free from outside constraint or other interference.

61. The United Nations is constantly being charged with failing to take a firm grip on critical situations around the world. And this charge, let us admit, is often well founded. But discriminating judgement and restraint must also have an important part to play, and there are situations—perhaps not many—where we, the collective membership of the United Nations, can perform our greatest service by standing aside and letting matters take a promising course. I



submit that Korea, at any rate for the time being, provides such a situation.

62. To sum up, the United Nations has a continuing commitment to promote peace and security on the Korean peninsula and to assist in any way possible towards the reunification of the two halves of Korea. We cannot shrug off this commitment. Nor would any of us wish to. We hope that when the Assembly next takes up the Korean question it will be to welcome and endorse agreements reached between the South and the North. But at this time our commitment and, I submit, our duty should lead us to abstain from any action which could disturb in any way the delicate prospects of progress towards a lasting settlement in Korea.

63. My delegation therefore believes that the Assembly should support the General Committee's recommendation to include the items on Korea on the agenda of the Assembly's next session.

64. Mr. ALARCON (Cuba) (*interpretation from Spanish*): My delegation wishes to express the strongest opposition to the recommendation of the General Committee of the General Assembly to the effect that item 96, entitled "Creation of favourable conditions to accelerate the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea", should not be included in the agenda of the present session.

65. Last year, too, the Assembly was faced with a similar manoeuvre, the result of which was to transfer to the present session the consideration of important questions connected with the situation prevailing in the Korean peninsula. The proposal we are debating today is inspired by identical motives and would have but one result: to perpetuate the present situation in Korea, continue the military occupation in the southern part of its territory, continue foreign intervention in its internal affairs, and prolong its artificial division.

66. These are the objectives pursued for more than 20 years by North America imperialism in Korea. In carrying out its strategy against the Korean people, the Government in Washington has been illegally using the United Nations. The aggressive forces of the United States continue to hide behind the United Nations flag. This Organization continues improperly and in violation of its own constituent Charter to interfere in Korean affairs through the so-called United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea. The overwhelming majority of Member States have been and continue to be alien to the aggressive designs of North American imperialism with respect to Korea. Nevertheless, that aggressive policy has been manifesting itself, and continues to do so, through this Organization, utilizing its resources, trampling underfoot its principles and abusing its prestige and authority. This intolerable situation must be resolved most urgently by action by the General Assembly.

67. Each day that passes without the United Nations having resolved, in a manner consistent with its Charter, the problems to which this item refers makes even more burdensome the onus of responsibility weighing on this Organization by reason of the fact that for more than two decades it has been used as an instrument for aggression and interference against the Korean people.

68. For many years my delegation has consistently reiterated its position of principle concerning the so-called Korean question. We have emphasized that the only root of the problem lay in the aggression perpetrated in 1950 by Yankee imperialism against the territory of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the North American military occupation of the southern part of Korea and its aim of perpetuating the division of that country in order to turn the South into a North American colony by organizing subversion and harassment against the North with the aim of extending its domination over the whole of the Korean peninsula. These plans are not new. More than a century ago the people of Pyongyang defeated the first Yankee pirate incursions.

69. That is why we have invariably maintained that this Assembly must demand the complete, immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all North American troops and military personnel stationed in South Korea, the dissolution of the so-called United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea, and the cessation, once and for all, of all its interference in the internal affairs of the Korean people. Only thus will the Koreans be able to solve the problem of the temporary division of their fatherland. The Korean people, who have an age-old culture and who centuries ago established their first national State, can solve this problem themselves, without interference or foreign tutelage. The United Nations has no authority whatsoever to interfere in matters that are of the exclusive competence of the Korean people. But the United Nations does have the inescapable obligation of putting an end to the illegal activities of the United States, which uses the flag and the name of this Organization as tools for aggression against the Korean people.

70. In connexion with this question, on 8 January 1965 Comrade Kim Il Sung, President of the Council of Ministers of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and First Secretary of the Korean Labour Party, stated:

"There can be no independence or sovereignty of any kind while the territory of a country is occupied by aggressive foreign forces.

"Every Korean who has a minimum of national conscience must demand the withdrawal of the United States troops and fight to expel them from our territory.

"We must maintain alive and burning throughout the nation the flames of hatred against the aggressive North American imperialists and mobilize all the patriotic forces in the struggle to throw the North American army out of South Korea."

71. International repudiation of the intervention of the United States in Korea and its shameful manipulation of this Organization increases constantly. The number of States which understand the true nature of the problem grows yearly; these states pronounce themselves in favour of the inalienable rights of the Korean people and unhesitatingly condemn the arrogant, criminal and bellicose behaviour of North American imperialism.

72. Each year it becomes more difficult for the Government in Washington to force the adoption of anti-Korean

resolutions. The days when the Yankees could effortlessly lord it over the Assembly, the days of rapid approval of illegal decisions based on mechanical and submissive majorities become more and more remote. That is why in these past years American diplomacy has been resorting to a new stratagem: it now attempts to avoid the direct and thorough examination of the Korean problem within the framework of the United Nations. Lacking arguments, bludgeoned by the persistent denunciation of a situation that reveals the aggressive and interfering nature of North American policy, powerless to compel the international community any longer to follow them in their anti-Korean manoeuvres, the imperialists attempt by every means to rob this Assembly of the possibility of fulfilling its responsibilities regarding the situation in Korea.

73. The stratagem is as clumsy as it is cynical. The postponement of the debate is intended to reach the same objectives as those pursued in the past through the imposition of illegal resolutions which have now become too difficult to have adopted. With postponement of the debate, the United States would continue shamefully to intervene in the internal affairs of the Korean people; the United States forces would continue to occupy South Korea; they would continue to use the United Nations flag; they would continue to thwart the desire for freedom and unity of the people; they would add new crimes against the Korean people to those already committed in the name of the United Nations; they would perpetuate the artificial division of that nation; they would continue the colonial absorption of South Korea; they would persist in their use of this Organization as a tool of their imperialist policy; they would, in short, continue to flout the principles of the Charter and to sully the prestige and authority of this Assembly.

74. Member States must do everything in their power to prevent the North American plans from being carried out. This Assembly cannot postpone a single day longer the adoption of measures that are urgent because they affect the very bases of its principles and self-respect. It is not possible to postpone for a single day the decision regarding the withdrawal of North American troops from South Korea, to take away from those troops the emblem of this Organization that they have been desecrating for over 20 years, and to put an end to any interference in the internal affairs of Korea.

75. This line of action would be in keeping with the request made by the foreign ministers of non-aligned countries, who met last August in Georgetown, Guyana, and who proclaimed in their Declaration their support for the right of the Korean people to peaceful and independent reunification and called for the withdrawal of foreign troops and the cessation of foreign intervention in the affairs of that country. Support for the inalienable rights of the Korean people to unity and independence without foreign interference is a matter of principle, of interest to all the peoples of the developing world who fight against imperialism and colonialism.

76. The choice before this Organization is quite clear: either to continue to be a tool in the aggressive plans of North American imperialism or to act in accordance with the obligations of the Charter, salvage its principles and put

an end to the aggressive and illegal conduct imposed upon it by the United States.

77. The Korean people will expel the aggressors, consolidate its independence and achieve the reunification of its fatherland, despite all the manoeuvres of imperialism. However weak they may appear to be, in the long run peoples always secure their rights and defeat their oppressors. History gives us most eloquent examples of this, but it will also be history that in due course will register the ability of this Organization and its Members to respect the principles they proclaim and to fulfil their responsibilities.

78. Mr. GROZEV (Bulgaria) (*interpretation from French*): In the course of the discussion both in the General Committee and in the General Assembly a unanimous opinion has emerged that a new situation has recently been created in the Korean peninsula, but people are drawing conclusions and proposing solutions which are highly divergent and even conflicting. In our view the principal dilemma is the following: is the United Nations to remain on the sidelines as a passive spectator or should it actually facilitate and encourage the positive developments which have been going on and thus contribute to the peaceful unification of Korea and the restoration of peace and security in that part of the world?

79. It is very regrettable that this year once again the General Committee has decided to recommend the deferral of consideration of questions which are of vital importance to Korea. However, it is the General Assembly which has the last word in this matter. It is the General Assembly which has the authority to decide what problems cannot be ignored or postponed to the next session because this could have serious consequences for the process of peace-making in a given part of the world or for the normalization of an atmosphere or the elimination of dangerous hot-beds of war. The development of the situation in Korea is precisely a problem whose consideration cannot be deferred.

80. The refusal of the world Organization to discuss measures which would create favourable conditions for the acceleration of the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea would be tantamount to its renouncing its responsibilities under the Charter. Such an attitude would be very puzzling to world public opinion and particularly to the Korean people. The consequence would be to impair the authority of the United Nations, which is directly involved in the Korean question.

81. To refuse now to contribute to promoting the positive developments which have begun in relations between the North and the South would in practice be tantamount to opposing that very process and would have the effect of prolonging indefinitely the division of the country and continuing illegal and arbitrary foreign intervention in the life and destiny of its people.

82. It is very strange, just when the prospects of achieving this objective are better than they have ever been, to hear those who for years have been impeding the peaceful unification of Korea say that the United Nations should remain inactive and disregard these prospects. It would seem to follow from this that the Organization should only take action when it seems to be necessary as a cover for foreign intervention in Korea.

83. For years we have been forced to have discussions and to adopt resolutions whose sole objective has been to justify foreign intervention in Korean affairs under the flag of the United Nations. Now the same circles are suddenly displaying tremendous solicitude and asking us not to prevent the Korean people from taking charge of its own destiny. But the object of this new tactic is only too obvious: to postpone the item from one year to the next, from one session to the next, in the hope of preserving the *status quo* and permitting the achievement only of their interests.

84. We are firmly convinced that a discussion begun at this twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly would not only not jeopardize the prospects for future contacts and talks between the two parts of Korea but, on the contrary, would contribute greatly to fruitful political negotiations with a view to bringing about as early as possible the peaceful and independent reunification of Korea.

85. The United Nations should now be contributing to the elimination of all obstacles to the normalization of the situation in the Korean peninsula and to the creation of conditions favourable to national reunification. Everyone knows that one of the biggest obstacles to an improvement of the climate in that area and to the reunification of the country is the presence of foreign occupation forces in South Korea. There is no doubt about that. Without the withdrawal of those troops the situation in the peninsula cannot return to normal.

86. At the same time we must put an end to the activities and call for the dissolution of the so-called Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea, which has proved that in practice it has promoted and perpetuated the division of that people which has suffered so much.

87. That is why the delegation of the People's Republic of Bulgaria considers that this session of the General Assembly should, without further postponement, examine the item in the light of the positive developments which have occurred in relations between the two parts of Korea and, by its decisions, facilitate the creation of the favourable conditions which are needed to accelerate the peaceful and independent reunification of the country.

88. Such a debate would not constitute interference in the affairs of the Korean people; quite the contrary. It is the only possible contribution which our Organization could and must make to this positive process which we are now witnessing in Korea.

89. To include or not to include the question "Creation of favourable conditions to accelerate the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea" in the agenda of this session is not purely a matter of procedure. It is in fact a pre-eminently political question. It is a question which affects one of the vital principles and fundamental purposes of the United Nations: to contribute effectively to the elimination of all factors which militate against the strengthening of peace in the world.

90. That is why the delegation of the People's Republic of Bulgaria insists that the question "Creation of favourable conditions to accelerate the independent and peaceful

reunification of Korea" should be considered at this session of the General Assembly. We hope that for the promotion of world peace and understanding among peoples this proposal will enjoy the support of the majority of delegations of States Members of our Organization.

91. Mr. ATTARD KINGSWELL (Malta): As one of the sponsors of the request for the inclusion of the item on Korea in the agenda, I have come to this rostrum in a sincere attempt to contribute towards the success of the current session of the General Assembly. I am painfully aware that no amount of oratory can change fixed attitudes, especially since attitudes on such items as the one before us are taken by Governments, and most representatives here can do little or nothing to change them. I shall therefore attempt to be brief.

92. In the first place, I should like to explain that last year Malta was among those countries which voted in favour of postponing discussion on the items concerning Korea to the twenty-seventh session. If this year we are against any further postponement it is mainly for two reasons. First, the General Assembly explicitly voted last year for a postponement to the twenty-seventh session, and not postponement to the twenty-eighth session or to any other, indeterminate, future session. We did that because at that delicate initial stage of direct contacts between the two Koreas it seemed to us best not to do or promote anything that could conceivably wither that delicate plan. Today, however, those initial contacts, as has been abundantly proved by those who would want to postpone discussion of the item, have borne fruit and are firmly established, and we are today convinced that a debate in the United Nations could only help, not hinder, the process of détente and eventual reunification. Secondly, we also firmly believe that a further deferment would be nothing less than a violation of the basic right and duty of the United Nations to discuss questions affecting international peace and security. It would also amount, in the opinion of my delegation, to a shirking by the Assembly of its responsibility to promote international peace and security.

93. My delegation is deeply disturbed that, for the first time in this Assembly, we find ourselves challenging a decision of the General Committee. We do so only because we are utterly convinced that the General Committee has allowed itself to act, not wisely, but expediently in this matter, to such an extent that we are appealing to the General Assembly, and we trust that others will be found here who will be prepared to stand and be counted in defence of the Assembly's right of free discussion.

94. What we are now asking—and this cannot be emphasized too much—is not the adoption of one resolution or another, but merely the right of the Assembly to discuss a question which has been on its agenda for the past 23 years.

95. In the statements made in the General Committee and in this Assembly two things have been said again and again. The first is that an acrimonious debate is to be avoided at all costs. The second is that the removal of United Nations forces from Korea would upset the existing balance. For the record, those two statements cannot be left unchallenged. In the first place, I do not see why a debate on Korea must necessarily be acrimonious. That definitely is



not the intention of my delegation, or of others which had sponsored the request for the inclusion in the agenda of item 96 of the provisional agenda. And yet, even if the debate were to be rendered acrimonious by other delegations, surely that is no reason why discussion must be avoided altogether. Nowhere do the rules of procedure specify that acrimonious or otherwise unpleasant debate is disallowed—as if the most violently acrimonious debate is not infinitely preferable to violence and bloodshed. As for the second point, namely, that the withdrawal of outside forces from Korea would upset the existing balance, let me repeat that we are here to debate not the substance of the question but merely the essential procedural issue of whether to allow a debate or not. Those who do not agree with the draft resolution can vote against it, or present their own draft resolution. In any case, in the opinion of my delegation, it is the maintenance of the *status quo*, rather than its change in the way suggested, that constitutes foreign interference of the kind denounced in the Joint Communiqué of the two Koreas on 4 July 1972.

96. For those reasons the delegation of Malta will vote in favour of reinstating the item on the creation of favourable conditions for the peaceful reunification of Korea on the agenda of the current session.

97. Mr. POLYANICHKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) (*translation from Russian*): Mr. President, since this is the first time that the delegation of the Ukraine is speaking at the present session, permit me first of all to congratulate you on your election to the high and distinguished office of President of the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

98. This plenary meeting of the General Assembly has before it for consideration and action the report of the General Committee, which contains recommendations concerning the agenda for the current session. The delegation of the Ukrainian SSR considers it necessary to make a number of comments relating to paragraph 16 of that report and first of all to express its profound disappointment that the General Committee, despite the request submitted by a large group of States, decided to recommend that the Assembly should defer until the twenty-eighth session the consideration of the item entitled "Creation of favourable conditions to accelerate the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea".

99. As it did last year, the General Assembly is again proposing to defer for a year consideration of a question which, we are profoundly convinced, is a very urgent one.

100. In requesting the inclusion of this item in the agenda of the current session of the General Assembly [A/8752 and Add.1-10], 29 States Members of the United Nations, including the Ukrainian SSR, are raising the question of Korea anew in order to meet the need to remove obstacles to the peaceful and democratic unification of Korea and, above all, the need to put an end to the United Nations presence in Korea. The presence of foreign troops under the United Nations flag on the territory of Korea seriously hinders the people of Korea from achieving unity, and is also a source of tension in that area.

101. It is well known that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has made numerous constructive pro-

posals aimed at reducing tension on the Korean peninsula and achieving the peaceful unification of Korea. It was as a result of an initiative by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that contacts were recently established between the North and the South which, we hope, will promote settlement of the question of Korean unification.

102. As is well known, forces hostile to the Korean people have in the past used the United Nations to interfere in the internal affairs of the Korean people, placing the foreign intervention under the cover of the United Nations flag. The United Nations was involved in an adventure to the detriment of this international Organization, which was established to maintain and strengthen international peace and security. Now, at a time when contacts are being established between the North and the South, it is the duty and direct responsibility of the United Nations to remove the serious obstacles which the Organization itself has placed in the way of restoring the unity of that State, namely: to suspend the activities of the notorious United Nations Commission, to withdraw the United Nations presence and to cease to permit the use of the United Nations flag by foreign forces to which that flag was once illegally assigned, and to demand the withdrawal of foreign troops from South Korea. Implementation of those proposals, which are contained in document A/8752/Add.9, submitted by 29 States Members of the United Nations, would enable the Korean people to settle their complex and acute problems independently, on the basis of the principle of national self-determination and without interference from outside, including interference by the United Nations. Those measures would be fully in keeping with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

103. In the light of these considerations, the delegation of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic insistently presses for the inclusion of the item entitled "Creation of favourable conditions to accelerate the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea" in the agenda of the current session of the General Assembly, and calls upon other delegations to do everything necessary to ensure that the proposals made by the 29 States Members of the United Nations are included in the agenda of this session of the General Assembly.

104. Mr. ESPINOSA (Colombia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Mr. President, I have already had occasion, on behalf of the Colombian delegation, to convey to you our sincere congratulations upon your election to the presidency and to express to you our readiness to co-operate with you. Speaking now for the first time in a plenary meeting, I should like to reiterate those feelings of the Colombian delegation, while adding that we are certain of the success of your work and of the excellent manner in which you will conduct our deliberations.

105. In the General Committee, the Colombian delegation already had an opportunity to explain the reasons that impelled it to support the majority of the General Committee in favouring the inclusion of items 37 and 96 of the provisional agenda in the agenda of the next session. I share to some extent the scepticism expressed by the representative of Malta a few moments ago when he said from this rostrum that no amount of oratory by representa-

tives would substantially change the results of the vote. Of course, by now Governments must have taken a position and delegations will have received the relevant instructions. But in the light of the welter of statements endeavouring to change or disregard the recommendation of the General Committee, it is perhaps worth while for a delegation that took part in those deliberations and contributed to the majority approval of that recommendation to defend it here so as to record views that differ from many of those expressed here in favour of the recommendation in the report of the General Committee.

106. Contrary to what was said by the representative of Cuba at today's meeting, to the effect that there is a growing school of thought in opposition to the way the United Nations is dealing with the situation in Korea, I would point out that at least in the General Committee the situation was quite different because, whereas last year the recommendation to postpone the debate on Korea was adopted by a vote of only 13 to 9, this year the recommendation of the General Committee was supported by 17 States, with only 7 against. This therefore clearly shows that there is a greater awareness of the need not to interfere with the process of rapprochement between North and South Korea that we all welcome.

107. Those of us who advocate the postponement of the debate do so because we believe that, when the Governments of the two Koreas are attempting to come to a direct and autonomous agreement, the elementary obligation of other States is to respect their efforts and not to interfere with their talks, negotiations and dialogues, or to take part in what may be a redeeming process for those peoples that may lead to true peace and to the unification of those two States into the great Korean nation that we all respect and admire.

108. What would such a debate be? We would hear a repetition here in the United Nations of what has been done on 10 or more earlier occasions. We would start a discussion on the question of invitations. We would get involved in a debate as to whether representatives of North Korea should come to a General Assembly without recognizing the authority or the merit of the United Nations. And then we would repeat the acrimony we have known in this hall in the past and relive the whole historical series of events that followed one another in the Korean nation since 1950. That would most certainly not help to move forward the process initiated by the two Koreas voluntarily and by their own decision.

109. The representative of Malta said that we were right last year when we postponed debate on this question because the rapprochement had only begun, but that now this rapprochement is a definite thing and we can speak here of the Korean situation, of UNCURK and of the presence on that territory of forces under the United Nations flag without such discussion in any way affecting the process of rapprochement, which he believes to be firmly established.

110. Although I deeply respect the views of the representative of Malta, I must none the less say that I entirely disagree with him. This process is not that deeply rooted. Only the first steps are being taken, and any intervention

on our part, any excess of slander, acrimony or attacks in this hall might well have painful consequences and paralyse what has become a hope for the world and a true aspiration of those who live in both North and South Korea.

111. Many representatives have referred to the Joint Communiqué of both Governments of 4 July 1972 [A/8727, annex I]. I would only wish to point out that in that Joint Communiqué all that was affirmed was the purpose of both Governments to have negotiations for rapprochement without foreign intervention; there was also an expression of a will and decision for independence, but no special conditions were laid down by either of the Koreans or in regard to any international organization.

112. I would therefore say that if it was possible to begin this process of approximation and understanding in the prevailing situation it was because that situation was conducive to an understanding between the two peoples that had suffered from the scourge of war. The presence of UNCURK and the United Nations flag flying on Korean territory have thus far been the essential factors allowing peace to prevail in that tortured peninsula. Because there was that peace, because there was that calm and serenity, because, thanks to the admonitory and peaceful presence of the United Nations, a climate of serenity was created and because last year we avoided reliving here the cruel onslaughts of the cold war—because of all this the process of rapprochement began.

113. Therefore, if it was one of the actions of the United Nations—the postponement of the debate last year—that helped this process to begin and if an existing situation—the presence of UNCURK and the flag of the United Nations in Korea—allowed the climate to improve so as to make possible some rapprochement between these populations, then why change the situation? Why change that attitude, when it is precisely that attitude that is yielding the fruits to which we all aspire in order to bring peace, prosperity and well-being to Korea.

114. But, as I said, the process has only just begun. All those present here will remember how difficult were the first talks between the representatives of the Red Cross organizations of the North and the South and how the first meetings in Pyongyang and Seoul were devoted merely to the discussion of a tentative agenda and to sounding out the atmosphere in order to make some progress after the first interventions. That was achieved only after the last conference held in Seoul, to which the representative of North Korea himself referred, describing it as a historic event which had yielded great results and had helped to promote mutual understanding. Nothing was said by the North Korean delegation about the debate that is now being advocated in the United Nations.

115. Those conversations were held in the prevailing situation—may I remind the Assembly—and there was no specific pronouncement against that situation but it was thanks to it that progress was made. But progress is slow; only on 24 October in Pyongyang and on 22 November in Seoul will substantive discussions begin on the question of how to bring together the Korean families that have been separated or scattered by war. Much remains to be done before the achievement of the true process of reunification,

which calls for mutual confidence and a climate of serenity and calm. Above all, the remainder of the world should be no more than a spectator animated by goodwill and never a participant that could at any time upset this delicate process.

116. But, above all, we must bear in mind what was said by the officials of both the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea. In statements published both in Tokyo and New York when this process was first begun, the Prime Minister of North Korea established what I regard as a proposal of fundamental interest. He suggested the following steps for the unification of Korea: first, the elimination of tension by replacing the present armistice by a formal peace treaty. Only as a second step—after the first step has been carried out and the armistice has been replaced by a formal peace treaty—would come the withdrawal of foreign troops and the drastic reduction of the military forces of both North and South Korea. This was the second point of the proposal by the Prime Minister of North Korea.

117. This was what the Prime Minister of North Korea asked for. We here can hardly ask for anything else or anything different from what was requested by the head of that nation, for that would truly imply undue foreign intervention in the internal affairs of a State, counter to the very clear and specific mandates of the United Nations Charter. But there is something more. If I have already quoted the views of proposals of the Head of Government of North Korea, now may I be permitted to recall the words spoken by the Prime Minister of the Republic of South Korea who declared before the National Assembly of his country, after the signing of the Joint Communiqué of 4 July, that the Government of South Korea does not consider the presence of the United Nations as represented by UNCURK as a foreign force. I repeat: South Korea has clearly indicated that it does not regard the presence of the United Nations on its territory as the presence of a foreign force. Further still, the Prime Minister of the Republic of South Korea added that it was the view or opinion of his Government that the unification of Korea should be achieved through free elections supervised by the United Nations as a final and definitive step towards true understanding between the two peoples.

118. These are the views of the Heads of Government of both Koreas, very different from the views we have heard here from several representatives who request—perhaps on behalf of one or the other sectors that are now trying to achieve rapprochement, but which have been opposed so far—that certain requirements that neither side has sought be met.

119. This is an additional reason for the Colombian delegation to maintain its position in the General Committee, and for it again at this plenary meeting to speak in favour of the postponement of the debate on Korea, which would be quite unfruitful for the interests of those seeking to promote it. It is that we are convinced that the final outcome would be almost identical with that of past years, when by an overwhelming majority it was decided to maintain UNCURK in that country and the forces there under the United Nations flag. We might, if we are not careful, destroy what is only a good beginning of the process leading to the reunification of Korea.

120. There is something of vital importance that my delegation does not wish to fail to mention, namely, the persistent insistence on the withdrawal of forces under the United Nations flag which contribute to peace, to calm and serenity between the two Koreas. Here in Assembly resolutions the United Nations had declared its view that most of the forces in Korea have been withdrawn voluntarily, and that the remaining forces would be withdrawn as soon as requested by the Republic of Korea, or as soon as the purposes for which the forces were sent to the territory and established there at the sovereign invitation of the people of Korea are fulfilled—in other words, when there is stable peace, when the reunification of the two Korean peoples is achieved on a democratic basis of mutual respect and free and sovereign expression of their will.

121. For these reasons, the Colombian delegation ventures to press the desirability of items 37 and 96 of the provisional agenda being included in the agenda of the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly, as the General Committee recommends in its report.

122. Mr. SMIRNOV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) (*translation from Russian*): The delegation of the Byelorussian SSR firmly opposes the recommendation made by the General Committee that consideration of the item entitled "Creation of favourable conditions to accelerate the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea" should be deferred. We consider that the proposal made by the General Committee is quite illogical and lacking in good sense, and does not correspond to the interests of the Korean people and the tasks confronting the United Nations in the matter of strengthening peace and security. Such a recommendation could have been adopted by the Committee only as a result of a previously planned manoeuvre by the representatives of certain States in the General Committee.

123. We all know very well that that manoeuvre is not aimed at deferring consideration of the item for only one year. Not at all. The supporters of the proposal used similar arguments last year too. The very same ones. Their purpose is to avoid consideration of the item, to defer it year after year, from agenda to agenda, because its consideration backfires on them and discloses their genuine plans and intentions, which are to prevent the Korean people from settling the question of the reunification of Korea independently, by their own efforts, without any interference from outside, peacefully and on a democratic basis.

124. Their basic argument for deferring consideration of this question is that the United Nations might hinder the negotiations and contacts at present under way between North and South Korea. That is very odd. By their logic, the foreign forces which are in Korea under the United Nations flag are promoting the peaceful reunification of Korea, and consideration by the United Nations of the question of creating favourable conditions to accelerate the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea might hinder such reunification. The foreign troops should be withdrawn, and the Commission dissolved, and then there would be no United Nations interference in Korea. That is precisely what 29 States, including the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, who are sponsors of the draft resolution on the item "Creation of favourable conditions to accel-

erate the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea", are insisting on. The draft resolution provides for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from South Korea, the suspension of the activities of UNCURK and the prevention of any interference in the affairs of the Korean people.

125. By this proposal the Byelorussian SSR along with other countries seeks to ensure that an end will be put to foreign interference in the affairs of the Korean people and that they are accorded the right to settle their future themselves without any interference from outside—which is really the principal condition for the establishment of a normal situation in Korea. In that regard the United Nations can play a necessary and useful role, provided that the various States which have for years taken up a hostile position towards the Korean people strictly observe the principles of the United Nations Charter.

126. The cessation of the illegal occupation of South Korea by foreign troops is of vital importance for the future of the Korean people and for peace in the Far East. The United Nations is directly involved in this because those who are taking part in these illegal activities are using the flag and the name of the United Nations as a cover for the occupation of South Korea, and this does serious harm to the prestige and authority of this international Organization. Unfortunately, it has not so far been possible to adopt a positive decision on the withdrawal of the United States and other foreign troops from South Korea. Under cover of the United Nations flag, foreign forces have been occupying South Korea for over 20 years despite the clearly expressed will of the Korean people for freedom and the unification of the country.

127. Thus it is quite evident that the foreign occupation forces are not serving the interests of Korea and are not promoting peace and security in that area. The presence of occupation forces in South Korea cannot contribute to the expression of the free will of the entire people of Korea. For that reason we consider that the withdrawal of foreign forces is an essential condition for the peaceful unification of Korea.

128. In order to put an end for ever to interference in the internal affairs of the Korean people, and to create all the conditions necessary for the unification of the country, the United Nations should also put an end to interference through UNCURK. Practice has shown that that moribund body does not serve the interests of the Korean people, but defends the interests of imperialist forces. From the time of its creation UNCURK has not justified its title, since its activities have been aimed at perpetuating the division of the country.

129. Much time and effort have been wasted in the United Nations on the fruitless activities of the so-called Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea. Annual expenditure on the Commission and on maintaining the Memorial Cemetery amount to a sum equal to the annual contributions to the United Nations budget of 64 Member States assessed at the lowest rate.

130. We are firmly convinced that the United Nations could take a useful step towards maintaining and developing the contacts which have already been established

between the North and the South by inviting the representatives of both the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and South Korea, without any prior conditions, to participate in the consideration of the question of Korea at this session.

131. Participation by the representatives of those directly concerned would contribute to effective consideration of the question of Korea in the United Nations and to the adoption by the General Assembly of useful decisions responsive to the interests of the entire Korean people and serving to strengthen peace in the Korean region.

132. It is high time to adopt a realistic approach in this matter and to assist the United Nations to act in accordance with the provisions of its Charter, to take up a position based on good sense and justice, to discuss and adopt concrete measures at this session—and not any other session—of the United Nations General Assembly on the item "Creation of favourable conditions to accelerate the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea".

133. Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand): The New Zealand delegation has already had an opportunity at the General Committee's 199th meeting to present its views on this question. However, I wish to leave no doubt about my Government's position on this important matter. I shall therefore refer briefly to some of the essential points of the debate.

134. We do not consider that a discussion of the Korean question in the United Nations this year would assist in any way in easing the tension on the Korean peninsula. From past experience we know that the United Nations debates on the Korean question had been both unproductive and acrimonious. Last year the General Assembly postponed by a large majority its consideration of the Korean items. There can be no doubt that this decision to refrain from a sterile and polemical debate facilitated the historic progress in détente between North and South Korea that the world has witnessed in this last year. This welcome movement towards reconciliation between North and South has led to the establishment of the first bilateral contacts between the two parts of the country since 1945.

135. My Government warmly welcomes these developments. We have noted with particular interest the Joint Communiqué of 4 July 1972 and the fact that the first two meetings of the Red Cross societies have taken place. I believe, indeed, that all Member States also welcome the growing rapprochement between North and South and the consequent reduction of tension in that area of the world. What we differ about is the best means to encourage this impetus towards rapprochement. Those Member States that favour the inclusion in the agenda of an item on the Korean question argue that the United Nations should involve itself in a debate at this stage because the Organization has responsibilities in the Korean peninsula and because there is a totally new situation there. We believe that the General Assembly can best discharge its responsibilities in the Korean peninsula by doing nothing to impede further progress towards détente and reconciliation between North and South Korea. The new situation has come about in part because the United Nations at the right time showed the wisdom of refraining from intervening. We should show the same political maturity this year and thus encourage this very promising trend. In doing this we would wish to give

ful credit to both North and South for the spirit of conciliation and the active measures of co-operation they have demonstrated.

136. My Government believes that the Korean question can best be solved by the Korean people themselves. For that reason my delegation will vote in favour of the General Committee's recommendations on the Korean items.

137. Mr. MOJSOV (Yugoslavia): In its statement before the 199th meeting of the General Committee on 20 September my delegation explained *in extenso* the reasons why it was and continues to be profoundly convinced that the problems concerning the reunification of Korea should be considered in the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session, within a new context reflecting the changed conditions and new trends both in the relations between North and South Korea and in the broader region where Korea is situated. At this time I merely wish briefly to recall these reasons.

138. First, the very well-known facts of the direct involvement of the United Nations in dealing with the Korean problem ever since 1950 raise also the question of direct political responsibility of the United Nations in calling for a constant search for ways and means of solving the question of the division of Korea—taking into account, of course, all the new relevant factors.

139. Secondly, new conditions have been created enabling our Organization to achieve a result of which both the world and the Organization itself are in great need in present international relations. Two small countries, parts of the same nation, incited to mutual antagonism and conflict for several decades—and not to their own benefit—have, more than a quarter of a century after the artificial division of Korea and almost 20 years after the signing of the armistice, succeeded in reaching the first serious agreement on the opening of the process of reunification by peaceful means without outside interference. Even though it is only the first step, it reflects two equally positive processes: the easing of tensions in the world and a profound awareness of the national totality of the Korean people expressed in their continuous search to achieve reunification and secure independence and peace for themselves. This new development has found expression in item 96 proposed by a group of 29 sponsors, including my own country, an item which would make it possible to transcend the bases on which this question has been debated for years but which the General Committee recommends should be postponed until next year.

140. Thirdly, we firmly believe that the United Nations not only should take note of this new favourable development, but should encourage and stimulate it; that is, support and accelerate it. In the light of the new situation the United Nations should review the mandate and activity of UNCURK as well as the presence of the military command and of foreign troops in South Korea. There should be no doubt that the General Assembly can assist these positive trends, mainly by its moral support, without interfering with the independent solution of Korea's own problems. We explained before why we could not accept the contention that the consideration of this question at the present session within the framework of the proposed

item would amount to interference or that it could in any way jeopardize the evolution of intra-Korean relations, and I need not repeat that explanation. I wish only to point out that, in the opinion of my delegation, the United Nations should not fail to make use promptly of the new context in which the relations between the two Koreas, and around them, are developing. To make use of such an opportunity would at the same time serve to assert the authority of the United Nations and to strengthen its role.

141. For all those reasons my delegation opposes the recommendation of the General Committee and supports the proposal to include in the agenda of the twenty-seventh session the item entitled "Creation of favourable conditions to accelerate the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea".

142. Mr. TERENCE (Burundi) (*interpretation from French*): Mr. President, first of all, my delegation wishes to express to you its sincere congratulations on your well deserved election to the presidency of this twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly. We know how greatly this session and the United Nations in general can benefit from the role played by Poland, which already has shown its deep interest in international peace and also played such an important part in the Security Council less than 10 months ago, as I was able to note since I had the privilege of being the colleague and, if I may say so, the co-missionary for peace with Ambassador Kułaga, who demonstrated Poland's interest in the peace to which we all aspire. I say these few words first, but we may congratulate you again, Mr. President, in the course of our statement in the general debate.

143. Last year my delegation, in a spirit of conciliation and compromise, decided to abstain in the vote on this question of the postponement of discussion of the problem of Korea until the following session of the General Assembly. However, because of the Republic of Burundi's great attachment to peace and national sovereignty, this year it was our sincere hope that the problem would be discussed. Nevertheless, as we were able to demonstrate at previous sessions, especially on the problem of China, we do not seek to condemn the views of other delegations which do not share ours and still less do we wish to alienate them. We think that each Government has the right and the authority to pursue any policy which it deems favourable to peace.

144. This year, our delegation, in this spirit of peace and security, has been prompted to become a sponsor of item 96, particularly because of the fact that the title itself is most conciliatory. If the wording of the item had any improper or acrimonious flavour, our delegation would not have associated itself as a sponsor, but since the wording itself reveals the determination of the sponsors to avoid any nuance or gesture which might give rise to a spirit of acrimony, we believe it to be our duty to make our humble contribution to the restoration of peace in Korea.

145. Also, my Government feels that certain attitudes might treat Pyongyang and Seoul as sacrosanct. What I mean by this is that we should not believe that if we deal with the question here in the General Assembly the two Governments might be prompted to break off talks already begun. That is why my Government does not believe that we should treat them as sacrosanct.



146. I must emphasize that my delegation's purpose, far from being to antagonize, is in fact, to reconcile. This is our fundamental aim. Hence it would not be incompatible to deal with this problem in the Assembly and at the same time to make it possible for the Korean brothers to continue the talks that they have already begun in their own country.

147. We should also stress that today the ideological division which had existed between the great Powers is almost entirely eliminated, so that if the United States and China, and the United States and the Soviet Union have managed to begin a dialogue from which springboard they can draw progressively nearer to a general settlement of the international situation, how much more so should the Koreans who are brothers and sisters with the same mother—that is, sharing a single motherland—be able to do so? Today there is no longer any ideological division between the United States and the Soviet Union, between China and the United States, between East and West, and, internationally speaking, this is a real accomplishment. We should like to congratulate the Heads of State who were the prime movers in this improvement in the general climate. So what I want to do is to invite the brothers of Korea to emulate the great Powers, which, at least in this field, deserve our congratulations and have set an example. If the division between the great Powers, which was so wide, is gradually diminishing, then how much more could the protagonists of North and South Korea narrow their differences?

148. I should like to raise another point which might have passed unnoticed. The presence of foreign military troops today in Korea is less and less advantageous to any foreign Power, and is affected by the turn in the political climate which I just described, that is, the narrowing of differences between the great Powers. Therefore the withdrawal of foreign troops from Korea would mean that any Power which has to pay various costs to maintain troops in Korea could shed its burden. Then again, since the international situation of the 1950s no longer exists, obviously the presence of foreign troops in Korea today cannot any longer be regarded as a paying proposition. We consider therefore that their withdrawal would be highly advantageous, not only for Korea and the United Nations but also for those States which for some years now have had to bear the cost of their maintenance, a burden which in our view is obviously too heavy.

149. We conclude by saying that to debate the question of Korea in the General Assembly—far from constituting an obstacle to or curb on any dialogue already begun, or on talks which will no doubt be held shortly not only between the Red Cross organizations of North and South Korea, but, we are convinced, between the Governments concerned—will constitute a powerful incentive for the two antagonistic wings of Korea to become gradually reconciled to each other's positions because they will realize the need for putting an end once and for all to a conflict which has kept them apart.

150. I can also illustrate our contention by certain precedents. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, to whom we pay a warm tribute, has several times proposed the admission of the divided countries into the United

Nations, either after their reunification—which would be the ideal solution—or, for lack of anything better, as separate Governments. So this is a view which our eminent Secretary-General shares.

151. There is another precedent, that of China. Each year we had dealt with the problem of China, at times, unfortunately, with some acrimony, which has not been true of Burundi since we always tried to act as conciliators. Nevertheless, today everyone realizes that the presence of China in the United Nations is not prejudicial to the Organization or to world peace. On the contrary, it is a substantial contribution to peace to which we are all entitled.

152. There is also a third precedent, that of the two Germanys. For years the four great Powers—the United States, the Soviet Union, France and the United Kingdom—have dealt with the problem of Berlin. Yet the fact that a dialogue between the great Powers on Berlin had begun, and even led to a praiseworthy reconciliation, has not prevented East and West Germany from drawing nearer to each other. It is only a question of time before the two Germanys are admitted to the United Nations.

153. There is a fourth precedent, that of Viet-Nam. We are aware today that in several quarters, various negotiations have started up, both at the peace conference in Paris, which is quite official, and in the United States Congress, through the "discreet diplomacy" of the United States Government. All these efforts, far from thwarting a peaceful solution to the problem of Viet-Nam which we hope is drawing nearer, have in fact contributed to the search for one.

154. A last point: we consider, I repeat, that the destiny of the people of Korea should be settled by the Korean people themselves, without any external interference. Here we are only invoking a principle and a right which we claim for all peoples in similar circumstances now or in the future.

155. Finally, the dialogue between the two Koreas should be encouraged by the United Nations, and the fact that the two Red Cross organizations of North and South Korea have decided to meet with each other is not just the result of chance. The fact is that the two Governments certainly feel a need to get closer to each other and have encouraged and even delegated them to prepare the ground. My delegation and my Government therefore regard this meeting of the two Red Cross organizations as clear evidence of their determination to draw closer, and, finally, to follow the example of the great Powers to put an end once and for all to a conflict which, after all, arose in an ideological context, but was later complicated by the international situation.

156. We therefore appeal to the General Assembly and to all its members to include this item in the agenda. For, as I said with regard to the People's Republic of China, there is no question of winners or losers. If a solution is found, only the United Nations stands to win, and it is only those forces that oppose peace that will lose. In short, it is world peace that stands to win; in a word, it is all States and all Members of the United Nations that will be the winners.

157. Mr. DIAZ CASANUEVA (Chile) (*interpretation from Spanish*): The delegation of the Republic of Chile, as one of the 29 nations that have requested the inclusion in the agenda of item 96, is pained and frustrated by the recommendation of the General Committee to postpone the discussion of that item, that is to say, to silence the Assembly and prevent it from assisting a people yearning for freedom and independence, a people that seeks after so much suffering under a forced and arbitrary division, to unite and regain its historic identity. Chile has always felt a special regard for the Korean people and profoundly admires the gigantic task of reconstruction it has achieved.

158. Chile, faithful to the principles of self-determination and the defence of sovereignty against foreign interference, expresses its understanding and its desire to encourage, through the United Nations, the efforts of the Korean people to achieve reunification and independence, both of which inevitably go hand in hand.

159. In proposing consideration of item 96, we were not seeking to impel the United Nations to interfere in Korea; it is rather a question of having the United Nations act so as to eliminate foreign interference in Korea under the flag of this Organization. That is to say, the 29 nations support non-interference in the internal affairs of Korea. To that end, our Organization must not stand inactive while invoking the pretext of postponing a debate, for in doing so we should only be ensuring the perpetuation of the presence of foreign military forces in Korea, which necessarily must act as an impediment to the free expression of the will of that people.

160. Certain Powers fall into lamentable inconsistencies. There was a time when they sponsored United Nations activities in Korea, activities that constituted nothing more than a regrettable foreign intervention; but now they advocate passivity and the absence of the United Nations from Korea. For 20 years the United Nations not only has proved itself ineffective in the problem of Korea, but has even helped to make that problem more acute and to perpetuate the division of that country.

161. After 20 years, it is not the United Nations but the Koreans of both the North and the South who, weary of the ineffectiveness of our Organization, have decided to take their destiny into their own hands and without any foreign interference themselves make the first approaches toward reunification of the country, a unification so fervently desired by all peoples of the world.

162. In the presence of this promising fact of such enormous significance, that should fill us with joy and hope, we see here arising a negative tendency aimed at paralysing United Nations action, at preventing the United Nations from encouraging and co-operating in a process that will lead Korea to reunification, to the full enjoyment of its sovereignty and to its entry into the United Nations. What in fact some desire without avowing it or conceal is to go on maintaining in Korea a false and anachronistic Commission; above all, what some seek is to continue to maintain in South Korea foreign military forces that serve not the cause of Korea but rather that of foreign interests.

163. The maintenance of troops and military bases cannot contribute to a peaceful understanding; on the contrary,

their very presence constitutes a threat, a pressure, which hampers the realization of the noble objectives that both the North and the South Koreans have set for themselves. In this respect, Chile firmly subscribes to the Georgetown Declaration, adopted at the Conference of Foreign Ministers of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Georgetown, Guyana, in August 1972.

164. It has been asserted without foundation that a debate on Korea would be acrimonious and would revive the cold war. It has been far from the spirit of the 29 countries to provoke, to accuse, or to incite. Those who have carefully considered our draft resolution [*see A/8752/Add.9*], must know that it is a reasonable, prudent and well-intentioned draft. What we wish is to create "favourable conditions to accelerate the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea", and one of those favourable conditions is the establishment here, in the General Assembly, of a propitious, serene and objective climate, free from any interest that is not the interest of the Korean people as a whole. A debate on Korea in the General Assembly of the United Nations could not be positive without the presence of representatives from both North and South Korea. The time has come to listen to both, dispassionately and without prejudice. We wish the two parts of so tragically and unjustly divided a people to avoid every possibility of confrontation, inertia or the maintenance of the old *status quo*, and to try every possibility of holding an open and frank dialogue.

165. If the proposals of the 29 nations are not accepted, we shall be wasting a very valuable opportunity: the relaxation of tension between the great Powers that has been so warmly welcomed here, and the will for national reconciliation, for reunification and independence that fortunately is imbuing all the Korean people. The reduction of tension in international relations must favour not only the great Powers but also the small Powers and even more so the divided nations. By favouring the reunification and independence of Korea we are favouring world peace and discharging the historical responsibility assumed by the United Nations in regard to Korea, a responsibility which weighs heavily over our Organization as a debt.

166. We note that despite the resistance of some delegations it has been impossible to avoid debating the item, although in an incipient and not very effective manner. Many delegations have expressed their opinion either in favour of or against the proposals of the 29 countries. But we do not seek a purely preliminary debate on the basis of simple declarations. Our purpose is clear, honest and firm: we want a true debate on item 96, the postponement of which was recommended by the General Committee. We want a dispassionate debate that will tackle the problem in depth, a constructive debate that will culminate in recommendations and initiatives that truly represent a contribution to freedom, unity and well-being for the Korean people.

167. Our vote against the postponement of item 96 must be construed as the expression of the profound solidarity of the people of Chile with the people of North and South Korea, a people that has every right to the understanding and to the rapid and effective assistance of the United Nations.

168. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): I shall now call on those representatives who wish to explain their votes before the vote.

169. Mr. KARHILO (Finland): Let me explain briefly the position of the Finnish Government with regard to the Korean question and the position we will take on the matter we are asked to vote upon today.

170. Finland has consistently refrained from taking a position on the substance of the Korean question by espousing one argument or another on the United Nations role in Korea. The decisions on Korea were taken at the time of profound disagreement, particularly among the major Powers, on the question of United Nations involvement in international disputes in general; and the respective positions taken on the Korean question during those years reflected those fundamental differences.

171. Finland has consistently chosen not to become a party to this dispute, which has forced the United Nations to remain divided and unconstructive. While our position on the substance of this matter has remained unchanged, we have regretted the continued fruitless debate about the rights and wrongs of the Korean conflict and we have hoped for a renewed effort of all parties concerned to settle these differences and provide North and South Korea with an equal opportunity to take part in our deliberations in the future.

172. My Government welcomes the positive developments on the Korean peninsula as reflected in the recently established dialogue between the two parties. It is our hope that the General Assembly will afford both South and North Korea an equal opportunity to express their views without preconditions in this forum.

173. Our vote on this procedural matter is based on those considerations.

174. Mr. GARCIA ROBLES (Mexico) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Article 35 of the Charter sets forth a fundamental right of the Members of the United Nations by expressly stipulating that they may "bring any dispute, or any situation of the nature referred to in Article 34"—that is, in the very broad terms employed in the latter Article: "any situation which might lead to international friction or give rise to a dispute . . ."—"to the attention of the Security Council or of the General Assembly."

175. In order to assess the importance that the authors in San Francisco quite justly attached to that right, suffice it to recall that in Chapter VIII, devoted entirely to the promotion of recourse to regional arrangements or agencies for the maintenance of peace and international security, the Charter carefully safeguards the exercise of that right by laying down that Article 52 "in no way impairs the application of Articles 34 and 35".

176. The reasons for this concern of the authors of the Charter are quite obvious, since this deals no more and no less than with the right to be heard, the right that we might call "the right to an international hearing".

177. It is for that reason that Mexico has at all times, as a general rule of conduct, voted in favour of the inclusion in

the agenda of the Assembly of any item that one or several Member States wished to have considered by the most highly representative body of the United Nations. We have departed from this general rule only on the very rare occasions which, for special reasons, we felt called for exceptional treatment.

178. One such case is that now under consideration by the Assembly because it seems to us that the reasons adduced in the deliberations of the General Committee—which led to a recommendation adopted by an overwhelming majority for postponement until the twenty-eighth session of consideration of item 37 of the provisional agenda on the report of UNCURK and of item 96 entitled "Creation of favourable conditions to accelerate the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea"—justify our delegation, which is not in a position to support that recommendation, in not wishing to cast a negative vote on it. For these reasons, we have decided to abstain in the vote.

179. We should like to stress, however, that we hope that the procedure now recommended to us will be truly exceptional for we could not accept its recurrent use, as happened for so many years with a similar procedure in the case of the Chinese representation.

180. Mr. STUBBS (Peru) (*interpretation from Spanish*): In explanation of the vote of the Peruvian delegation I wish to state that while UNCURK exists and while foreign troops under the flag of the United Nations remain on Korean territory, this Organization and all its Members have a responsibility, a voice and a vote in regard to this subject. This responsibility cannot be waived indefinitely and the General Assembly will have to face it to decide on its future involvement in Korea.

181. The favourable climate that appears to exist for a rapprochement between the North and the South would, for the moment and circumstantially, justify our having no debate on this question at the current session of the General Assembly, but this must not constitute a definitive decision—a decision which Peru, as a Member of the United Nations, would not be in a position to accept.

182. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): We shall now take a decision on paragraph 16 of the report of the General Committee [A/8800/Rev.1].

183. We shall begin with paragraph 16 (a) in which the General Committee recommends that items 35 and 36 of the provisional agenda should not be included in the agenda. If there are no objections to that recommendation, I shall consider it adopted.

*It was so decided.*

184. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now take a decision on the recommendation of the General Committee in paragraph 16 (b) that items 37 and 96 of the provisional agenda should be included in the provisional agenda of the twenty-eighth session. A roll-call vote has been requested.

*A vote was taken by roll-call.*

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

*In favour:* Malaysia, Maldives, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Swaziland, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zaire, Argentina, Australia, Barbados, Belgium, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Dahomey, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Khmer Republic, Laos, Lesotho, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malawi.

*Against:* Malta, Mauritania, Mongolia, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Albania, Algeria, Bulgaria, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic,

Chile, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Egypt, Finland, Guinea, Hungary, Iraq, Libyan Arab Republic, Madagascar.

*Abstaining:* Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Norway, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Upper Volta, Afghanistan, Austria, Bahrain, Bhutan, Burma, France, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Kuwait, Lebanon.

*The recommendation of the General Committee that items 37 and 96 should be included in the provisional agenda of the twenty-eighth session was adopted by 70 votes to 35, with 21 abstentions.<sup>1</sup>*

185. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): Since there are still some speakers who want to explain their vote after the vote, I shall call upon them this afternoon.

*The meeting rose at 1.40 p.m.*

<sup>1</sup> The delegation of Mauritius subsequently stated that it wished to have its vote recorded as having been in favour of the recommendation. The delegation of the Congo subsequently stated that it wished to have its vote recorded as having been against the recommendation.