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**President: Mr. Edvard HAMBRO (Norway).**

### ***Tribute to the memory of General Charles de Gaulle, former President of the French Republic***

1. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): It is with deep emotion that the world has this morning learnt of the death of Charles de Gaulle. But in fact he was one of those men who never die. When in June 1940 he arrived in London, a general who was unknown, or rather unrecognized, he declared unequivocally that he was taking charge of France. For four years he did a great deal more than that. He was not only the living symbol of the resistance and the revival of France; he inspired the whole of Europe in the darkest hour of our civilization. After the war he was one of the architects of European reconstruction. Later he pursued his work as a patriot and a great leader who loved liberty by saving France from a new crisis and establishing new brotherly links between France and Africa.

2. A few hours ago the President of the French Republic declared: "France is widowed". In fact it is the world that now weeps.

3. I should like simply to read out the last lines of *Mémoires d'espoir*, the last book written by Charles de Gaulle:

"On the slope that France is climbing, my mission is always to guide her toward the top, whereas all the voices below call unceasingly to her to come back down. Having once again chosen to listen to me, she has pulled herself out of stagnation and has just passed the stage of renewal. But, starting from there, just as before, I have no other destination to show her than the summit, no other road than that of effort."<sup>1</sup>

*On the proposal of the President, the members of the General Assembly observed a minute of silence.*

4. Mr. ARAUJO CASTRO (Brazil) (*interpretation from French*): On behalf of the twenty-three delegations which go to make up the Latin-American Group, it is my duty to convey to the French people and Government, through the delegation of France, our heartfelt grief at the passing of General de Gaulle. It is

an irreparable loss not only for his great country—which he loved so dearly and of which he said: "France comes from the depths of bygone ages, she lives, the century needs her"—but also for humanity as a whole which saw in him one of its great spiritual sources.

5. For his courage, his sense of history, his refusal to accept defeat and to give in to discouragement, for all those reasons, Charles de Gaulle was undoubtedly a man of destiny. At one time in his life he embodied his entire nation and, to a certain extent, he was the spirit of man's resistance against tyranny and oppression. His life and what he did always transcended the frontiers of his own country. In one word, he transformed and enriched the history of the contemporary world. He will remain one of the great personalities of an historical era which might be considered as one of the last affirmations of man and human will in the onward rush of social and political changes.

6. His disappearance today marks the end of a period of humanism and humanization in the remorseless forward march of history. Humanity will become poorer thereby, more monotonous. His boldness, his imagination, will be missed. He has been the symbol of his nation and a symbol of his era. He withstood the trials of war and those of peace. He always had the courage to affirm what he believed and he never recoiled before history or before events. He caused arguments; he irritated his adversaries. He was never self-effacing despite his voluntary retirement from the political scene in Europe. Latin American countries have a very vivid recollection of his visit of 1964, which brought to us a piece of France, the same France which played such a major part in forming our ideas and our national cultures.

7. For many of us, Charles de Gaulle represented France, an inexhaustible source of history and humanity. For many of us, he represented the human being who wishes to be a master of his destiny and to affirm his liberty of action and mind before difficulties which appeared well nigh insurmountable. He will remain for us a great symbol of the struggle of man for freedom and the struggle of nations against foreign oppression. He will remain a living part of history and a living part of humanity.

8. Mr. BORCH (Denmark): As Chairman of the group of Western European countries and other States, it is my sad duty and privilege to express to the bereaved family and to the Government and people of France the profound condolences of the peoples and Governments of the countries of that group on the passing away of General Charles de Gaulle.

<sup>1</sup> Charles de Gaulle, *Mémoires d'espoir* (Paris, Librairie Plon, 1970), vol. 1 (*Le Renouveau*, 1958-1962), p. 314.

9. One of the great figures of this century, indeed of any century, has passed away. General Charles de Gaulle was the unique statesman of our time, a man of vision and a man of will to realize his visions. Ever since General de Gaulle, during the Second World War, became the natural leader of the Free French, he never lost sight of his sacred aim to regain the independence of France. During this long struggle he became the embodiment of France, and when independence was achieved we witnessed the happy fusion of him and his people, never equalled. France was ever since in the centre of de Gaulle's endeavours.

10. We share the sadness and the mourning that has gripped his country. Anyone who has lived in France in the time of General de Gaulle will realize that his position in the hearts of the women and the men of France was marked by the way in which they had shared good and bad times, by a common fate. But he was too great a personality not to extend his vision beyond the confines of his own country. First among European statesmen, he realized the justice in the urge for liberty felt by the countries of the new world.

11. His influence on these developments in Africa and in Asia bears testimony to his deep understanding of human nature and his respect for the equality of men. His vision of a free, regenerated Europe became the centre of his activities during the last twelve years. He first put his status, his personality and his prestige to the task of expiating the enmity between the traditional antagonists of the old continent. Thereby, he, more than anybody else, laid the only solid foundation on which the Europe of the future can be built.

12. But his vision reached even further. Through a process ranging from détente through entente and aiming at co-operation, he directed his efforts towards breaking down the artificial barriers which were the result of the Second World War, thereby also with persistence pursuing the ultimate goal of a world of peace and security.

13. His life throughout was marked by a special dignity that never left him. His belief in his country and in his people remained his guide. France has lost its great son. Europe has lost the man who healed the wounds of old conflicts and remained a vigorous voice in the endeavours to form a new future for our old continent. The world has lost a great statesman.

14. Mr. ISSRAELYAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (*translated from Russian*): This morning tragic tidings have spread around the whole world; the great son of France and eminent statesman of our times, Charles de Gaulle, is dead. The name of de Gaulle is linked with the most important landmarks in the development of France and in the history of twentieth-century international relations. His outstanding role as one of the leaders of the struggle against fascism during the years of the Second World War has been universally acknowledged.

15. General de Gaulle also played an important role in the development of Franco-Soviet co-operation; as

head of the Free French Committee during the Second World War, General de Gaulle took the initiative in establishing relations between that Committee and the Soviet Union during the very earliest stages of the war. He highly appreciated the outstanding contribution made by the Soviet Union to the defeat of fascist Germany. In a statement made during the war he said that the French people welcomed with enthusiasm the successes and the increase in the strength of the Russian people, because those successes brought France nearer to its desired goal—freedom and revenge''.

16. As a great patriot of his country and a realist in politics, General de Gaulle clearly understood the tremendous importance of Franco-Soviet co-operation for the destiny of France, European security and universal peace. He said that it was unfortunate for everyone that alliance between France and Russia had too often over the centuries met with obstacles and opposition, born of intrigues or misunderstanding but that the need for such an alliance became obvious at every new turning-point in history.

17. Consistently and firmly following his political course, General de Gaulle responded to the proposal of the Soviet Government and when visiting Moscow in 1944, he signed the Franco-Soviet Treaty of Alliance. The name of de Gaulle is also linked with the marked improvement in Franco-Soviet relations which came about at the end of the 1950s, when General de Gaulle became Head of the French State.

18. General de Gaulle visited the Soviet Union and met the leaders of the Soviet State on a number of occasions. His visits to our country led to further mutual understanding between the Soviet Union and France. The recent visit to the Soviet Union by the President of France, Mr. Pompidou, is a continuation of the policy aimed at improving Franco-Soviet relations, a development of which Charles de Gaulle was a staunch advocate.

19. On this day of universal mourning I would like to stress that there are extensive possibilities for Franco-Soviet relations, since these relations are based on friendship and on the fact that the fundamental interests of the Soviet and French peoples coincide.

20. The Soviet Union, in giving effect to the provisions of the Franco-Soviet agreements, will continue to struggle consistently for the strengthening of the security of peoples and of universal peace, and for the expansion and improvement of Franco-Soviet co-operation.

21. The memory of General de Gaulle, hero of the Second World War and great son of the friendly French people, will remain for ever in the hearts of Soviet people.

22. The Soviet delegation would like to express to the French delegation its sincere condolences on the death of Charles de Gaulle.

23. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia): A world statesman has fallen, and a pall of sorrow now hangs not

only over France but over all places where the love of liberty and freedom throbs in the hearts of men.

24. Charles de Gaulle began his life's vocation as a military man, but he crowned his life during the last quarter of a century as the greatest liberator in the era after the Second World War.

25. He was often compared to Napoleon but, with all due respect to the genius of Napoleon, I must say that Charles de Gaulle rose above the ambition of military geniuses. He identified himself with mankind. Charles de Gaulle was universal for he was the defender not only of the worth and dignity of his compatriots but of all men who suffered defeat and repression. He was compared to Joan of Arc in having rekindled the spirit of France when aggression was perpetrated against their homeland. But de Gaulle's sphere was not France, it was not Europe, it was the whole world. Charles de Gaulle was the epitome of chivalry for his magnanimity was felt and applauded wherever man clamoured for freedom. His loss is irreparable but he has left us the memory of an exemplary life—and this is all the more important for those politicians of today who never can rise above petty national interests.

26. With your permission, Mr. President, I wish to quote one of his sayings which stands for all time. Referring to men in office—more precisely to politicians—he said: "Since a politician never believes what he says, he is surprised when others believe him." Charles de Gaulle inspired faith. People respected him and admired him, but above all they loved him.

27. May God rest his soul.

28. Mr. BAYÜLKEN (Turkey) (*interpretation from French*): May I in my capacity as Chairman of the Asian group, and on behalf of my delegation, express our deep feelings of emotion and sadness at the sudden death of General de Gaulle, former President of the French Republic and the great leader of the French people?

29. General Charles de Gaulle was one of the greatest personalities of our time. The work that he accomplished has left its mark on the contemporary era and will testify eternally to his exceptional qualities. As a matter of fact General de Gaulle placed his talents and qualities as a statesman at the service not only of his own country but of all mankind as well. Thus, throughout his political career he won not only the gratitude of his own people but also the respect and esteem of the international community. We will always remember his great contribution to the self-determination and rapprochement of peoples.

30. On behalf of the members of the Asian group as well as my own delegation we request the French delegation to convey to the Government and people of France and to the family of the great deceased statesman our most sincere and profound condolences.

31. Mr. YAZID (Algeria) (*interpretation from French*): The Algerian delegation bows its head in

memory of Charles de Gaulle and associates itself with the sorrow shared by his family and the French people.

32. General de Gaulle, a statesman of great prestige, for thirty years has left his mark on international life and on French national life. A man of great historical vision, remarkable political courage and unshakable determination, de Gaulle richly deserves the tribute of our international community and the admiration of peoples, in the forefront of whose ranks we would place the Algerian people.

33. The decisive role of General de Gaulle during the war against nazism and fascism, his important contribution to decolonization, the wisdom of his attitudes on the problem of China and dramatic events afflicting the Middle East and South-East Asia, and his concept of co-operation with the third world, made him a man highly respected by the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

34. His writings and his public statements in international life always expressed his continuing vision of a world open to the future.

35. Algeria has special reason to pay a tribute to the memory of de Gaulle. He helped to bring the French people to recognize and admit the fact of an Algerian nation and to choose the path of co-operation.

36. Mr. OULD TAYA (Mauritania) (*interpretation from French*): My delegation at this sad moment in history and, in connexion with this great tragedy, would like to join its voice to those of other delegations that have already expressed their condolences.

37. My delegation is all the more deeply struck by the death of General de Gaulle since the country which I have the honour to represent here has always felt a great deal of esteem and friendship for this man who has just left us and for his country.

38. When General de Gaulle, in 1940, declared, in the midst of disaster, "France has lost a battle but France has not lost the war", he could not have chosen better words to express the feelings of a soldier and patriot, feelings which inspired and guided him all his life.

39. The role that General de Gaulle played in French policy and on the international scene placed him in the pages of history long before his death. It showed him to be a great man, not only a great Frenchman; because of his actions, he became also a great figure for all mankind.

40. President de Gaulle was also a prophet. As representative of an African State how could I fail to touch on the important role that General de Gaulle played in the emancipation of my country and its accession to independence, and in the case of many other African countries that gained access to independence? Once again this illustrates his vision of history and his sense of patriotism.

41. I should like at this sad moment to express on behalf of my delegation our sincere condolences to the family of the deceased, to the French mission and to the entire French nation.

42. Mr. BEAULNE (Canada) (*interpretation from French*): The death of General de Gaulle is today causing a vast wave of emotion throughout the world. It is an emotion which the delegation of Canada feels particularly profoundly because of the powerful ties that link our country to one of its mother countries.

43. An outstanding figure in the Second World War, General de Gaulle held the torch of hope on high in those dark days. Former President of the French Republic, he was able to lift to its highest point the prestige of his country, to which he devoted his entire life. His name has already gone down in history.

44. The Canadian delegation shares the mourning of the people and Government of France, to which it expresses its most sincere condolences.

45. Mr. FACK (Netherlands) (*interpretation from French*): This morning we were profoundly moved to learn of the passing of General de Gaulle, a great statesman of France and of Europe.

46. The Netherlands delegation wishes to join with all other delegations in conveying to the French delegation the sincerest expression of its condolences.

47. General de Gaulle was, during the Second World War, the living incarnation of hope and freedom for millions of Frenchmen and Europeans.

48. General de Gaulle had occasion to suffer all the reverses and vicissitudes which are attendant upon those who are called upon to guide the political destiny of States. But something which is even more important is that he experienced the happiness of giving not only to the French people but to entire nations, that freedom which has always been the inspiration of France itself.

49. Mr. HOVEYDA (Iran) (*interpretation from French*): Mr. President, a few minutes ago the Ambassador of Turkey, who is also Chairman of the Asian group, offered our condolences to the French delegation but, with your permission, I should like to add a few words on my own behalf and on behalf of my delegation.

50. The relations that my sovereign has had with General de Gaulle are known to all and have been described in the General's memoirs. These relations were of a very special nature and General de Gaulle always held my country and its Government in high esteem.

51. I should like to add a personal note for I had the honour of meeting President de Gaulle for the first time when, during the war, I was a student and I was studying in the French Lycée at Beirut. In June 1941 we had the honour at the Lycée of receiving the late President who came to talk to us. I still remember

very vividly today what he said to us that day. He explained to us why we should all support the struggle that the allies were conducting against nazism. He made such a strong impression on us then—and that impression remained so strong—that General de Gaulle became for my generation the prototype of hero and of master thinker.

52. There are personages so gigantic in stature—I might say international—that their imprint leaves its mark on a whole era, and General de Gaulle falls into that category.

53. I have heard that President Pompidou proclaimed over the radio that France was in mourning. I believe that it is the whole world that is in mourning. My delegation wishes to associate itself with those who preceded me to this rostrum in conveying our deepest condolences to the French delegation.

54. Mr. MONDJO (People's Republic of the Congo) (*interpretation from French*): Undoubtedly 1970 will prove to have been the year of great mourning for mankind as a whole. Yesterday we all mourned Nasser; today the scythe of death has once again without warning cut down a great man among great men, General Charles de Gaulle.

55. If I were tempted to try and summarize the accomplishments of a man who had an extraordinary national and international destiny to fulfil, if I were tempted to sketch the incomparable portrait of a man indissolubly linked to the history of this time, I should be undertaking something both hazardous and presumptuous.

56. De Gaulle the military man of genius, the intrepid and stainless patriot; de Gaulle the stylish and vivacious writer; de Gaulle the political leader who was proof against disintegrating speculations and without peer in France; de Gaulle the great lover of France is no longer with us. His figure became legendary in our African campaigns and will always remain a living memory in the hearts of our elder people, who around the countless qualities of this greatest of all leaders built a legend that will live on in posterity.

57. Tears are now being shed by the French people, suddenly aware of how great their loss has been. We peoples of Africa wish to add our garland of roses to the millions of tributes from all over the world that are now ceaselessly flooding into Colombey-les-Deux-Eglises, that charming little village in France to which the great man withdrew with dignity to prepare for his final retirement.

58. For us Africans, de Gaulle was the man of Brazzaville; he was the first to see and understand the relentless wind of liberation blowing through Africa. To us, de Gaulle was the independence of some of our States that struggled to recover their personality and liberty—not liberty founded on indifference but liberty in all friendship and in freely accepted co-operation with the former colonial Power. De Gaulle was also an attentive listener to the voice of the heroic

Algerian people; he understood that it is vain to try and turn back the wheel of history.

59. Undoubtedly, there have been many pitfalls, and many errors on the path of friendship. Let us simply recall that no human work is perfect, and let us salute the vision, clear-sightedness and reason of this great man, the champion of détente, of understanding and friendship among all the peoples of the world, a Western statesman who more than any other made a great contribution to the consolidation of peace throughout the world and the improvement of international relations. Charles de Gaulle will never be forgotten by Africa.

60. I hope the French delegation will interpret these words as the deeply felt expression of the condolences of all African delegations and at the same time of their profound gratitude. In admiring the accomplishments and genius of General de Gaulle I cannot refrain from thinking of what Vinet said: "Let us work as carefully as if we were eternal. If we do not ourselves endure, let our works endure."

61. Mr. President, on behalf on the African group, I would request you to be kind enough to suspend this meeting as a sign of mourning and tribute to the memory of General de Gaulle.

62. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): I believe that the representative of the People's Republic of the Congo has indirectly referred to the consultations held before this meeting between the President and the representatives of various geographical groups, at which it was agreed that only one representative of each geographical group should address the Assembly. Since representatives other than heads of groups have spoken, it would be difficult not to call on other representatives who have asked for the floor.

63. Mr. TARABANOV (Bulgaria) (*interpretation from French*): On behalf of the group of Eastern European countries I should like to convey to the French delegation our deep condolences at the vast loss suffered by the French people on the death of General Charles de Gaulle.

64. Men have always been accustomed to the sudden changes of life; they are always more or less to be expected. But the death of General de Gaulle has been a painful shock for us all. One of the greatest politicians and statesmen of our era, General de Gaulle was a man of incomparable courage whose awareness of modern realities was rare among political men of our time.

65. The name of Charles de Gaulle is very closely linked with the long struggle of our generation for peace, understanding among the peoples of Europe and co-operation among all nations.

66. In the dark days of Hitler oppression, the voice of Charles de Gaulle was a call to arms and an alarm not only for the French people, but for the peoples of Europe as well. Although he did not participate per-

sonally in the creation of the United Nations, Charles de Gaulle was actually one of the creators of this Organization because of his important contribution to the defeat of nazism in Europe and because of his participation in the common struggle waged by the anti-Hitler coalition.

67. With his death not only his family, the French people and France, but all of mankind feel this loss with deep pain and sorrow.

68. The PRESIDENT: The President would suggest that, if there is no objection, the list of speakers now be closed on this item.

*It was so decided.*

69. Mr. AKE (Ivory Coast) (*interpretation from French*): It was with deep grief that the Ivory Coast learnt this morning of the demise of General de Gaulle, the former President of the French Republic. Thus, there has passed away the last survivor of those prestigious leaders who led the allies to victory in Europe and Africa.

70. Standard-bearer of the French renaissance, he preached the union of all Frenchmen and dialogue with all peoples. He had formed a concept of France, and that concept was one of greatness, with all that is implied in the term—a concept of greatness at a time when economic, financial and military power ensures that materialism triumphs over idealism.

71. A convinced democrat, his was a voice of authority, for he was the voice of a sovereign people which had elected him President of the Republic, and who continually renewed their confidence in him. Every important decision was submitted to a popular referendum, and when a question of relatively secondary importance was only rejected by a slight majority, he returned his power to the people and withdrew from political life. His voluntary retirement was received sadly, but respectfully, and with confidence that his work would be continued.

72. The disappearance of General de Gaulle is today for the entire world and for French-speaking Africa in particular a cruel loss, because General de Gaulle was our spiritual father. He was the man of the Brazzaville Conference, the man of freedom and of self-determination of peoples, the man who was able to understand the legitimate aspirations of peoples under foreign domination who always did everything in his power to ensure that those peoples who were under French administration would be able to accede to international sovereignty, in an atmosphere of friendship and fruitful co-operation with his country, France, with which we are linked by so many close ties.

73. General de Gaulle was also a man of friendship, a friendship which he never went back on and to which we responded with admiration and affection, the depth and sincerity of which perhaps only he could appreciate.



74. This great man is no longer with us. On his tomb, according to his wish, no words will be pronounced. What could in fact be said when everything had already been said, when for so long General de Gaulle has been a part of history and has written many pages of it himself?

75. Today the Ivory Coast and all our friendly States of Africa put on mourning. We have come to the end of the first chapter of the history of our young nations, General de Gaulle and Africa, and we weep over the passing of a friend and a benefactor.

76. We would request the French delegation to be kind enough to construe what we have said as an expression of our friendly sympathy and to convey to the Government and people of France and the family of this great statesman who is now deceased our profound condolences.

77. Mr. BENHIMA (Morocco) (*interpretation from French*): I must only candidly admit that it would be presumptuous to try in a few minutes to express from this rostrum as briefly as possible the feelings that we all share today in Morocco, in Africa and throughout the world at the demise of former President de Gaulle.

78. I should like to say that the silence that fell last night over Colombey-les-Deux-Eglises is perhaps more eloquent and will have a more far-reaching echo than the famous London appeal. Between those two moments in history, a destiny unrolled before the eyes of France and the world, in perpetual change, a destiny whose values were drawn from the most glorious sources of French history, and projected its forecasts to the remote future with great lucidity.

79. General de Gaulle is not only the French patriot who, in 1940, in the face of the inability of the whole of Europe to act, took up the gauntlet for France and for a continent. True, he entered into public history with the London appeal, but he already existed in the pages of the history of his country as a brilliant soldier, military historian and strategist. In launching the London appeal, he gave to a generation of people throughout the world a feeling similar to the one imprinted by the generation of 1789 on that historic era.

80. In Morocco we knew General de Gaulle in 1944, at one of the stages of his life when he was forging the destiny of renascent France, when he came to raise the famous Leclerc Division, whose epic story we know very well. His memory is intimately linked to one of the most prestigious figures in our history. He received our former sovereign as the first foreign Head of State to visit France, and he did him the honour of taking him to Alsace and Lorraine and of giving him the title of Companion of the Liberation.

81. The African countries recall his Brazzaville statement in which, at an almost premature moment, the head of a Power that was at that time still devoted to its empire had already sketched out with great courage the lines of the future destiny of France and of its friendships throughout the world. We recall the

handshake that he gave to Governor Eboué. I believe that that handshake sealed on the other side of the Mediterranean the solid friendship between the African continent and France, of which General de Gaulle, despite so much hesitation, was the brilliant author.

82. General de Gaulle went beyond the problems of his country. At a time when the world was being rebuilt on new foundations, he had the courage to define the new concept of national dignity in the international community, and we recall with deep emotion the messages that constituted his speeches when he visited Europe, the East, Africa and Latin America. The theme of those statements constitutes a political philosophy and a moral doctrine for the modern world. The name of General de Gaulle will always be linked to the most important and most respectable values of our era.

83. Certainly the whole world today associates itself in deep sorrow with France's mourning. The countries that knew General de Gaulle share once again with France this great feeling of sorrow.

84. I believe also that the appeals he launched, will continue to be an imperishable torch and that the world as a whole will continue to listen in the silence of Colombey-les-Deux-Eglises to what de Gaulle for decades tried to tell our world. It is with those memories that Morocco wishes to associate itself, in expressing to the French delegation its feelings of great sorrow and its deepest condolences.

85. Mr. KHANACHET (Kuwait) (*interpretation from French*): The whole world was deeply shocked to hear of the sudden passing of a great man among great men, General Charles de Gaulle. He will be mourned not by France alone but by the entire world, which has lost in him one who bore aloft the banner of liberty and justice.

86. Charles de Gaulle, at a time when the entire world was threatened with destruction by the forces of fascism and nazism, was able to stand alone in the name of free France to say no to the forces of tyranny. In 1958, at a time when the forces of anarchy and subversion were trying to destroy what Charles de Gaulle had built up in France, he was able to say no, and the French people again followed him. In 1958, at a time when the forces of neo-nazism were trying to seize power, Charles de Gaulle said no to those forces. Thus, Charles de Gaulle could boast of having liberated France twice in his lifetime: first against the forces of nazism and secondly against the forces of neo-nazism.

87. General Charles de Gaulle struggled for a strong France, a great France. His vision of greatness went far beyond the frontiers of France; it encompassed the entire world. It went beyond the greatness of France in the days of its empire to ally it to something more lasting and more valuable, that is, the greatness of France's destiny, the vocation of France, a free nation and a freeing nation. No one will forget that it was Charles de Gaulle who, in ending the French

Empire, ushered in a new era in the world, an era of decolonization.

88. The entire world is indebted to this great man for its faith in the ideals of justice and freedom and his unswerving determination to struggle for those ideals.

89. May his soul rest in peace, and may the French nation accept the most heartfelt condolences of a people and country that have always had unshakeable friendship for France, inspired by the historic relations which have always linked the Arab nations with the French.

90. Mr. MOJSOV (Yugoslavia): I should like, on behalf of the Yugoslav delegation, to express to the French delegation our most sincere and profound sympathy at the sudden death of General Charles de Gaulle, former President of the French Republic.

91. The people of France have lost their most outstanding leader in contemporary history, a man who, above all, saw his struggle for the important role of France in international relations in the perspective of international co-operation of equals. General de Gaulle not only left an outstanding mark on the new French epoch. In his vision of the main current of the contemporary world, the emancipation of peoples, he was one of the promoters, as he was the first resistance fighter against fascism and Nazi occupation. He also perceived in time the obsolescence of colonial relations in the world and made a substantive contribution to the acceleration of the liberation of the African peoples and to the process of decolonization in the world in general.

92. General de Gaulle, with his far-sighted concept of international relations, contributed to the shattering of the bonds of blocs deriving from an increasing polarization and concentration of military power in the world, and thus he made a tremendous impact on the process of détente in Europe. For more than half a century General de Gaulle not only rendered services to his country and occupied a permanent place in its history but was a statesman with far-reaching views in the field of international relations and influenced generations of people both in France and throughout the world. At this stage of international developments his death marks a great loss.

93. The Yugoslav people, who shared with the French people the fate of the two world wars and are linked by so many close and traditional ties of friendship and co-operation, share the grief and sorrow for a man who had met the challenge of politics and of history. The modern world has lost one of its architects, a man who, with his mind and actions, won the admiration both of his close followers and of those who did not always share his views.

94. Mr. PHILLIPS (United States of America): The United States delegation joins in paying tribute to a great leader of France and one of the most remarkable world leaders of our time, the late President Charles de Gaulle.

95. For those of us who lived through the Second World War it is impossible to speak that name without emotion. General de Gaulle personified in France's most tragic moment the unconquerable will of the French nation to be free again. To that cause he gave his powerful mind and personality, and in so doing he helped to redeem not only France but Western civilization.

96. More than a decade later, returning to office during a time of great stress and change, President de Gaulle led his country into a new constitutional period; he found the way to peace and independence for Algeria and the new nations of West Africa; and he played an important part in shaping the new Europe which is still being created. Any one of these achievements would have earned him a place in history.

97. Emerson once wrote: "There is no history, there is only biography." The life of Charles de Gaulle reminds us that even in this so-called era of the mass man, there are heroic figures still, and that the world can be changed and inspired by them.

98. On behalf of the Government and people of the United States, I ask the delegation of France, my country's oldest ally, to convey to Madame de Gaulle and other members of General de Gaulle's family, and to the people of France, our profound sympathy in the loss of this great man.

99. Mr. SEN (India): The Ambassador of Turkey has already spoken on behalf of the Asian group, but when our emotions are deeply stirred, it is difficult to keep silent. Yet, it is not easy to speak when a man like de Gaulle dies. I can only hope that it would not be presumptuous for lesser men to pay tribute to a giant whom we can at most only dimly understand.

100. Only the other day we mourned the death of another great leader of men, President Nasser. These tragedies, coming one after the other, are bound to turn our thoughts inwards and compel us to do some soul-searching—not individually our own, but for mankind and indeed for civilization. The great and subtle respect which my country had for General de Gaulle is known to France, and was a vital factor in building up the fund of trust and friendship and understanding France and India had built up together.

101. That France has lost a great son and a great leader in the death of General de Gaulle needs no emphasis. But along with France, the world has been deprived of one of the noblest men of our century. If France has held the torch of civilization for many centuries, de Gaulle certainly was one of the brightest and highest flames of that torch. His statesmanship, his spontaneous humanity, his vision and his wisdom will be remembered by men and women for many, many years to come. Indeed, we are a little bit like orphans by his death. A great father has gone, in fullness of time and achievement, but none the less the human family will miss his affection and his guidance.

102. My delegation would like to pay our homage to this great man and to convey our heartfelt condol-

ences to all Frenchmen everywhere, and our sincerest sympathies to the family of General de Gaulle. France's loss is our loss, just as, when General de Gaulle lived, his gains were our gains. We can only take comfort in the thought that a country which can produce men like General de Gaulle must surely have the virtues to live up to the highest ideals of our civilization. While the world mourns, we can only try to learn humbly a little from this great man. That is the highest tribute we can pay.

103. Mr. SIMUCHIMBA (Zambia): It would not be in order if English-speaking Africa did not express its condolences to the French people on their great loss of General de Gaulle. Now, General de Gaulle was France, and France was General de Gaulle. The death of General de Gaulle has robbed France and the whole world of a nationalist, a freedom-fighter, a statesman and a lover of justice for all. The Government and people of Zambia join the people of France and of the international community in mourning General de Gaulle. May he rest in peace. May we rededicate ourselves to his ideals of freedom and justice for all.

104. Mr. SALIM (United Republic of Tanzania): In the death of General de Gaulle, the French nation has lost one of its most illustrious and distinguished patriots. But de Gaulle was not only a great leader of his country, he was a towering figure of world stature whose vision and political courage came to be respected by the international community. A great liberator of his own country, General de Gaulle's prestige went far beyond the borders of France or, for that matter, of Europe. The third world in particular respected and admired him for his understanding and support of many a cause of the peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America. Tanzania is very deeply grieved at the passing away of this world statesman.

105. Our delegation would like to take this opportunity to convey our deep condolences to the French delegation as they mourn this great loss. We request them to be kind enough to transmit the same to the bereaved family as well as to the Government and people of France.

106. Mr. DRISS (Tunisia) (*interpretation from French*): As death is a necessary human condition the fact of it does not shock the mind but rather it cuts short a meaning, it condemns a life to total incompleteness, it translates incompleteness into destiny.

107. Charles de Gaulle has left his era. If it were not for our shock at the unexpected, particularly when it strikes a man who is linked by so many factors to us Tunisians, were it not for our understandable grief, we would not say that de Gaulle is dead; we would say that more than ever he lives, liberated henceforth from the constraints of the human condition, from the history which he himself confronted, moulded and dominated, and, to the very last minute of his existence, conceived as being the touchstone of any life which aspires to glory.

108. More than ever, de Gaulle will continue to dominate his times, he will be present among us because of what he has accomplished, the heritage he bequeathed his country, France, with which he identified himself and which saw itself mirrored in him; and to his contemporaries, who for more than a quarter of a century never remained indifferent to his words, deeds and gestures; and to humanity, for which he had feelings that were so profound and so genuine that historians will probably be tempted to see in the achievements and the actions of that great patriot, motivated first and foremost by the desire for the well-being of France, the acts of a high priest completely devoted to the service of the human community.

109. Charles de Gaulle was an extraordinary figure in human history because of what he did and what he said, gifts which are very rarely given in equal measure to men, but which, when they are, testify to the confidence and universal spirit residing in the man who is their beneficiary.

110. Let us reflect on what he says about his achievements, at the end of *Mémoires d'espoir*, the last volume of his memoirs to be published:

“At a time when our country was plunged in the ridiculous political confusion in which it was struggling, I wanted to lead it to choose a State with a Head, a Government, an authority, an equilibrium. That was done. Rather than letting it shed its blood, lose its money, disrupt its unity by attaching itself to an obsolete and unjustifiable colonial domination, I wished to replace the former empire by a friendly and practical association of the peoples belonging to it. We have reached that point. While economic negligence, the financial deficit, the chronic fall of the franc, and social immobility were preventing the progress necessary to prosperity and power of France, I wanted a plan truly to regulate its modern development, its budgets to be in order, its currency to have a solid and undoubted value, the door to be open to changes in relations among its children through a beginning in the participation of all in the development of enterprises. It has reached that point.

“So that Europe could cease to harbour hate and peril, displaying its economic and political division everywhere from the Rhine and to the Alps, pitting the peoples of the East and the West against each other under the pretext of different ideologies, I wanted France and Germany to become good neighbours, the six-Power Common Market to take shape, the conditions in which their action towards the rest of the world could be decided upon to be determined, the natural sympathy and confidence between the Slavs and the French to be restored. Everything is now on the right track.

“While France was being untrue to itself by straying into the subtly rarified heights of supra-nationalism, abandoning its defence, its policy, its destiny as a leader in the Atlantic, leaving to others the fields of influence, co-operation and friendship



that it had formerly been known for in the third world, I wanted to make its personality respected among its neighbours while it respected theirs; I wanted it, without turning its back on the alliance, to refuse patronage, to provide itself with a force that could discourage any aggression—a force including above all a nuclear weapon; to play a part again in the thoughts, activities and hopes of the entire world, in sum to regain its independence and lustre. That is exactly what is happening.

“On the slope that France is climbing, my mission is always to guide her toward the top, whereas all the voices below call unceasingly to her to come back down. Having once again chosen to listen to me, she has pulled herself out of stagnation and has just passed the stage of renewal. But, starting from there, just as before, I have no other destination to show her than the summit, no other road than that of effort.”<sup>2</sup>

111. In recalling the great decision of 18 June 1940, General de Gaulle wrote in the first volume of his *War Memoirs*:

“In the face of the widespread defeatism, my mission came to me in a clear and blinding flash of light. At this time—the darkest moment of France’s history—it is for me to take charge of France.”<sup>3</sup>

112. De Gaulle is no longer with us, but France is there. France and its institutions bear the mark of his great genius.

113. In paying a tribute to de Gaulle, in paying a tribute to his memory, in mourning with everyone else the death of this great man, we are paying a tribute to eternal France.

114. Mr. MUNTASER (Libya): It was with profound grief and consternation that my delegation heard the news of the sudden death of General de Gaulle. My delegation wishes, on behalf of my Government and on its own behalf, to express our deep and heartfelt condolences to the delegation, the Government and the people of France, and to the family of the deceased.

115. General de Gaulle was a great leader, an outstanding soldier and a hero. He played a great role in the history of France and of the world. We in the Arab world and in Africa will never forget his role in Algeria and in the decolonization and emancipation of many African countries, as well as his continuous struggle and support for the cause of freedom and justice everywhere.

116. Sir Colin CROWE (United Kingdom): General de Gaulle was a man of many parts: a statesman, an historian, a brilliant General. We honour him for all these things, but the people of Britain remember him above all as the man greeted by Churchill in the dark days of 1940 as “a man of destiny”. He did not only

speak for France; he was France. He came to us in the hour of our two countries’ greatest danger. We shared a determination to resist the Nazi onslaught and an unwavering belief in ultimate victory. We rejoiced with him when he at last saw the liberation of his beloved country, when the time came for him to show his great talent as a leader in peace as well as in war. General de Gaulle was in every sense of the word a giant among men, a statesman as well as a soldier, a visionary and a realist, a true French patriot and a man of international understanding. France, Europe and the world will feel his loss.

117. We offer our sincere condolences to his widow, his family and his country.

118. Mr. BARNES (Liberia): The whole world is a sepulchre of great men. The mortal remains of General Charles de Gaulle will be laid to rest in his native land, France, yet all mankind will claim that sacred spot as part and parcel of their own lands. It may well be that in the years ahead marble and bronze in the form of statues and monuments will perpetuate the memory of this great soldier, erudite statesman and intrepid patriot, yet the memory of his great achievements and his contributions to peace will certainly occupy a special place in the hearts of men everywhere who cherish liberty, justice and fraternity.

119. The Liberian delegation extends its profound sympathy to the delegation of France and to the bereaved family in the loss of this great son of France and of the world.

120. Mr. EL-ZAYYAT (United Arab Republic): The delegations of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Yemen and Sudan have asked me to represent them in these few words in which we pay a tribute to General Charles de Gaulle.

121. In less than six weeks I have twice come to this rostrum to pay a tribute to a man transferred by cruel death from his passing role as a maker of history to a permanent place in the history of nations.

122. Charles de Gaulle and Gamal Abdel Nasser never met, but Gamal Abdel Nasser recently told the French Ambassador in Cairo that he had read every book by or about Charles de Gaulle and was eager to see and to read any statement that he ever made at any time in his life. In a letter written by Charles de Gaulle, perhaps one among his last, to the United Arab Republic Ambassador in Cairo he expressed, on the occasion of the death of President Nasser, how he respected Nasser’s motives and respected his struggle for his people.

123. Charles de Gaulle’s life and struggle will remain for generations to come a symbol for a fearless fight against tyranny and injustice.

124. As has been said previously, Charles de Gaulle was not only a hero of France, but also a hero of national resistance—a hero to all those who are struggling for their national liberation.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 313 and 314.

<sup>3</sup> *The Call to Honour, 1940-1942*, translated by Jonathan Griffin (London, Collins, 1955), p. 74.

125. The Arab nations have an added sentiment to express; they will always remember how faithful de Gaulle was to his principles. While lesser men may have allowed ambitions or fears to sway their actions away from a firm stand on principles, Charles de Gaulle stayed firm with proud disdain for such attitudes. The Arab nations will never forget this for de Gaulle and for France. Liberty, equality and fraternity were incarnated several times in several men and several leaders and thinkers of France. *Résistance*, to unbearable tyranny, has become a French word, but France is eternal and will go on adding to the liberty and the heritage of man. With President Pompidou at its helm now, with the French people continually adding to their heritage and to our history, France will always be a pillar of our civilization.

126. To the French people, to the President of France, to our colleagues in the French delegation, and especially to Ambassador Jacques Kosciusko-Morizet, who has worked closely with General de Gaulle, I express, on behalf of the delegations I have just named and on behalf of my own delegation, our heartfelt sympathy and our sharing in their grief.

127. Mr. TSEGHE (Ethiopia): My delegation is grieved by the sad news of the passing away of General Charles de Gaulle, a great statesman of our time. General de Gaulle was a man of unsurpassed wisdom and vision who dedicated himself to the cause of France, a gallant leader who accepted with valour the challenge of our time, and, above all, a man who upheld the ideals of peace and the universal brotherhood of man. He was an untiring soldier of freedom and a man who devoted himself and his entire life to the service of his own country. History will forever recall his exemplary qualities of integrity, honour and leadership.

128. General de Gaulle's role in the liberation struggle of people under colonialism will always be remembered. The life-time contribution of this great statesman has assured him a place of honour, esteem and respect in the immortal pages of history.

129. We ask the French delegation to convey to the bereaved family and to the Government and people of France the sincere condolences of the Ethiopian people, its Government and its delegation here in this Assembly.

130. Mr. ALARCON (Cuba) (*interpretation from Spanish*): I wish to associate my delegation with the tribute that this Assembly is paying to the memory of General Charles de Gaulle. General de Gaulle was the symbol of resistance against aggression and facism and the architect of French renaissance after the war.

131. As a statesman he contributed in outstanding fashion to the development of peaceful relations among nations. His position on the south-east Asia conflict and other international problems won universal respect. Shunning the pressures and threats of those who wanted to stifle the Cuban revolution, General de Gaulle initiated a new stage in relations between

France and Cuba based on mutual co-operation, friendship and respect.

132. My delegation would ask the French delegation to be kind enough to accept this testimony of our sincere condolences and sympathy at the irreparable loss they have suffered in the death of this great statesman.

133. Mr. BOHIADI (Chad) (*interpretation from French*): Delegation members of OCAMM<sup>1</sup> are now in deep mourning at the death of General de Gaulle and I come to this platform on their behalf to pay solemn tribute to the former President and leader of a friendly country, a man whose friendship was precious and unshakeable.

134. It was with great shock and deep emotion that at 7 o'clock this morning I learned through "France Intern" of the tragedy of the death of General de Gaulle, one of the most renowned men the world has known during the past quarter of a century.

135. On behalf of the President and Governments of OCAMM, and the people of Chad in particular, I should like to convey my most sincere condolences to the French delegation and to the Government and people of France.

136. General de Gaulle was an international personality. He stood out by the virtues he displayed in all areas of human endeavour. His spirit of sacrifice for his people and his country, his unshakeable courage, his determination in the face of danger and adversity and his capacity for love and understanding made him a hero and a leader of prestige during the last world war.

137. This cruel loss is felt not only by France but by the entire world and more particularly by French-speaking Africa of which General de Gaulle was the artisan, first for its self-determination and then for independence in the 1960s.

138. The people of Chad will recall still more all that General de Gaulle was, because Chad was the first country in French-speaking Africa to say "Yes" to the appeal which he launched on 18 June 1940 to fight together with the allies against the fascist hordes. The entire world owes a great debt of gratitude to General de Gaulle for the role that he played in the Second World War.

139. Mr. GHORRA (Lebanon): Instances in history when words, regardless of how eloquent they are, fail to fully express the occasion they are to reflect, are rare. This is a rare instance of history. Charles de Gaulle was a man who towered above other men. He was not only a leader of France but a great leader of our contemporary world. His mark on history, on events and on peoples will long endure. We, the people of Lebanon, who have a special relationship with the people of France—and that is why I permitted myself to speak after Ambassador El-Zayyat—feel this great

<sup>1</sup> Joint Afro-Malagasy and Mauritian Organization.

and tragic loss in a special way. My people and my Government mourn the loss of this great man and great leader amongst men. The mountains of Lebanon echoed to his resounding voice on the occasion of his visit, in 1940 during his struggle for liberation, to the Lebanon in which he lived and which he loved. De Gaulle brought back France to its historic role in the Mediterranean as well as in the world. His historic vision and perspective should guide us all. On behalf of my delegation I wish to extend to the delegation of France our heartfelt condolences and sympathy.

140. Mr. ROSSIDES (Cyprus): It is with a feeling of profound grief that I come to this rostrum to pay tribute to a man of historic world stature, who embodied the noblest and highest expression of human virtue in the field of national and international leadership. General de Gaulle is a great legend not only for France but for the whole world. His patriotic devotion and courage, his determination and fortitude of spirit in the struggle of resistance against foreign occupation and subjection had won for him the gratitude and devotion of France and the admiration of the whole world.

141. His qualities of statesmanship in peace were also unequalled and unexcelled. As a man of long vision and inspired wisdom he succeeded against tremendous odds in disengaging France from the anachronism of colonialism and in leading his country into new fields of greatness, politically and economically. De Gaulle has been and will remain the idol of the world, a man of iron will in good and noble causes, a great hero in the cause of the liberation of his country from foreign domination and also in liberating his country from the concept of subjection and domination of other peoples. These double heroic qualities of de Gaulle will stand in the world as an unexcelled example of human achievement.

142. "France is widowed", its President has said, and may we add that the whole world is in mourning with France over the loss of the greatest man in contemporary history. On behalf of the Government and the people of Cyprus I wish to express profound condolences to the Government and people of France.

143. Mr. POISSON (Niger) (*interpretation from French*): First, the Chairman of the African Group and then the representative of the countries of OCAMM have in turn conveyed our feeling of sorrow at the death of General de Gaulle.

144. Although our sorrowful condolences have already been conveyed to the French delegation, we from the Niger would like to add that we will never forget Charles de Gaulle, the man who had such an exceptional destiny. We will not forget the man of 18 June 1940 who, in a moment of tragedy, was able to rekindle the spark of hope which enabled the people of France to participate in the struggle which brought nazism to its knees. We will not forget the man of Brazzaville who, so much ahead of his time and with such a clear vision of the future, sketched out the destinies of so many colonized people leading them

towards emancipation. We shall not forget the advocate of decolonization who was able, with courage and despite hesitant public opinion, to lead many of our young States to international sovereignty. We shall not forget the fruitful co-operation he was able to establish between France and many countries of the third world.

145. The Niger will not forget General de Gaulle. France is not alone in her suffering caused by this loss; it affects us all.

146. Mr. GUERILLOT (Central African Republic) (*interpretation from French*): It is with deep emotion that I speak because it is my unhappy duty today to express the great affliction of the men and women of my country caused by the sudden announcement of the unexpected and untimely death of a man who all Central Africans regarded as their father.

147. Personally I cannot forget that when I was a combatant in the Free French forces I was one of those who, in that difficult hour, received the message of hope sent out from London by the man of 18 June 1940.

148. All Central Africans are mourning today the greatest of Frenchmen, one of the exceptional men who are a credit to all mankind by their sense of honour and their passionate desire to work for the glory of their country while respecting all other countries.

149. For us Central Africans General de Gaulle was the man of the Brazzaville Conference of 1946 and of the African tour of 1958 which led us to independence in the French-speaking African community. He was the man who opened to us the shining gates of liberty. He was the man to whom President Boganda, the founder of the Central African Republic, said in Brazzaville at the Eboué Stadium. "Speak loud and clear, General, and the Ubangi people will respond in the same voice to you." De Gaulle, with his powerful voice and his arms held triumphantly on high, drew up the plans for independence and friendship which were the very foundation of the community and the Ubangi people responded to what he said with an enthusiastic "Yes".

150. General de Gaulle, all Central Africans mourn you today. Darkness has fallen over our country. Hundreds of thousands of cries can be heard from the mass of women and children to whom very often your image and that of our Presidents provide the sole ornamentation in their humble homes, for you will live for ever in our hearts. Rest in peace in the glories of your noble combat.

151. May France know that the Central African Republic is with it in its mourning like a younger sister in the presence of an elder sister.

152. Mr. GHAS (Afghanistan): The delegation of Afghanistan learned with profound sorrow of the passing away of General de Gaulle, one of the most renowned sons of France, one of the greatest statesmen

of our times. General de Gaulle was a man of vision, he was a man of destiny. His death is immensely felt, not only in France, his country, which he rescued from the abyss of occupation and the disasters of the post-war era, but in the world at large where he was recognized as a champion of liberty and an advocate of entente and co-operation among nations. On this sad occasion we share the pain felt by the people of France, to whom the people of Afghanistan are bound by unshakeable ties of culture and friendship.

153. General de Gaulle knew well the problems confronting the countries of Asia and Africa. He was profoundly aware of the immense task of development which we have undertaken in Afghanistan. His death has deprived us of a most respected friend.

154. I wish to convey our heartfelt condolences to the delegation of France, the Government of France and the bereaved family of the late General.

155. Mr. KUFUOR (Ghana): The Ghana delegation would like to seize this first opportunity to join with previous speakers in expressing our profound condolences to the bereaved family and the French nation on the death of the great leader, General de Gaulle.

156. General de Gaulle was no doubt first and foremost a Frenchman, but in his historic and inspired service to his nation he was enabled by his innate greatness to accept responsibility and do his duty even where other peoples were concerned. It was in this way that he came to earn the abiding respect and admiration of peoples in Africa and Asia. It was in this way that he impressed even those who disagreed with him with his essential greatness. By his death France has lost a truly great leader and the world an inspiring example. Ghana mourns with France over his death.

157. Mr. KOSCIUSKO-MORIZET (France) (*interpretation from French*): The last wishes of General de Gaulle were made public this morning. They were recorded in a text written on 16 January 1952 which had been handed over to Mr. Georges Pompidou, the President of the Republic. Here is the text:

"I wish my funeral to take place at Colombey-les-Deux-Eglises. Should I die elsewhere, my body is to be brought to my home without the least public ceremony. My grave will be the one where my daughter Anne already rests, and where my wife will rest one day. Inscription: 'Charles de Gaulle'; nothing else. The ceremony will be arranged by my son, my daughter, my son-in-law, my daughter-in-law, helped by my cabinet, so that it is very simple.

"I wish no national funeral services; neither presidents, nor ministers, nor the Bureau of the Assembly, nor other formally constituted bodies are to attend. Only members of the French Army may

participate officially as such, but their participation should be on a very modest scale without music, fanfare or bugle calls. I wish no eulogies, in church or elsewhere; no funeral oration in Parliament, no seats reserved except for my family, for my companion members of the Order of Liberation and for the Municipal Council of Colombey. Men and women of France and other countries of the world who wish to honour my memory may accompany my body to its last resting place, but I should like it to be borne there in silence.

"I formally declare that I refuse in advance any distinction, promotion, honour, citation, decoration, whether French or foreign. If any such decorations were to be awarded me it would be contrary to my last wishes.

"Charles de Gaulle"

158. Faithful to the wishes of General de Gaulle, I do not propose to make any statement here, except to thank you, Mr. President, chairmen of groups, representatives and others I do not know, who this morning in the streets and on my arrival at this building spontaneously expressed their sorrow to me. I want to thank you all for the very touching way in which you expressed your sympathy.

159. For us Frenchmen, and especially all those who were members of the resistance and the struggle conducted by General de Gaulle, he was France in the most critical moments of its history. In 1940 he was our hope; in 1944 he was the homeland liberated; in 1958 he was the regenerator of French grandeur in unity and pride. As for what he contributed to the world, speakers here this morning have been more eloquent than I could possibly be, and all the voices coming from Latin America, Europe, Asia, Africa—the Africa he loved so well—show that at this, the end of the twentieth century, whenever mention is made of peace, the relaxation of tension, self-determination, co-operation, these words cannot be spoken without associating them with the lucidity and determination of General de Gaulle. Because I have known him personally, I may say that he had deep respect for the dignity and independence of all nations.

160. Today, France is in mourning; every Frenchman is in personal mourning. And throughout the world all who love freedom, equality and brotherhood are also in mourning. It is this vast *cortège* of men and women of France and the other countries of the world who in mind and heart will accompany Charles de Gaulle to his last resting place.

161. I thank the Assembly very much for having joined this *cortège*.

*The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.*