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President: Mr. Abdelaziz BOUTEFLIKA (Algeria).

Tribute to the memory of Mr. Omar Sakkaf, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia

1. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): It is my sad duty to inform the General Assembly of the untimely death of His Excellency Mr. Omar Sakkaf, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia, last night.

2. The Secretary-General and I have already communicated our condolences to His Majesty King Faisal and to the Permanent Mission on this sad occasion.

3. On behalf of the General Assembly, I should now like to extend to Mr. Sakkaf's family and to the Government and people of Saudi Arabia our profound condolences.

4. May I ask representatives to stand and observe a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of His Excellency Mr. Omar Sakkaf.

The members of the General Assembly observed a minute of silence.

5. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): Given the qualities in Mr. Sakkaf with which we are all familiar and also in view of the circumstances in which he died, the Secretary-General of the Organization wishes on this occasion to address the General Assembly.

6. The SECRETARY-GENERAL: The news of the sudden and unexpected death last night of Mr. Omar Sakkaf, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia, was deeply shocking to all of us.

7. I had known the late Minister personally for many years and always found in him not only great diplomatic skill and true statesmanship, but also great human qualities. I have already expressed directly to His Majesty King Faisal, to Mr. Sakkaf's family and to the delegation of Saudi Arabia my deep sympathy and condolences on this tragic loss suffered by Saudi Arabia. May I express to you, Mr. President, and to the members of the General Assembly the same heartfelt condolences on this untimely passing away of the leader of the Saudi Arabian delegation to the General Assembly.

8. Mr. Sakkaf's long experience and contribution to international relations and the work of the United Nations will be sadly missed, especially at this critical juncture in world affairs.

9. Mr. ANWAR (Egypt) (*interpretation from Arabic*): We were shocked today at the news of the death of a dear colleague, the late Sayyed Omar Sakkaf, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia, at the time when we most need the efforts and endeavours of our late dear colleague.

10. Mr. Sakkaf was one of the most prominent Arab Ministers for Foreign Affairs who had participated in defining Arab foreign policy and who had participated in the various external activities in the field of foreign affairs and in international conferences, and his great contributions had considerable effect. Undoubtedly, the Arab nation has suffered a great loss through his death.

11. On my own behalf and on behalf of my colleagues in the delegation of Egypt, I should like to extend to His Majesty King Faisal, to his Government and to the Saudi Arabian people, and to our colleagues in the delegation of Saudi Arabia, our sincerest condolences. May God rest the soul of the deceased and may his family and his people be given the fortitude they need in suffering such a loss.

12. Mr. LARAKI (Morocco) (*interpretation from Arabic*): It was with a heart filled with pain and torn by sadness that we heard the news last night of the death of my brother and friend, Sayyed Omar Sakkaf, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia. On this painful occasion, in which the international community has lost one of its best men, a great diplomat, one of the outstanding figures of diplomacy, I should like to refer to the human and noble qualities and characteristics of Mr. Sakkaf, to his actions and his work, which will always be recorded by history with great pride.

13. The late Mr. Sakkaf came here with his brothers in defence of a humane cause. He believed—and so do we—that it is the cause of right and the cause of justice itself. He never hesitated in defending that cause at this international forum and at other international conferences.

14. But it was the will of God that last night he should be taken from among us, and for that we have no remedy: God's will is supreme. The many friends of the deceased in this hall will miss him greatly. We shall miss his great heart; we shall miss his wise guidance and his clear mind; we shall miss his studied opinions; we shall miss the breadth of his experience that opened many avenues for us; and we shall, above all, miss his human characteristics. We shall miss Sakkaf the man.

15. The death of Mr. Sakkaf is an immense loss to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and to the entire Arab

nation—to the international community and particularly to the United Nations, where he worked for most of its causes and saw much of its development since the birth of the Organization.

16. To his soul, which has departed in peace to his Creator, we send our salutations and our blessings, hoping for every forgiveness for him from his Creator.

17. I extend, on behalf of the Moroccan Government, the Moroccan delegation and myself, our sincere condolences to the friends and colleagues of Mr. Sakkaf. I wish them the necessary fortitude in bearing this loss. To the Arab nation I extend our deepest condolences at the loss of one of its true sons. To the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, headed by His Majesty, the great King Faisal, I express our feelings and emotions of pain and anguish. To the family of the deceased we extend our feeling of loss and our condolences. We hope that God may imbue them with the fortitude they need in this time of great loss. May God's peace and blessings be upon them.

18. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): I call now on the representative of the United States of America as the representative of the host State.

19. Mr. SCALI (United States of America): Yesterday evening the Saudi delegation, this Assembly, the Government and people of Saudi Arabia, indeed, the whole world community, suffered a grievous loss. Mr. Omar Sakkaf, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia, was stricken and died in his quarters in New York.

20. At this hour, aboard a special United States aircraft made available by President Ford, Omar Sakkaf's body is being borne back to his homeland. Accompanying him are a number of his countrymen and a senior United States official.

21. Omar Sakkaf was not only a great statesman; he was a great human being. My President and my Secretary of State held him in high official esteem and deep personal affection. I personally shared that esteem and that affection. More than skill, more than intelligence and understanding made Omar Sakkaf a great Foreign Minister. He was, above all, successful because he had character. All who dealt with him knew that he was a man of truth, a man of absolute loyalty to his sovereign, his own people and to all mankind.

22. Omar Sakkaf's last journey was to the United Nations. It was a journey in search of peace. As we dedicate ourselves to continuing that search, we may take comfort from the knowledge that Omar Sakkaf has found at the end of a lifetime of service peace for himself.

23. Mr. MARTÍNEZ ORDÓÑEZ (Honduras) (*interpretation from Spanish*): I come to this rostrum at a tragic time for a friendly nation, a painful time for the whole of the Arab nation and for all of us who witnessed the continuing efforts of Mr. Omar Sakkaf to find a solution to the conflict which is of concern to all of us at this time. I should like to express to Saudi Arabia, to the Arab nation and to the United Nations as a whole the feelings of sorrow we share with them, and our profound conviction that the principles which inspire the ideology of the United Nations, and which have brought us here together, will mean that this time of sorrow will impress upon us more than ever the need to ensure that reason will prevail, and that we shall

eventually find a way to a more effective and genuine peace in the Middle East based on respect for the most fundamental rights for the different nations involved in the conflict.

24. The Latin American group wishes to express through me to the Government of Saudi Arabia, as well as to all the brother Governments of the Arab nation at this moment of great trial, its profound condolences. We share their sorrow at the death of Mr. Sakkaf, who came to New York and found death here, perhaps to remind us of the frailty of human life. May his death induce us to find, for other men in the Middle East, whatever their nationality, a way of ensuring that they shall continue to live in that land, a land to which peace will have returned at last.

25. Mr. AL-SABAH (Kuwait) (*interpretation from Arabic*): It is a painful occasion when, as we meet today to discuss one of the most fateful causes that we have to consider, we hear the sad news of the death of one of our dear friends, Omar Sakkaf, whom we have lost at a time when we need him most. He had come from our area to participate in this discussion of our historic cause before the international community. He came urged by his sense of duty and responsibility, and we all looked forward to his efforts in his role.

26. I had known Mr. Sakkaf for many years. We had worked together in conferences—in Arab conferences within the League of Arab States and within the Arab nation and on the international level. He was strong in the cause of right and an enemy of injustice. He had the admiration of both those who agreed with him and those who disagreed with his opinions.

27. His death is a great loss to his people, to his friends, to his family and to his nation. He died quietly as he had lived patiently and as he had worked steadily. We needed his presence and we feel reduced by the loss of his efforts and his role with us. On behalf of Kuwait we should like to present our condolences to His Majesty King Faisal, to the Government and people of Saudi Arabia, to the delegation of Saudi Arabia and to the family of the deceased, hoping that his soul may rest in peace, for we shall all return to our Creator. May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

28. Mr. OULD MOUKNASS (Mauritania) (*interpretation from French*): We learned yesterday with profound sorrow of the sudden death of the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia, Omar Sakkaf. He was a great statesman, a great diplomat, who dedicated himself to understanding among peoples and to the struggle for just causes throughout the world.

29. The exceptional role that this great man, now departed, played in the renaissance of the Arab world is known to all. The exceptional role that this great man played in promoting understanding and co-operation between the Arab world and the African world, two complementary worlds, also is known to all. On this occasion of mourning and profound sorrow for all of us and for our Organization, I should like, on behalf of my country and my Government, to address profound condolences to King Faisal of Saudi Arabia, to the Government and people of Saudi Arabia, to the delegation of Saudi Arabia and to the family of the deceased.

30. Mr. TYLNER (Czechoslovakia): In the name of the group of Socialist States, I should like to express sincere condolences on the death of Omar Sakkaf, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia, authentic statesman and fighter for the just cause of the people of Palestine.

31. Mr. INGVARSSON (Iceland): On behalf of the group of Western European and other States, I wish to extend profound sympathy and condolences to His Majesty King Faisal and to the Government of Saudi Arabia on the untimely death of Mr. Omar Sakkaf, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia. Our sincere condolences go also to the Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations, to the family of the deceased, and to the whole people of Saudi Arabia.

32. Mr. Sakkaf was known to everyone in this Assembly as an outstanding statesman, a forthright representative of his country, and a strong supporter of the United Nations. His presence among us will be painfully missed.

33. Mr. GHOBASH (United Arab Emirates) (*interpretation from Arabic*): We heard with deep regret of the death of our late colleague, Mr. Omar Sakkaf, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the sister country of Saudi Arabia, while on a great national mission and task in defence of the Arab Palestinian people before the representatives of the peoples of the entire world. Announcing our deep regret at the loss of the wise man of state, we wish his soul the blessings of his Creator and we wish his people all the patience to enable them to bear this loss.

34. We present our heartfelt condolences to the Government of His Majesty King Faisal, to the great Saudi Arabian people and to the delegation of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations. We who are born shall inevitably die.

35. Mr. KHADDAM (Syrian Arab Republic) (*interpretation from Arabic*): It was God's will that we should have lost yesterday a dear brother and faithful friend at the very moment when we were most in need of his efforts and his convictions. The faith we have in destiny is our only consolation for this loss.

36. I have known the deceased for the past four years. I have known him as a sincere and truthful man, as a human being, as a faithful Arab national who believed in the cause of peace and in his nation.

37. May God rest his soul.

38. Mr. MAKKI (Yemen) (*interpretation from Arabic*): The just Arab causes have suffered an immense loss, an irreparable loss. The deceased dedicated his life to the defence of these causes. He worked for them with wisdom and farsightedness. He was a man of heart, and he gave of himself untiringly in the just causes of all the peoples of the world.

39. On behalf of my Government and my delegation I should like to extend our sincere condolences to the people and Government of Saudi Arabia.

40. Mr. RAZA (Pakistan): On behalf of my delegation and of the Government and people of Pakistan I wish to convey our deep sense of sorrow and our condolences to our colleagues in the delegation of Saudi Arabia, to His Majesty King Faisal, to the people of Saudi Arabia and to the family of Mr. Omar

Sakkaf, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia, who died last night.

41. As a Moslem, I would not call Mr. Sakkaf's death untimely, because according to our faith the time and place of death of every individual is fixed. According to the Koranic verse: "We come from God, and we go back to God".

42. Mr. Sakkaf's death, however, was most unexpected. He came here to help in bringing about peace through the agency of this august body, the United Nations. But God so willed that he should find his eternal peace in the search for worldly peace.

43. May his soul rest in peace. We shall miss him and his wise counsel greatly.

44. Mr. KHALID (Sudan) (*interpretation from Arabic*): There can be no more cruel or painful moment than a moment such as this, when we must extend condolences on the death of a human being, and this is particularly true when the person who has died is a dear friend and brother. In our pain, there is nothing we can do except call on our Creator. But the cruel fact of the death remains. Life and our respective religions teach us that we must all die. Thus we stand here at this moment of sorrow for us all and speak of our late brother and friend, Omar Sakkaf, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia.

45. This is an immense loss for Arab diplomacy and for international diplomacy. The deceased dedicated all his efforts to serving humanitarian causes, the causes of man. We in this Organization have on many occasions witnessed him in the performance of his duties in the service and promotion of those causes.

46. I knew Mr. Sakkaf very well. I knew him as a human being full of life. I knew him as a skilled diplomat. I knew him as a wise and aware statesman, as a faithful and dedicated citizen of his country in the service of that country and its people. I knew him, above all, as a true and faithful friend.

47. On behalf of my President, my Government and my people I should like to extend to His Majesty King Faisal, to the Government and people of Saudi Arabia and to Mr. Sakkaf's family our sincere condolences. May God help them to bear their loss.

48. Mr. CHATTI (Tunisia) (*interpretation from French*): The premature death of our friend Omar Sakkaf, who only the day before yesterday was with us in this very Hall in a state of glorious health, has plunged us into deep mourning. His loss will be felt in the Arab world, where he had always played a role of the first rank, as well as in the League of Arab States and in international forums. It will certainly be felt in this Assembly, which had an opportunity to value his qualities as a statesman, a man believing in dialogue, and a great diplomat.

49. We Tunisians, we from the Maghreb, shall never forget the efforts he made to bring the support of Saudi Arabia to our cause during the struggle for independence and, to the very last day of his life, to ensure co-operation among our countries.

50. To King Faisal, to the people of Saudi Arabia and to the Arab nation as a whole I extend sincere condolences on behalf of President Bourguiba and the people of Tunisia.

51. Mr. KANAZAWA (Japan): On behalf of the Japanese Government and the Japanese delegation, I wish to express my most profound sorrow at the untimely passing away of Mr. Omar Sakkaf, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia, and I wish to extend my deepest condolences to His Majesty King Faisal and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

52. Mr. Sakkaf's death is not only a great loss for the Arab countries, but also a great loss to the relations of friendship and co-operation my country has so happily enjoyed with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

53. Mr. SALIM (United Republic of Tanzania): It is with a deep sense of loss and sorrow that I am taking the floor in the name of my African colleagues and in my own name to join those who have preceded us in paying homage to our departed brother, Sayyed Omar Sakkaf, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia. His sudden death constitutes a great loss not only to his great people and country but, indeed, to the entire international community.

54. As Africans, we feel this loss even more intensely, for Mr. Sakkaf was known, not only for his staunch promotion of friendship and international co-operation among nations, but as one of the most powerful pillars of Afro-Arab understanding, co-operation and solidarity. It is particularly sad that we should mourn this great statesman at a time when the United Nations is seized of a singularly important problem that is facing the international community today, a problem involving the peace and security of the world and a problem in which Mr. Sakkaf's own involvement and contribution is all the more needed.

55. I take this opportunity, on behalf of the African group, to request the brotherly delegation of Saudi Arabia to be kind enough to transmit to His Majesty King Faisal, to the Government and people of Saudi Arabia and to the bereaved family our most profound condolences, and to assure them that we join them as they mourn this great loss.

56. Mr. HOVEYDA (Iran) (*interpretation from French*): In the absence of the Chairman of the Asian group, a number of my colleagues in this group have called upon me to submit on their behalf the condolences of all of Asia, extending those condolences to the family and to the Government of Mr. Omar Sakkaf, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia.

57. I must add that all the members of the Asian group learned with great sorrow of the sudden demise of this great statesman and, with your indulgence, Mr. President, I should like to add a few words as representative of Iran. The brotherly relations which exist between Saudi Arabia and Iran are not only being strengthened, but this great statesman who has left us often visited my country, where he was held in high esteem. Moreover, he did me and my delegation here the honour of giving us his friendship. I say this to show that, like our Arab brothers who have spoken before me, we consider his death a great loss to our Organization as a whole.

58. At this time of mourning, I should like to convey, on behalf of my delegation and on my own behalf, our deep condolences to our sister delegation of Saudi Arabia and to all the delegations of the Arab countries.

59. Mr. AL-KADDUMI (Palestine Liberation Organization) (*interpretation from Arabic*): In these historic hours, in which our Palestinian cause is receiving the attention of the entire world, one of our great leaders falls, our brother, Omar Sakkaf, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia, who has struggled throughout his life for this particular cause and who has lived for it. He was a master of every situation, a great and wise defender of right and justice. He was a defender of peace and he died for it.

60. We, the Palestinian people, experiencing this great sorrow and the weight of this loss upon us, feel that the international family today has lost, through the death of the dear deceased, one of those who worked for justice and for liberty. There is no doubt that the victory of the cause of justice and peace will be the greatest honour that we can pay him in his death.

61. In the name of the Palestinian delegation and the Palestinian people, we present our heartfelt condolences to His Majesty King Faisal of Saudi Arabia, to the Saudi Arabian Government, to the family of the deceased and to the entire international community.

62. May God rest his soul and may he enter God's wide paradise. Our condolences are expressed in the name of the Arab and Palestinian peoples and cause.

63. Mr. AL-SHAIKHLY (Iraq) (*interpretation from Arabic*): It was with great sorrow and loss that I and the members of the Iraqi delegation heard the news of the death of Sayyed Omar Sakkaf, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia. His sudden death has been a great shock to his friends and a loss to his country. Perhaps the fact that he died outside his country while discharging his duties will be our only consolation.

64. I have known Mr. Sakkaf for many years during our work of Arab and international endeavour. He was a true Arab with the loyalty and honour of the Arabs. His death is a loss both to Arab diplomacy and to the international community.

65. I should like to express, on behalf of the Republic of Iraq and on my own behalf, our heartfelt condolences to the delegation of Saudi Arabia and to the family of the deceased. May his family and all his friends have the fortitude needed to bear this loss.

66. Mr. JAMAL (Qatar) (*interpretation from Arabic*): We have heard with deep pain and sorrow the news of the death of Mr. Omar Sakkaf, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia, a man who has been known for many years in our Organization as a skilful statesman and diplomat.

67. In the name of the Government and delegation of my country, I should like to offer our sincerest condolences to the Government of His Majesty King Faisal of Saudi Arabia, to the Saudi Arabian people, to the Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia and to the family of the deceased, as well as to the entire Arab nation.

68. May his soul rest in peace; may God grant him peace and may he reside in God's great paradise. May his family have the fortitude needed to bear this loss. We belong to God and to Him we shall return.

69. Mr. INGLES (Philippines): I come to this rostrum this morning with a heavy heart, to mourn the passing of a great man. The death of Mr. Omar Sakkaf, Minister

of State for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia, is a loss not only to his country but also to the region represented by the Association of South-East Asian Nations [ASEAN], comprising Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines.

70. The ASEAN delegations would like to extend their heartfelt condolences through you, Mr. President, to the delegation of Saudi Arabia. We also beg the Saudi Arabian delegation to convey our sorrow to His Majesty King Faisal, to the people of Saudi Arabia, and to the bereaved family.

71. Only a few months ago Mr. Sakkaf paid an official visit to our region in conjunction with his attendance at the Islamic Conference at Kuala Lumpur this past June. He also went to Manila in March as the personal guest of His Excellency Ferdinand E. Marcos, President of the Philippines. Two years ago, too, he was in our region in connexion with the Islamic Conference at Benghazi. And, as a member of the Fact-Finding Mission of Foreign Ministers, in his impartial report he had nothing but praise for the President of the Philippines for his active concern for the Muslim population in Southern Mindanao. Mr. Sakkaf pledged the active assistance of his great country on behalf of the Muslim population in South-East Asia, including Southern Mindanao.

72. For all those reasons, we mourn the passing of a friend and great statesman.

73. Mr. MACKI (Oman) (*interpretation from Arabic*): We have heard with great sorrow and pain the news of the death of Mr. Omar Sakkaf, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia, at a time when he had come to the United Nations to participate in discussions of one of the noblest human causes, whose victorious outcome he had always hoped to see.

74. On behalf of my delegation and the Government and people of Oman, I should like to convey our sincerest condolences to His Majesty King Faisal, and to the Government and people of Saudi Arabia, as well as to the delegation of Saudi Arabia and the family of the deceased on their great loss.

75. May his soul rest in peace, for we belong to God and to Him we shall return.

76. Mr. MAGHUR (Libyan Arab Republic) (*interpretation from Arabic*): Words fail me in speaking of this brother whom we have lost. Death must come, but sadness is a painful state. The death of a man with whom we have worked and lived is a great loss to us.

77. I should like to convey, on behalf of my delegation and on my own behalf, our sincerest condolences to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to its King, its Government and its people, to our brothers in the delegation of Saudi Arabia, and to the family of the deceased. May God rest his soul in peace and may his family have the necessary fortitude to bear this loss.

78. Mr. TSHERING (Bhutan): We have heard the sad news of the passing of the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia with deep sorrow. Although the representative of Iran has already spoken on behalf of the Asian group, I should be failing in my duty if I, as Chairman of the Asian group for this month, did not make a brief statement.

79. On behalf of the Asian group, once again, and on behalf of my own delegation, I should like to express

our sincere condolences to the delegation of Saudi Arabia on the sad demise of the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia. I request the representative of Saudi Arabia to convey our deep condolences to the people and the Government of Saudi Arabia.

80. Mr. AL-SAFFAR (Bahrain) (*interpretation from Arabic*): It was with a sense of great loss and pain that we heard the news of the death of Sayyed Omar Sakkaf, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia. On behalf of the delegation and Government of Bahrain, I wish to offer to King Faisal of Saudi Arabia, to His Majesty's Government and to the brotherly Saudi Arabian people and the Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia, our sincerest condolences on this grievous occasion.

81. Mr. LINDENBERG SETTE (Brazil): My Government has already expressed its condolences to the King, to the Government and to the people of Saudi Arabia. I would be failing in my duty, however, if I did not, on behalf of the Brazilian delegation, offer our deepest sympathy to our colleagues of the Saudi Arabian delegation, and particularly to Mr. Barody.

82. Mr. Sakkaf, while in Brazil, in all his contacts and at all levels established relationships of friendship and mutual respect. We too will feel his loss deeply. We also wish to express our great and heartfelt sorrow to Mr. Sakkaf's family.

83. Of necessity, this is a brief tribute, but it is a sincere one.

84. Mr. TAKLA (Lebanon) (*interpretation from Arabic*): The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and all the Arab and international communities are shocked at the loss of a great friend and colleague, Mr. Omar Sakkaf. Those who have spoken before me have paid tribute to his great qualities and his personality. I should like to add that because of my personal knowledge of him and our long-standing ties of friendship, I am bound to agree with all that has been said here in his praise. I would add too that God had endowed the deceased with many characteristics and traits that made him a first-class and skilled statesman and a great human being. His death is a great loss to his country and to the entire Arab nation, including Lebanon, which knew him at close hand. His death, in fact, is a loss to the entire international community.

85. Speaking on behalf of the President of the Republic of Lebanon and his Government, and in the name of the members of the League of Arab States—Lebanon has the honour to serve as Chairman of the Council of the League of Arab States—we wish to offer our sincerest condolences to His Majesty King Faisal of Saudi Arabia, to his great Government, to the family of the deceased, to the members of the Saudi Arabian delegation and to you, Mr. President, and all the Members of this Organization. May God's mercy encompass his soul.

86. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): The last speaker is Mr. Barody, the representative of Saudi Arabia, on whom I now call.

87. Mr. BARODY (Saudi Arabia) (*interpretation from Arabic*): God is great. God is great. God is great. In the name of the Merciful, the Compassionate. We belong to God and to Him we shall return. He has given

and He will take back. Let us exalt the name of the Creator.

88. When death comes for us, nothing can prevent it. This is the will of God. We must yield to Him at all times.

89. "He was my brother although he was not my mother's son". This is a saying that is known to all Arabs. For us it is the basis of all humanity. For Omar Sakkaf was a brother of all of us. The last words that I heard him speak, here at the door of this very Hall, were: "I am happy, Jamil, because we are at the threshold of peace". Those were his last words to me.

[The speaker continued in English]

90. Mr. President, I hardly can find the words to thank you personally, for the very moment that you learned that your brother Omar Sakkaf was dead, you came to his domicile and you stayed with us for several hours, until late in the night.

91. I also must thank you, Mr. Secretary-General, for you immediately communicated with me and offered your assistance in facilitating the sending of the deceased's body to Saudi Arabia.

92. And how can I forget my dear colleague and brother, John Scali? We forget titles on such an occasion. He was a real brother. He instantly communicated with his Government and arranged to have sent to us and placed at our disposal a special plane to take the body of Omar Sakkaf back to Saudi Arabia, accompanied by the four Ambassadors and three assistants, including our Consul-General. They left at 6 o'clock this morning.

93. How can I forget the expressions of sympathy which we heard this morning and which will be conveyed to His Majesty the King? They touched our hearts, and when I say "our hearts" I mean the hearts of the members of the Saudi delegation and, I am sure, the hearts of His Majesty the King, members of the Government of Saudi Arabia and the bereaved family. I cannot enumerate the names of all those who expressed their sympathy to us, and it is better so. All I can say is that you made us feel that we are brothers of the same family. You made us feel that you are bereaved as much as we are bereaved.

94. What we shall be we do not exactly know. All that we vaguely feel is that we shall be. The winding streamlets do not know how they flow, but at last they shape their course down to the sea. The poet, when things are meet, catches the flame of inspiration. He sits down to compose his work. Then he is finished. All is done. How he came to write this or that he knows not. All he knows is that his poem is writ—and so are we, like the rudimentary buds of flowers, like an ever-evolving nebulous task. The future is dim, but by God's grace we know that we are.

[The speaker resumed in Arabic]

95. I should like to thank you all from the depths of my heart and on behalf of King Faisal, in the name of the people of Saudi Arabia and on behalf of the family of the deceased and your brothers, the members of the Saudi Arabian delegation. May God keep from you all that is painful. May you have long life and may His care surround you. I pray to Him, the Almighty, for He can hear and He can answer and He knows everything and is capable of everything.

96. Mr. ALMUFTI (Jordan) (*interpretation from Arabic*): The delegation of my country and I have heard with the profoundest sorrow of the tragic and untimely passing of my brother and colleague, Omar Sakkaf, last night in New York. The late Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia and I met when he was working for the cause of the Arab world. We have known him as one of those who defended the cause of the Arab world until the very last day of his life.

97. Omar Sakkaf was a man who had faith in his country and his nation, who dedicated his entire life to the service of that nation. He was a responsible and skilled statesman who would spare no effort to serve the causes of international peace and right. On behalf of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Jordanian delegation, I should like to present our sincerest condolences to the family of the deceased, to His Majesty King Faisal and to the people of the brother country of Saudi Arabia. May God rest his soul in peace and may his family have the patience to bear the loss.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.