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*President: Mr. Gaston THORN*  
(Luxembourg).

AGENDA ITEM 22

**Admission of new Members to the United Nations  
(concluded):\***

**(b) Other reports of the Security Council**

1. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): The General Assembly will continue consideration of agenda item 22. In document A/10413 the Security Council recommends the admission of Surinam to membership in the United Nations. A draft resolution, in document A/L.781/Rev.1 and Add.1, has been circulated.

2. May I take it that the Assembly accepts the recommendation of the Security Council and adopts draft resolution A/L.781/Rev.1 and Add.1?

*The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 3413 (XXX)).*

3. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): I declare Surinam admitted to membership in the United Nations.

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

4. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): On behalf of the General Assembly, it is an honour and a pleasure for me to offer sincere congratulations to the delegation of Surinam and to welcome it to the United Nations.

5. Mr. KOIJMANS (Netherlands): On behalf of the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, I am honoured and privileged to have the opportunity of being the first to congratulate from this rostrum the Republic of Surinam on its admission to the United Nations and to welcome in this hall the delegation of Surinam headed by Prime Minister Henck Arron. It is fitting that the Netherlands representative should be the first speaker on this happy occasion, since until the day of its independence, 25 November 1975, Surinam was united with the Netherlands and the Netherlands Antilles in the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

6. The ties between the Netherlands and Surinam date back to the seventeenth century. Without dwelling too long on the past, I might recall that the territory of Surinam was taken from the British by a Dutch fleet in 1667. Dutch sovereignty was confirmed by the peace treaty of Breda of 1667 between England and Holland. The same treaty legitimized the British hold on Nieuw Amsterdam, later named New York.

7. The relationship between Surinam and the Netherlands as that of a colony with its metropolitan country came to a definitive end more than twenty years ago with the adoption of the Charter for the Kingdom of the Netherlands. That Charter entered into force on 15 December 1954, and gave full autonomy and equal partnership to the three parts of the Kingdom: the Netherlands, the Netherlands Antilles, and Surinam. The termination of the colonial relationship was recognized by the General Assembly at its tenth session when, on 15 December 1955, by its resolution 945 (X) it expressed the opinion that the cessation of the transmission of information under Article 73 (e) of the Charter was appropriate. During that session of the General Assembly the Netherlands delegation declared that each of the partners of the Kingdom would be entirely free to leave the constitutional framework of the Kingdom, if and when it should so wish.

8. It was, therefore, fully consistent with this policy that the Netherlands Government wholeheartedly and fully co-operated with the Government of Surinam, when it recently expressed its desire to dissolve Surinam's ties with the Kingdom of the Netherlands. I am happy to state that the consultations between the two Governments that preceded Surinam's full independence took place in an atmosphere of traditional friendship, genuine understanding, and willingness to reach mutually acceptable solutions on all points that were subjects of discussion.

9. It will be evident from what I said before that the Netherlands welcomes Surinam as a newly-independent and sovereign State. The Government of the Netherlands is pleased to have been able to take the initiative in submitting the resolution which has just been adopted unanimously. In this connection, I should like to express my Government's appreciation to the sponsors of that resolution and to all those States which during the general debate in this thirtieth session desired to welcome Surinam as a new member of the world community.

10. Surinam has been an autonomous and self-governing country for more than 20 years. Diplomats of Surinam, furthermore, have, as members of the Netherlands foreign service, made a valuable contribution to the diplomacy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. For example, representatives of Surinam have been members of the Netherlands delegation to the United Nations ever since 1948. As another example

\* Resumed from the 2402nd meeting.

of Surinam's involvement in international affairs, I wish to recall its participation in the work of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea.

11. The Netherlands Government is fully confident that a close bond with Surinam will be maintained. The two nations possess a common language, and a continuing far-ranging co-operation in the economic and technological fields has been provided for. Thus a new relationship does not mean the rupture of an old friendship. This is also underlined by the fact that Her Majesty the Queen of the Netherlands was represented at the independence celebrations by her eldest daughter, Crown Princess Beatrix, and her husband, Prince Claus. As far as relations between Surinam and Western Europe are concerned, there will remain a strong connexion through the continuation of Surinam's association with the European Economic Community in a new context.

12. Surinam has now entered the United Nations. It will be able to participate in the work of the Organization as a Member State in its own right, as a member of the group of Latin American States, and as a member of the large group of developing nations. Once more, on behalf of my Government and of the Netherlands delegation, I extend a warm welcome to Surinam.

13. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): I now call on Mr. Waldron-Ramsey of Barbados, who will address the Assembly on behalf of the Group of Latin American States.

14. Mr. WALDRON-RAMSEY (Barbados): I have come to this podium to salute the Government and the gallant people of the Republic of Surinam upon their accession to complete independence and their admission to membership of the United Nations. Mr. President, in the name of the delegations of the Latin American States, I beg your leave to congratulate the delegation of Surinam, led by its Prime Minister, Mr. Henck Arron.

15. The Republic of Surinam is a sister republic located on the continent of South America. Its people, history and culture reflect the richness of the diversity and vitality of the nation and of the continent itself. But there has always been another geo-political and social dimension to the Republic of Surinam, for Surinam has always kept open a window of spiritual contact and communication on the panorama of Caribbean experience. And, indeed, that factor has helped to forge a special link between Surinam and those of its neighbours which make up the Caribbean community. And, further afield, a community of interests has always sufficed to provide an intimate fraternal bond amongst the States of the whole region.

16. The Netherlands Government had exercised a benign imperium over Surinam since 1667; but since 1954, the Government of Surinam, in its turn, has enjoyed full internal self-government, while it remained a full and integral part of the constitutional Kingdom of the Netherlands. Today the constitutional nexus which joined these two political entities together is now formally broken, and the Republic of Surinam stands here today in this Assembly in the resplendent majesty of a sovereign State. And we, members of this Assembly, rightly pay homage to this exercise of freedom by the Government and people of Surinam; for nothing is more deserving of respect than the

decision of an entity in tutelage to undertake the direct assumption of plenipotentiary responsibility and to don the mantle of sovereignty in the congregation of equals.

17. Nothing is more gratifying than to witness a people which has recaptured its nationhood proclaim from the tribune of the peoples of the community of nations that it is willing and able to assume the obligations and responsibilities of a State Member of the United Nations, consistent with Article 4 of the Charter.

18. The delegations I represent today rejoice with the people of Surinam in this their finest hour of glory. And our jubilation will subside only when every Territory on the continent of Latin America and the region can proclaim its freedom within secure and recognized boundaries and the sanctity of territorial integrity.

19. I am happy to observe that the Kingdom of the Netherlands, which shares a common language with the Republic of Surinam, will continue its far-ranging co-operation with the Government and people of Surinam in the economic and technological fields. Thus the new relationship between those two States will be both dignified and rewarding. The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands is to be congratulated further on the quality of the good stewardship which it has maintained throughout the colonial experience of Surinam. The Government of the Netherlands has always respected the right to self-determination of the people of Surinam.

20. Prime Minister Arron, on his part, is to be applauded for the peaceful and successful termination of the colonial status of Surinam and his triumphant march into this assembly of sovereign States today.

21. The Latin American States welcome Surinam to our midst as a gallant sister-State, and extend the hand of friendship and full co-operation to the Government and people of the Republic of Surinam.

22. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): I now call on Mr. Essonghe, the representative of Gabon, who will address the Assembly on behalf of the Group of African States.

23. Mr. ESSONGHE (Gabon) (*interpretation from French*): It is with deep satisfaction that, on behalf of the Group of African States, I welcome the entry of the Republic of Surinam into the great universal family.

24. I congratulate the Netherlands, which, with intelligence and generosity, has led Surinam to independence. It is my hope that the Netherlands will fulfill its moral obligations by assisting Surinam as it takes its first steps in independent life.

25. A country 142,822 square kilometres in area, with 400,000 inhabitants, the world's third-ranking producer of bauxite, Surinam is a country possessing all the qualifications for statehood as it comes onto the international scene.

26. On this solemn historic and memorable day, when the heart of the people of Surinam beats with happiness, the group of African States, that is to say, Africa, wishes it every success as it sets out on its road of independence.

27. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): I now call on Mr. Akhund, the representative of Pakistan, who will address the General Assembly on behalf of the Group of Asian States.

28. Mr. AKHUND (Pakistan): This has been an important year for the cause of freedom. It has witnessed the emergence of Mozambique, Cape Verde, Sao Tome and Principe, Papua New Guinea and the Comoros as independent, sovereign States that have now become Members of the United Nations; and today, Surinam.

29. On behalf of the Asian States Members of this Organization, I greet with special joy and satisfaction the entry of Surinam into the community of independent States and into the world Organization. The achievement of independence by Surinam represents yet another step in the successful conclusion of the struggle for independence which has characterized the current era in history. Its admission here is a tribute that we pay to the determination exhibited by the people of Surinam in striving for the fulfilment of their national aspirations. It does credit to the wisdom and maturity of the national leaders of Surinam that, in the face of admittedly difficult problems, the transfer of power has taken place in a peaceful manner and in an atmosphere of amity.

30. Credit also must be given to the Government of the Netherlands, which had the wisdom to see the necessity of ending colonial rule, and, accordingly, has adopted forward-looking and constructive policies in Surinam.

31. For any country arriving on the world stage there will be problems. Surinam is no exception, but we are sure that the rich cultural diversity, the considerable natural resources and the political wisdom and experience of the people of Surinam will enable them to overcome those difficulties.

32. The Asian States Members of this Organization look forward to working with the Government and people of Surinam in the United Nations as well as in other bilateral and international forums. We wish the people of Surinam all success in their efforts to consolidate their freedom by developing their economic potential. We look forward to their joining other Member States in the establishment of a more just and equitable world order, and we have no doubt that Surinam will make a valuable contribution to the strengthening of the United Nations and the fulfilment of its objectives.

33. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): And now, to speak on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States, I call upon the representative of Romania, Mr. Datcu.

34. Mr. DATCU (*interpretation from French*): It is a source of particular pleasure for me, on this solemn occasion, to be able to offer to the representatives of the Republic of Surinam, and to Mr. Henck Arron, its Prime Minister, a warm and friendly welcome, and to address to them the most cordial congratulations of the Eastern European States.

35. The admission to the United Nations of the independent and sovereign Republic of Surinam fills us with sincere joy, and we are convinced that Surinam will make its full and most valuable contribution to the cause of international co-operation in all fields of

activity of the Organization while at the same time, in its turn, reaping the fruits of that co-operation.

36. The presence of Surinam in our midst, as it joins the five other States that have recently achieved independence and that we have already had the satisfaction of welcoming to membership in the United Nations during this anniversary session, serves only to confirm once again the irresistible power of the historic process of liquidating the last vestiges of colonialism on all continents.

37. While we sincerely rejoice as we witness this remarkable event, we must regretfully recall the fact that the Vietnamese people was prevented at this same session from taking its rightful place in the United Nations.

38. Every step, like the one we are taking today, brings closer and closer the day—not too distant—on which the last peoples still living under the yoke of colonialist domination will succeed in winning their legitimate rights to freedom and to human and national dignity, and in celebrating with us their victory. It is the duty of this Organization and all its Members to redouble their efforts and to intensify their struggle in complete solidarity in order to make that day come as soon as possible. As far as we are concerned, we shall always remain in the forefront of this noble struggle.

39. Inspired by these thoughts, I wish once again to extend to the representatives of the new State Member of the United Nations and to its Prime Minister our heartfelt congratulations and to wish them all success in building their country and also in the international activities which they will undertake towards the realization of the aspirations of peace, progress and prosperity of the people of Surinam.

40. The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of Austria, Mr. Jankowitsch, to speak on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States.

41. Mr. JANKOWITSCH (Austria): On behalf of the Group of Western European and other States, my delegation wishes to join preceding speakers in congratulating warmly the Republic of Surinam on its entry today to the United Nations. We are honoured and privileged to welcome the delegation of the State that has become the 144th Member of this Organization. We look forward with confidence to the significant contribution which Surinam will undoubtedly make to the important work of the United Nations, and to close and constructive co-operation in all areas dealt with by the United Nations.

42. The admission of an independent and sovereign Surinam brings the United Nations, as was said before this afternoon, one step closer to one of its most cherished goals—true universality of its membership. This session of the Assembly, with the admission so far of six new Members, has been particularly fertile and successful in this respect. In making this possible, as far as Surinam is concerned, we wish to pay a high tribute to the responsible and constructive attitude of the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and of the leaders of Surinam, whose co-operation has made possible the accession of that country to independence in a peaceful and orderly fashion.

43. We are pleased to note the ties of friendship and partnership between the two countries and we are

confident that relations of such a nature between the newly independent Surinam and the countries of my region, Western Europe, will continue to grow in the future.

44. Surinam, like other Caribbean nations, is heir to peoples and civilizations of many continents—Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas. Its population speaks many languages and practises a number of different religions. This wealth and synthesis of cultures and civilizations have brought about remarkable achievements in more than one field and constitute great promise for the future of independent Surinam.

45. In conclusion, I should like, on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States, once again to extend to the Government and the people of Surinam and to its delegation assembled here today warm wishes for peace and prosperity in the future.

46. The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of Democratic Yemen, Mr. Ashtal, to address the Assembly on behalf of the Group of Arab States.

47. Mr. ASHTAL (Democratic Yemen): On behalf of the group of Arab States, I have the pleasant duty warmly to welcome the Republic of Surinam to membership of the United Nations.

48. Indeed, it is gratifying to see that the first official act of newly independent States is to seek membership in this world body. Contrary to any pessimistic views about the United Nations, its viability and its effectiveness, the sharp increase in the membership of States in this Organization is an indication of the fate of the peoples of the world in the United Nations.

49. Today, with the admission of the friendly State of the Republic of Surinam, the United Nations is coming ever closer to its goal of universal representation of all peoples—large and small. It is a happy occasion to see the people of Surinam attain its independence and sovereignty in an orderly and smooth manner. We trust that other Territories and peoples still under colonial rule will be able to attain independence and enjoy membership in the United Nations.

50. I should like once again to welcome the delegation of Surinam and wish its friendly people progress and prosperity.

51. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): I call on the representative of Uganda, Mr. Kinene, to speak on behalf of the Organization of African Unity.

52. Mr. KINENE (Uganda): Once again, and in less than one month, we are gathered here to welcome yet another fully-fledged Member of our Organization—the Republic of Surinam.

53. This is indeed a very happy occasion which once again confirms that the days of colonialism are numbered. It also once more confirms the inalienable right of all peoples—large or small—to self-determination and independence. We are quite sure that those peoples still under colonial rule will defeat their enemies and also join us here as Members of the United Nations.

54. It is with this in mind that I have the great pleasure and honour, on behalf of my President and the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity, Al Hadji Field Marshal Idi Amin Dada, his Govern-

ment and the people of Uganda, first of all to congratulate very warmly the Government and people of Surinam on the occasion of the proclamation of their independence on 25 November 1975, under the leadership of Mr. Henck Arron, the Prime Minister of Surinam, and secondly, to congratulate them on the occasion of their admission to membership in the United Nations.

55. May I take this opportunity to assure the people of Surinam and their Government of the full support of the people of Uganda and the entire continent of Africa in their struggle for development and progress. We are quite sure that Surinam will contribute positively to the fulfilment of the aims and objectives enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

56. In conclusion, my delegation has always maintained that any country which achieves independence from colonialism always suffers from deep wounds in its economy. Therefore, we appeal to all Members of the Organization of the United Nations, as well as other organizations, to extend all possible assistance to those countries which have achieved their independence recently—including the Republic of Surinam—in order to enable them to safeguard their hard-won independence and to build a new and better future.

57. The PRESIDENT: I now call on Ms. Bailey, the representative of the United States, to speak as the representative of the host country.

58. Ms. BAILEY (United States of America): Just as we warmly supported Surinam's candidacy in the Security Council, the United States has co-sponsored wholeheartedly the resolution on the admission of Surinam to membership in the United Nations. We extend our enthusiastic greetings to Surinam as the newest member of the United Nations.

59. As host country representative, my delegation extends a warm welcome to Surinam's representatives at this Headquarters. My delegation offers a particularly cordial welcome and greeting to Prime Minister Arron and Mrs. Arron, and the others members of the Surinam delegation who have come to the United Nations on this historic occasion. It is the sincere hope of my delegation that this day marks the beginning of even closer and friendlier ties between the Government of the United States and the Government of Surinam as we engage in a common effort to realize the goals of the Charter of the United Nations.

60. Surinam's achievement of independence is a tribute to the dedication and capacity of its elected leaders and their commitment to the well-being of their peoples. It is also a tribute to the progressive policies of the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

61. The United States and Surinam have historical links which go back to the early colonial days of the Western Hemisphere. In fact, in 1667 the colonies of Surinam and Nieuw Amsterdam, as New York was called at the time, were exchanged by the then metropolitan Powers. The United States Consulate in Surinam, established in 1790, was elevated to an embassy on 25 November 1975, when Surinam became an independent nation.

62. Surinam's diverse and capable population, its rich natural resources and varied agricultural production, along with a commitment to liberal trade policies,

provide the basis for continued economic development. The new Republic's long history of democratic traditions and self-government, including the establishment of a legislative council over a century ago, are grounds for anticipation that Surinam will make important contributions to the whole United Nations.

63. My delegation truly wishes Surinam all the benefits of independence and of membership in the United Nations. We look forward to a strong contribution from Surinam to the deliberations and activities of the Organization. Once again, welcome, Surinam.

64. Before finishing, I would like to say something more. I watched your delegation, Surinam, walk in. I watched you as you proceeded down the aisle. You walked very proudly, and I felt very proud to watch you walk in, because you walked with something that men should walk with. It is called dignity. Not one of you looked back. You all looked forward. And that is the only way a man should walk.

*Mr. Mutuale Tshikankie (Zaire), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

65. Mr. GADGIL (India): This is a particularly happy occasion for India, for we are today welcoming the independent and sovereign nation of Surinam into the Organization. On behalf of the Government of India and the people of India, I would like to extend our warm greetings and sincere good wishes to the Government and the people of Surinam.

66. The attainment of Surinam's independence is one more milestone in the process of decolonization, which has continued steadily over the years, bringing freedom to a large number of countries in Asia, Africa and the American continent. But that is not the only reason why we rejoice with the people of Surinam. For us in India it is a matter of particular gratification, for our ties with the Caribbean, of which Surinam forms an integral part, go back to the last century when Indians were taken there to develop what was then a virgin country.

67. Geographically we are far apart, but we share the same aspirations and the same cultural bonds. Like India, Surinam enjoys a diversity of culture and religion which contribute to its national identity. The regard and affection we have for the people of Surinam was manifested in our decision to send a special envoy to be present at the historic occasion when it became independent, a few days ago.

68. We would like to take this opportunity to express our satisfaction at the manner in which the administering Power, namely the Netherlands, discharged its responsibility, paving the way for the eventual independence of Surinam.

69. I would once again like to express our profound joy at Surinam's entry to the United Nations as a sovereign independent State.

70. Mr. LONGERSTAEY (Belgium) (*interpretation from French*): It is a most pleasant duty to greet here today, on behalf of Belgium and with its sponsorship, the entry of the Republic of Surinam to the United Nations.

71. We must first of all note the exemplary fact that the Government of The Hague and the Government of Paramaribo were able to prepare the accession of Surinam to sovereignty in perfect harmony.

72. It is also a model of its kind to be able to note that the representative who was elected by the majority of the new Republic can represent his country here with the representative of the opposition party sitting beside him.

73. Belgium is all the happier since these developments have been carried out by a neighbouring and friendly country, namely, the Netherlands, with which we have so many ties that unite us. It is precisely several aspects of the traditional and fruitful Belgian-Netherlands relations which will in the future be extended to Surinam if it so wishes.

74. First of all, Belgium and Surinam have a common heritage and cultural potential since Dutch is spoken in both countries. Even before the independence of the Republic, on 4 June last, Belgium had signed a cultural agreement with Surinam. In the course of the ceremonies organized on the occasion of the independence of the new Member State of the Organization, my Government had signed with it another agreement on the abolition of visas. Furthermore, my Government has examined at length every possibility of establishing agreements between the two countries on technical co-operation and, to that end, a Belgian mission has gone to Surinam to study the problem.

75. The Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs has on several occasions, and in particular before the Parliament of our country, stated the intention of Belgium to provide Surinam with technical assistance on the basis of its priority needs in the fields of economic and social development.

76. On the multilateral level, Surinam will continue to benefit from its association, in a new context, with the European Community, of which my country is an active member.

77. Lastly, Belgium is pleased to be able to contribute to the development of Surinam through the Lomé Convention which extends its benefits to the new Republic.

78. We extend, therefore, congratulations and brotherly greetings to Surinam in the conviction that the ties which unite our two countries will develop to our mutual benefit and satisfaction and we look forward to working together usefully within this Organization.

79. Mr. CAESAR (Grenada): The admission of Surinam to full membership of the United Nations is yet another great step forward in the fulfilment by the United Nations of the principle of universality of membership and the upholding of the inalienable rights of all colonized peoples to freedom and independence.

80. For Grenada, Surinam's attainment of independence and its admission to full membership in the United Nations are great historic achievements which merit our sincere and warm congratulations to the Prime Minister, Mr. Henck Arron, and the Government and people of Surinam.

81. My delegation has been motivated to endorse the statement of welcome which has already been extended to Surinam on our behalf by the Ambassador of Barbados in his capacity as Chairman of the group of Latin American States because of the special and excellent relationship which exists between my Prime Minister, Mr. Eric M. Gairy, and the Prime Minister

of Surinam, Mr. Henck Arron, as well as between the Governments and peoples of Grenada and Surinam. The existing excellent relationship between our two Governments and peoples was clearly demonstrated during Surinam's recent independence celebrations which were attended by a delegation from Grenada headed by none other than the Prime Minister, Mr. Eric M. Gairy, himself.

82. During his brief but most pleasant stay in Surinam, Prime Minister Gairy had the great pleasure of meeting the leaders of all the ethnic groups and was particularly heartened by the spirit of oneness and brotherly love which emanated from and highlighted the entire independence celebrations, in the emotional embracing of the leaders of all ethnic groups, thus creating a sound spirit of nationalism. Grenada would wish that this spirit of nationalism and brotherly love, so touchingly demonstrated, would continue beyond the independence celebration, as it is bound to be an important factor in the consolidation of Surinam's independence and in its contribution here at the United Nations and to world peace.

83. In extending a warm welcome to our sister nation of Surinam, I should also like to congratulate the Administering Power, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, for the manner in which it has discharged its responsibility with respect not only to ensuring the exercise of the right of the people of Surinam to full independence but also for the manner in which it has encouraged the participation of the people in the process of the decolonization of the Territory and in negotiating the security of the people of Surinam.

84. Again, I take great pleasure, on behalf of my delegation and particularly on behalf of the Prime Minister and Government of Grenada, in congratulating the Prime Minister and the Government and people of Surinam and in thanking them for the hospitality they extended to the Prime Minister during his short stay.

85. The delegation of Grenada extends a warm welcome on the admission of Surinam to full membership of the United Nations and looks forward to working closely and co-operatively with it in the achievement of peace on earth and goodwill towards all men, which is the aim of all the peoples of this Organization.

*Mr. Thorn (Luxembourg) resumed the Chair.*

86. Mr. ALARCÓN (Cuba) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Those delegations which happened because of their alphabetical order to be at the sides of the hall have had an unusually good opportunity to see how the map of our Organization has been transformed in the course of this session.

87. For my delegation it is most gratifying to have had to move from one end of the General Assembly hall to another so as to be able to welcome a new Member State to the Organization. And we hope that in the future, too, the Organization will be able to generate this great internal movement which makes it possible for us to welcome other States here whose presence would complete the necessary universality of the United Nations.

88. I should like to add the voice of my delegation to those voices which have been raised here to welcome Surinam. It is always a pleasure to greet the indepen-

dence of a people and welcome a new State to the United Nations. The satisfaction is all the greater when the new Member is, as in this case, a nation with the same historical and geographical background as that which I represent.

89. The occasion we celebrate today once again confirms that independence is the only valid solution and, in the long run, the only feasible one, for the problem of colonialism and dependence. This confirms us in our certainty that some day in the not too distant future, colonialism will have been totally banished from the Caribbean area.

90. We are bound to recognize the honourable conduct of the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, which has contributed to the happy culmination of the process which enables the people of Surinam fully to exercise its right to self-determination.

91. The entry of Surinam into the United Nations is a further encouragement to the endeavour to make of our Organization a genuinely universal one. It recalls to us the need to resolve promptly and in accordance with the almost unanimous will of the Assembly the question of the admission of the representatives of heroic Viet Nam.

92. We also trust that the United Nations will shortly be able to welcome the People's Republic of Angola. The independence of Surinam and its entry into the United Nations coincide with the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 1514 (XV). This is the time to proclaim our determination to persevere in our struggle against colonialism in all its forms and manifestations, until we bring about the emancipation of all the peoples still subject to foreign domination. To them we renew today our assurances of Cuba's complete solidarity. In particular, we transmit our message of solidarity to the people of Angola and to the fighters of the Popular Liberation Movement of Angola, which is struggling to consolidate the independence of the country, and with unflinching courage and determination is confronting the combined aggression of the imperialists and racists.

93. We are convinced that Surinam will make a positive contribution to the common endeavour of the Latin American countries and the Caribbean to establish a new international order which will enable their peoples to consolidate their independence and promote economic and social development.

94. Barely a month ago, members of the Committee on Co-operation and Development of the Caribbean of the Economic Commission for Latin America, meeting in Havana, stated our common wish to have the complete and active participation of independent Surinam. Consequently, it gives us profound satisfaction to welcome its entry into the United Nations today, and we extend our warmest welcome to its representatives and offer its delegation our willingness to co-operate with it in its future tasks within our Organization.

95. Mr. ANWAR SANI (Indonesia): It is a particular honour and privilege for me, as the representative of Indonesia, to extend, on behalf of the Government and people of Indonesia, our warmest congratulations to the Government and people of Surinam on the

admission of their country to membership in the great family of the United Nations.

96. I am particularly happy to welcome the birth of the new State, and its admission to the United Nations, since Indonesia has special links with Surinam by bonds of history and kinship. Both Indonesia and Surinam have experienced centuries of colonial domination by the same Power, the Netherlands. And partly because of this common experience many thousands of Indonesians migrated during the decade before the last World War from Indonesia to Surinam. These people of Indonesian origin have integrated themselves into the multi-racial society in Surinam and have participated in the political, social and economic development of the country. My delegation is certain that the Surinamese of Indonesian origin will continue to contribute to the progress and welfare of the country, in loyal co-operation with their co-citizens.

97. My delegation would also like to congratulate the Government and people of the Netherlands for the role they played in the process of decolonization in Surinam, and for their contribution towards the emancipation of what was once a Dutch colony into the independent and sovereign State of Surinam, Member of this world organization.

98. In admitting Surinam to the Organization, the United Nations has advanced one step closer towards full universality. My delegation warmly welcomes in our midst the delegation of the newest member of our Organization under the leadership of Prime Minister Henck Arron. We wish them every success as they participate in our work, and my delegation looks forward to co-operating closely with them.

99. Mr. CONSALVI (Venezuela) (*interpretation from Spanish*): On behalf of the people and Government of Venezuela, it is a great pleasure and honour for me to say a few words of welcome on the admission to the United Nations of a new country from our region.

100. Venezuela has awaited with interest and, at times, with anxiety the hour of independence of Surinam as we await the hour of independence of the other Territories in our region which have not yet acceded to it.

101. I welcome Surinam on behalf of the delegation of Venezuela, and join preceding speakers in recognizing that the Government of the Netherlands has shown flexibility and intelligence in guiding Surinam along the road to independence.

102. In welcoming Surinam to this world organization I am perhaps anticipating by also welcoming it, on behalf of Venezuela, to our specific regional organizations, such as the Latin American Economic System. I mention it because, as we are well aware, Surinam is an important country in the production of raw materials and because Surinam enters the United Nations at a propitious time for countries which, for more than a hundred years, were supplying raw materials to the major countries of the affluent society.

103. On behalf of Venezuela, therefore, I welcome Surinam and extend my promise to this young country of Latin America our complete solidarity, co-operation and goodwill.

104. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): I am very happy to see that the regional groups of this Assembly have spoken with so much sympathy, conviction and warmth in welcoming Surinam.

105. I should now like to invite Mr. Arron, the Prime Minister of Surinam, to address the General Assembly.

106. Mr. ARRON (Surinam): I come to this forum as the representative of the Government and people of the Republic of Surinam. On 25 November 1975, our country attained its independence and joined the ranks of sovereign States. The General Assembly has just unanimously admitted the Republic of Surinam as a Member State of the United Nations. Consequently we are grateful for this decision and deeply touched by the warm welcome given to our country.

107. We wish to express our thanks as well to the members of the Security Council for having recommended our admission to the General Assembly. Our sincere appreciation also goes to those Members who have sponsored our admission to the United Nations.

108. We avail ourselves of this opportunity to extend our congratulations and best wishes to the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, the People's Republic of Mozambique, the Republic of Cape Verde, Papua New Guinea, and the Comoros on their membership in the Organization, and we are honoured to have been admitted with those countries during the thirtieth session of the General Assembly.

109. Allow us, Sir, to express our congratulations to you on your election as President. Coming ourselves from a small country, we are inspired by your election, which reminds us of Victor Hugo's words: "There is no such thing as a little country. The greatness of a people is no more determined by their number than the greatness of a man is determined by his height".

110. The 25th of November 1975 signifies for us an end and a beginning. The end to our status as a partner of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the beginning of our identity as an independent and sovereign State. It is only fitting that we pay tribute to those courageous men and women who made the supreme sacrifice and whose bloody rebellion against enslavement resulted in the abolition of slavery on 1 July 1863.

111. We have been an autonomous country since 15 December 1954 as far as our internal affairs are concerned, and we are confident that the experience gained during all those years will enable us to participate in international affairs as a fully-fledged nation.

112. I avail myself of this opportunity as well to thank you for the congratulations directed to the Government and people of Surinam and for your statement that the independence of Surinam marks an important example of how independence can be achieved in conditions of peace and security and in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations when there is goodwill and understanding by all concerned, has deeply touched us. Surinam's independence is based on its people's own free will, by mutual consent of the Netherlands and the Netherlands Antilles.

113. May I inform the Assembly that, even after Surinam's independence the Netherlands has under-

taken subsequent and specific responsibilities as regards our country's development, and will accept any consequences resulting from this. This co-operation is based on the extension of Surinam's economic strength, on the creation of new jobs, and on the improvement of the living conditions of the people. A treaty for development co-operation between the two countries was therefore signed on 25 November last.

114. The Republic of Surinam is at the outset of a new approach concerning the promotion of the social and economic development of our country. Our raw materials, our labour resources and the funds available will be used exclusively for the economic growth of the entire nation. This implies, among other things, that in judging the utilization of our raw materials, the Government will first and foremost take the line that, as far as our nation is concerned, maximum profits are to be made from the use of our natural resources. Wherever possible, the Government will offer foreign entrepreneurs the opportunity, in combination with the State, to take the exploitation of the raw materials in hand, and in granting facilities to those enterprises, demands will be made to such an extent that finished products can be manufactured from the raw materials found in our country.

115. Many countries are more or less in the same boat as Surinam. They are not affluent. On account of a lack of funds, their resources can be utilized only with the help of others. All these countries, the so-called developing countries, can be elevated only if they mutually co-operate. We shall therefore join their ranks in order to improve one another's chances in life under the auspices of the United Nations. We shall co-operate with the developed countries as well, since we greatly appreciate any aid and co-operation without, however, sacrificing our own dignity.

116. The Republic of Surinam is ready, together with all nations, to establish and maintain peace in the world. Surinam will therefore contribute constantly to the maintenance of universal aspirations for peace among nations and in all cases concerned it will be *a priori* against the use of arms. The division of the world into

military power blocs, as well as the arms race, will be categorically rejected by Surinam. We are of the opinion that the use of ever-increasingly sophisticated weapons and the growing quantity of nuclear devices for mass destruction can result in the ruin of mankind and, joined by other countries, we shall strongly oppose such actions. Dialogue and not violence, no matter in what form, must be engaged in to find solutions to disputes. If ever Surinam should become a party to any conflict, it would then try to convince the other party of the fundamental meaning of a peaceful solution, in contrast to useless bloodshed.

117. We fully realize that our admission to the United Nations implies responsibilities and commitments, which we are ready to undertake and perform. Our attitude, both nationally and internationally, will be based on the principles of the Charter and on the rules of international law. We intend to establish friendly and peaceful relations with all nations, and where such relations exist they will be reinforced.

118. Thus we are ready to make our entry into the world community on the basis of liberty, equality, brotherhood and human solidarity, so that a future of peace, justice and prosperity for all nations can be built by mutual co-operation and understanding.

119. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): My presidency of the General Assembly will not go down in the history of the United Nations as one marked by particular understanding for interruptions of meetings and for congratulations following speeches, which interrupt the work of the Assembly. However, I thought that the admission of Surinam to the United Nations was important not only for that country but also for the United Nations, which is celebrating its admission. That is why I did not wish to interrupt the congratulations. I should like in my turn to thank the Prime Minister of Surinam and to associate myself with the tribute which he paid to the delegation of the Netherlands, as well as to thank all who have taken part in this debate.

*The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.*