

# GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TWELFTH SESSION

Official Records


**713th  
PLENARY MEETING**

 Wednesday, 30 October 1957,  
at 10.30 m.

NEW YORK

## CONTENTS

Page

Agenda item 69:

 Complaint about threats to the security of Syria and  
to international peace (continued) . . . . . 427

**President: Sir Leslie MUNRO (New Zealand).**

## AGENDA ITEM 69

**Complaint about threats to the security of Syria and  
to international peace (continued)**

1. Mr. ZEINEDDINE (Syria): On behalf of my delegation, I wish formally to submit to the General Assembly a draft resolution [A/L.226] on the question before us.

2. The primary object of our proposal is to get the facts about the threats to Syria's security and to international peace. The present debate in itself has to a large extent been useful in that respect. It has set before the Assembly and the world the grave issue which is at stake. It has also revealed the stands of the two sides most directly concerned—Syria and Turkey. The debate has indeed been timely.

3. It is evident that the situation in question consists mainly and essentially of threats to my country and the military pressure on it which results directly from the Turkish action of concentrating troops in an unprecedented manner and in very large numbers in the immediate proximity of our borders. These troops were first stated to be gathered together for the purpose of manoeuvres, but the manoeuvres ended long ago, and since then the troops have been greatly reinforced and massed mainly in a small sector at a strategic point. They have thus taken other steps which presage an actual attack. The troops are exceedingly mobile and ready for quick operation. They are therefore exerting a constant military pressure which is fraught with dangerous possibilities for peace.

4. These are the main facts that created a clear-cut situation and obliged us to bring that situation to the attention of the United Nations. That is the issue. The issue is not whether Turkey or Syria possess arms. All nations possess arms. The limited amount of arms which we possess in Syria, arms paid for by our money, by the income from the sweat and toil of the Syrian people, are very minor in comparison with the arms which Turkey has received as a grant from some big Powers. But the issue is not whether Syria or Turkey have depots, arsenals and bases. Syria has no bases. The issue is not whether Turkey or Syria is aligned with a given camp or Power, although Syria's definite policy is that of nonalignment. The issue is not what kind of government, régime or policy Syria or Turkey should have, for that is a matter solely for the Syrian and Turkish people.

5. Some delegations, however, have sought to contest some of the facts about the situation which we have reported to the General Assembly, or they have tried to dismiss the facts by saying they have a flimsy basis. It is not strange that those delegations were also the delegations which tried to sidetrack the question and take it out of the United Nations and to act on their own in the Middle East.

6. In these circumstances, we find it fit and necessary to introduce our proposal because its very purpose is to enable the General Assembly to ascertain and establish the facts of the situation by means of the fact-finding commission which we propose. We want the facts to be known and to be established. We believe this is a fair attitude; indeed, it is more than fair because Syria, though the accuser, accepts under its own proposal an investigation of its own territory, not only on that of Turkey, which is the accused. Syria has nothing to hide. We hope that the other countries represented here also will wish the facts to be established objectively, as we do, and thus vote in favour of the proposed fact-finding commission.

7. Unfortunately, there are some who find it difficult to take an objective view in the present circumstances. They may oppose a fact-finding effort by the Assembly. In all probability, they would prefer to conceal the realities of the situation in some manner. We were heartened, however, to note that the United States delegation issued a Press statement immediately after the introduction of our item, in which it appeared to favour a prompt investigation. We hope that that attitude expressed by the United States delegation will also be the one to be expressed here by all delegations by means of an affirmative vote on our proposal.

8. We would dislike to believe that the United States, the United Kingdom, Turkey, or any other Member State, would oppose a process of fact-finding and thus draw a curtain over the United Nations and frustrate an honest effort to permit the Organization and the world to see clearly the situation now existing in the area of the Syrian-Turkish border. The facts indicate a very ominous situation, not only as regards Syria, but in respect of peace in general.

9. If this proposal is adopted, it can serve to establish the facts; if it is not adopted, it can at least serve as a means of making those States which may oppose it clearly aware of their international responsibilities. The world was awakened by the debate in this Assembly and was obliged to take note of the stand which the United Nations and each of its States Members wished to take. The world is very well aware of the efforts being made to disturb the peace and of the efforts to frustrate the possibility of a small State, such as mine, to live without the threat of danger from the too powerful.

10. We earnestly hope that the proposal which we have made will be adopted by a large majority and

that our hopes of receiving a fair deal will not be dashed, with the consequences of despair which would result.

11. The matter under consideration is undoubtedly important and urgent. The Assembly itself has reached that decision in agreeing to inscribe the item on the agenda as an additional item. Indeed, rule 15 of the rules of procedure provides for the inscription of additional items "of an important and urgent character". The United States and the United Kingdom, which recognized this urgency by their votes in favour of including the item in the agenda, later contradicted themselves by asserting that the matter was not urgent, or by trying to defer its consideration, utilizing procedural and other means which we have all observed.

12. We have brought this question to the Assembly instead of to the Security Council because the Assembly is in session and because it is competent. We do not accept criticism for having followed a course open to us through the Charter and called for by the circumstances of the situation. Nevertheless, we do not for a moment forget that the Security Council may be called upon later to deal with the matter by virtue of its authority to take certain measures which the General Assembly is not empowered to take. With this in view, our proposal provides that the report of the commission should be sent to the Security Council as well as to the General Assembly, so that both bodies of the United Nations will be kept informed.

13. As the matter is now before the Assembly, we hope that the measures which the Assembly can recommend will be adequate, and, in order to enable the Assembly to act promptly by taking the necessary measures, we propose as a preliminary step that the commission should ascertain the facts first. The formation of the commission and its functioning is very urgent indeed in order that the Assembly may be enabled to proceed. Its urgency is interpreted in our proposal by the time set for the composition of the commission and for the preliminary report of that commission.

14. My delegation expressly reserves its right to introduce other proposals, especially if the present proposal fails to be adopted. These proposals may include measures which would be useful in thwarting, frustrating or repelling aggression against our country, or in relieving both my country and the world in general from such threats and measures of which we are now aware from more than one Member State. We do this out of duty to our own country, which is now being victimized. We do it from a sense of responsibility to the peace of the world.

15. As to the composition of the commission, our proposal provides for the inclusion in its membership of seven Member States, two of which are to be designated by Turkey and two by Syria, and the other three by common agreement between Syria and Turkey. We are not attempting to provide for membership of which Turkey does not approve, since we propose that Turkey may choose two and agree to the other three. We propose for Turkey exactly what we seek to have for ourselves. We would go further: we shall try to name the two members to be designated by us on the very day on which this proposal is adopted, and on that same day, probably we shall be able to give Turkey a wide choice for agreement on the other three members.

16. Naturally such agreement between Syria and Turkey can be useful only if it does not serve as a means to obstruct the composition of the commission by this or that side. Syria wants a commission, and the Syrian delegation will do all that is in its power to see the commission promptly and properly composed.

17. As neither Syria nor Turkey, according to our proposal, is going to be a member of the commission, the proposal itself provides for co-operation with the commission of a representative from each of the two countries in a liaison capacity for the purpose of facilitating contacts and information.

18. This is the general economy of the proposal which we have presented to the Assembly as to its purpose, terms of reference, composition and functioning.

19. We find the proposal fair; we find it necessary as it stands. Yet in order to give fellow representatives the time to consider the proposal and to discuss it among themselves, and despite the urgency of the situation, we do not intend to push it to a vote today.

20. There is more to be said. The constitution of such a commission by the General Assembly offers in an indirect manner services other than those already referred to. The very simple fact that a commission is constituted and is on the spot to find facts is useful as a deterrent against impulsive and adventurous actions and against incidents which may provoke hostilities at any moment. The presence of the commission and its action in this case are like the presence of a fire brigade when a fire has started in an area full of explosive possibilities. The formation and functioning of such a commission does not hinder in the least any useful activity. On the contrary, to work in common to get facts through the commission might help to establish useful contacts; and such facts as might be established by the commission might help in any efforts on this matter which would relieve the present tensions prevailing in the Middle East.

21. As I have explained, the formation of the commission as a deterrent is essential. We cannot, therefore, be expected to encourage any form of effort to bypass the United Nations, be it under the guise of a so-called regional initiative or in any other form. We have up to now withheld from entering into a thorough explanation of those so-called regional initiatives. We would not allow our living problems to be stilled or quenched in any other manner. The question before the United Nations is not one that should be shelved. This Assembly of eighty-two nations is the only centre fit to harmonize international actions. We cherish the authority of the United Nations and we would like to uphold it by every possible means.

22. Let us face realities. The situation on the Syrian-Turkish border is grave. It endangers the security of Syria and, while doing so, it is undoubtedly endangering peace. International tensions focused on that area may create a state of affairs where it would become possible for a small fire in that area to spread into a big conflagration engulfing our planet. To shut our eyes to such a possibility by looking at the smoke of that fire so as not to see it, to try to believe that there is no possibility of danger when the world at the present moment is nearer to the eventuality of war than at any other time in the past few years, would not be an advisable attitude to take in this Assembly. It is time for all of us to start on our way to put that fire out.

23. We find the first step in that direction in our proposal. It seeks to obtain facts. It seeks truth, nothing but the truth, for that is its only goal. For only on truth and justice can a right solution be based, and on such a basis durable peace can be established. It is not only our peace in Syria; it is also your peace. Let us all work together so that the sublime mission of the United Nations for peace will be effectively fulfilled.

24. Mr. SAINT LOT (Haiti) (translated from French): It is with pleasure that, following an agreeable custom, I offer my congratulations to Sir Leslie Munro, belated perhaps, but sincere, on behalf of the Haitian delegation, on his election to the presidency of the twelfth session of the General Assembly.

25. In coming to this rostrum, I have no other aim than to explain my country's position on one of the most delicate questions ever submitted to our Assembly and, if necessary, to help find a solution which, while satisfying the opposing points of view, would enable the majority of us to act in complete harmony with the spirit and letter of our Charter.

26. As the discussion goes on, what seems to us the gist of the matter is emerging clearly, stripped of the procedural artificialities and annoying interferences which threaten to delay our consideration of it. It seems to us that one of the smallest States Members of the United Nations feels its internal sovereignty and its security threatened by an imposing and unusual concentration of forces by one of its powerful neighbours. This small country, Syria, in conformity with the spirit and letter of the Charter, has not only brought these facts to our attention but has asked us, as is our duty, to investigate the situation in order to determine the justice of its fears and the validity of its complaint.

27. As a small State which may tomorrow be someone else's Syria, the Republic of Haiti cannot in conscience associate itself with a proposal which would postpone the debate sine die and thus brush aside a complaint which is as moving as it is legitimate, more especially as the Syrian complaint was based on the principle of non-intervention which, together with the principle of non-interference in the affairs of others—about which we, incidentally, are poor judges—is one of the pivots of my country's foreign policy. For in the evolution, sometimes tumultuous and sometimes bloody, of human society, there are a multitude of historical, psychological and other factors which are of necessity overlooked by those who are content to observe from outside, with dispassionate detachment, with astounding incomprehension and complete ignorance, if not obsessed by petty interests, the crises of growth and the moving dramas of ignorance, fear and hunger which consume the great majority of us and impel us into a continuous and untiring pursuit of happiness. Human egoism, individual or collective, is too great to allow us to judge other people's troubles rationally, the troubles of others are only a dream.

28. It was in the name of this principle of non-intervention that the Haitian delegation recently supported the United States delegation unreservedly on the Hungarian question. It felt that the charges should be discussed, and it is on the same principle that we shall take a firm stand beside all those who accept the honourable mission of striving to ensure that all shall

have the right to settle their own national affairs, provided that they fulfil the commitments they have formally accepted towards our international community.

29. The Syrian request for an investigation, which is in complete conformity with Article 1, paragraph 1, of our Charter, which recognizes the right of the United Nations "to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace," has not as far as we know, been formally contested by any of the previous speakers. In fact, Turkey, the opposing party, while giving assurances of its own nonaggressive attitude, has denounced certain Syrian undertakings and projects of a military character, the cost and extent of which would apparently be beyond Syria's needs and capacities. If there proved to be some basis for all these allegations, it would be clear that there was, in the Middle East, a real danger to international peace, to that peace which it is our duty to maintain.

30. Given the circumstances, how can we fail in one of our most imperative duties, the duty of assisting a Member State, remaining deaf to its pressing appeals? How can we disregard one of the fundamental purposes of the United Nations by refusing to act to protect threatened peace and imperilled international co-operation when the threat is obvious and the danger clear? The United Nations cannot remain blind and deaf, as did the League of Nations when faced with the heartrending appeals of Ethiopia. That would be an abdication of responsibility from which our prestige would recover with difficulty.

31. Those who hesitate to support Syria's request seem to fear that it is a stratagem, a mere propaganda move. If that were so it would indeed be a skilful stratagem, because it would confront most of the Members of the United Nations with a terrible alternative: either to let themselves be taken in by that stratagem or to fail in the duty of assisting each other and thus to ignore our essential mission, which is to maintain international peace at all costs. A stratagem so clever would deserve to be met with one of equal skill, but it cannot be evaded at the cost of such obvious failure to fulfil the essential purposes of the United Nations or by avoiding our obligations. Whether we take the point of view of Syria or that of Turkey, the debate has made it clear that an investigation is imperative.

32. There is a twofold danger to peace; it is doubly urgent to take a decision to safeguard peace. The investigation is necessary and urgent. But to whom should it be entrusted? This is where we regretfully part company with the Syrian delegation. In view of the importance of the interests involved, the large number of Member States, the more and more impassioned nature of the debate and the strange repercussions and alarming threats to which it has given rise, my delegation feels that no one would be better qualified to carry out this task than the Secretary-General, who has just been reappointed to his formidable and difficult office by the unanimous vote of confidence of the eighty-two Members of the United Nations. Because of the nature of his office and his experience with international affairs and disputes, he offers both sides an indisputable guarantee of the necessary impartiality and competence. Placed as he is above the antagonistic blocs whose quarrels, whose incessant polemics, whose terrifying behaviour serves so



well to maintain universal unrest, he is the living symbol, the felicitous embodiment of the United Nations in its untiring will for peace, for international co-operation and for the happiness of mankind.

33. The delegation of Haiti is happy to note that it is in agreement here with the wish expressed [711th meeting], albeit timidly, by the representative of France. If we were not held back by a feeling of loyalty we might be tempted to make that wish the subject of an amendment to the Syrian proposal. Since we cannot do that, we shall simply declare that we are prepared to support any draft resolution which would enable us to satisfy our obligations under the Charter, our duty of mutual assistance and our love of peace.

34. Mr. Krishna MENON (India): Nearly two weeks ago, acting on the request of Syria [A/3699], the General Committee unanimously recommended to the Assembly the inclusion of the item "Complaint about threats to the security of Syria and to international peace" as an additional item on the agenda of the current session. The Assembly endorsed this recommendation, and for the last several days we have heard speeches on this subject—several times from the parties immediately concerned and from various others.

35. There can be no doubt at all that in the minds of the majority of the Member States represented here there is great concern about the complaint in so far as it is made by a Member State about the threats to its security and to international peace. This appears also to be the practically unanimous view of the Assembly, because each one of those who spoke on the inclusion of this item and has since taken part in the debate has taken the attitude that, if there are complaints, let them be presented, let there be some peace; let this matter be resolved in some way or other.

36. My delegation, not having direct first-hand knowledge of affairs in this area, and especially in view of the desire, both of the party that has complained and of the others, that the facts be established, has no desire to express itself on the merits of the question, except in so far as to say that no State, in our view, would come before the General Assembly and ask for fact-finding if it could avoid it, because States are jealous of their sovereignty and they do not want interference or investigation or inquiry from outside, however friendly the quarter may be.

37. Therefore, when a Member State comes before us and says, "our security is threatened" and further states that there is a threat to international peace, it would be wrong on our part not to heed this appeal.

38. Looking back over the debate, the explanatory memorandum submitted by Syria on 15 October refers to an actual military threat to Syria, which has been denied by the representative of Turkey, and no actual threat has taken place within that period. But even this morning, the apprehension was repeated from this platform. It is also said by the representative of Syria that the security of his country and its independence is endangered.

39. The representatives will recall that in the General Committee [116th meeting] the representative of the United States referred to the independence of Syria. It also appears in the letter of the Syrian representative himself. This morning, there was placed before

us a draft resolution [A/L.226] submitted by Syria. We have heard the representative of Syria speak on the draft resolution. Following him, we also heard from the representative of Haiti on the general necessity of our heeding to the complaint, whatever his own views may be about the manner in which it should be worked out.

40. It is therefore appropriate for us to look into the statements made by various delegations, notably by the parties immediately concerned, Turkey and Syria, and the two others which have both made charges and about which charges have been made, namely, the United States and the Soviet Union. The United States, soon after the item was announced, issued a Press release in which it said:

"The United States welcomes Assembly consideration of the situation in the Middle East. A prompt investigation of developments should help to ease tensions, as well as clarify who it is that threatens peace in the area. We hope the General Committee will meet urgently to recommend inclusion of this item in the agenda of the Assembly."

41. With great respect, I would say that it is not only a welcome statement, but a statement that could be expected from a great Power with responsibilities for international peace.

42. The Turkish delegation, while denying all these charges, also expressed its concern and welcomed the inclusion of the item. They were not burking any inquiry; they were not burking any examination by the Assembly. At the same meeting of the General Committee, the representative of the United States said that a commission should be set up by the General Assembly to investigate the situation on the Syrian-Turkish border and to report to the Assembly. That was what was said in the General Committee. The representative of the United States went on to say, according to the Press release:

"The United States has been concerned over recent developments stemming from Soviet infiltration into the Middle East ... I am confident that the United Nations discussion and investigation will show not only the absurdity of the charges against the United States and Turkey, but will also reveal the true source of tension in the entire area."

43. There have been other statements of the same character from the Soviet delegation also, saying that there should be inquiry, and the Soviet Union also has made charges and answered charges that were brought against it. The Assembly is in no position to make any judgement there or to advise any action, apart from offering its goodwill and its conciliatory efforts, in whatever constructive way it can. We therefore think that nothing is gained merely by making charges and counter-charges. But at the same time, we do not think that the apprehensions of a Member State, particularly a State geographically so situated, in the context of Power configurations in the world and of the suspicions and apprehensions that exist, can be ignored.

44. The Syrian delegation has put forward a draft resolution. I would at this stage, in this preliminary intervention, like to make a very modest suggestion in all sincerity; and that is that while there is general agreement that the facts must be known, there must be knowledge before there is decision. It is impossible, in the conditions in which we live in this

world, in the context of the composition of the Assembly, and in the context of the functions that are proposed, for this to materialize unless both parties agree to this matter; that is to say, that investigation has to take place on the Syrian-Turkish border and in the territory of Syria and the territory of Turkey. It involves the recognition of the necessity of this by each side, and the necessary facilities being offered by each party.

45. Therefore, while we have no desire at the present moment to pronounce on anything that relates to the merits of this question, we would humbly suggest that the two countries concerned, Turkey and Syria, should immediately get in touch with each other. Since, in view of the not very friendly speeches in respect of each other's actions that have been delivered, there may be some difficulty in breaking the ice, they might, if necessary, use the offices, shall we say, of the Secretary-General, to enable them to talk to each other. Perhaps it would be possible for these two countries in this way—without agreeing on any of the merits of the question—at least to agree on the methodology that is to be adopted, so that fact-finding arrangements may be made possible and so that this question may be resolved. As the representatives of the United States and the Soviet Union stated, in whatever forms they may have said it, let us find out what the facts are, and who is responsible and who is not.

46. We would like to make this suggestion for the consideration of the representatives of Turkey and Syria, and express the hope that they will accept it, so that in three or four days, or whatever is proposed, we may be able to proceed to something practical in this way.

47. Mr. NOBLE (United Kingdom): I will be very brief, but I do think it important to draw the attention of the General Assembly to the remarks which Mr. Khrushchev is widely reported to have made at a reception at the Turkish Embassy in Moscow last night. Among other things he is reported to have said:

"He who wants war, let him fight alone. But anyway, why talk about war? There will be no war."

48. This is truly significant. The Members of the Assembly will know that in the opinion of my delegation there has never been any danger of war on the Turkish-Syrian border. We are glad this is now apparently the view of the Soviet Government also. The significance of this will, I am sure, not be lost on the Members of the Assembly in their consideration of what action, if any, should be taken here on the subject under discussion.

49. Mr. MATSUDAIRA (Japan): My delegation has closely followed the debate in this Assembly on the Syrian complaint. Many statements have been made; many words have been uttered. I will not say that the debate up to this point has not been worthwhile, for we have heard some fair statements and wise counsels. But my delegation notes with regret a tendency to abuse the privilege and opportunity offered here for constructive discussion, a tendency which, if left unchecked, may turn this Assembly into a propaganda battlefield.

50. Certainly the Assembly is open to hear the legitimate complaints of any of its Members. But it is not a place for the hurling of invectives or a place

for "impassioned speeches" or "provocative declarations", as mentioned by the representatives of Iran [711th meeting]. As a body dedicated to the cause of maintaining international peace and security, it is our solemn obligation to seek those ways by which we can attain these objectives. We owe this not only to our respective peoples, but to all mankind.

51. My country deeply regrets the present situation in the Middle East, particularly as it involves two countries, Turkey and Syria, with both of which we have fraternal feelings. We want to see the existing tension eased and normal relations restored as soon as possible. That is why we frown upon any attempt in this Assembly to exaggerate and enlarge the problem out of all proportion to what it actually is, thereby confusing the situation and increasing international tension. That is why we favour the course of moderation, an approach which would contribute to an atmosphere conducive to a prompt and peaceful settlement.

52. We place our trust in the good sense and judgement of all nations and believe that no country will resort to force to settle the problem. We believe that it is the responsibility of the General Assembly, acting with prudence, faith and statesmanship, to make every effort to remove any possibility of a serious crisis developing from the present situation. The Charter clearly indicates what we, the Member States, should do in situations of this kind. It is for us to follow faithfully the guide-lines provided by the Charter.

53. My delegation entertains high respect for the efforts that have been made by His Majesty King Saud to seek a peaceful local settlement, for these efforts are fully in line with the provisions of the Charter. But without prejudice to these efforts, we wish to propose, jointly with the delegations of Canada, Denmark, Norway, Paraguay, Peru and Spain, a draft resolution [A/L.227] aimed at reducing tension in the area in question in the most reasonable manner.

54. Under this draft resolution, we express our confidence that the Secretary-General will be available to discuss the problems with the representatives of the parties concerned and, if necessary, to proceed to the countries concerned in connexion with the performance of his task. We look forward to his assistance being given in the exercise of his responsibilities under the Charter. We realize that with the General Assembly now midway in its session, the Secretary-General is extremely busy and heavily burdened with many important duties. But we look forward to his contribution because of our great respect for and confidence in his outstanding ability and wisdom and because of his personal dedication to the cause of peace.

55. I think it is high time that this Assembly recover its sense of proportion and begin to exercise the statesmanship which the world expects of it. We must concentrate our efforts on seeking a fair and enduring solution of the present situation in the calm atmosphere of reason, unswayed by politically inspired or partisan arguments. Above all, we must stand squarely and faithfully by the high principles of the Charter. My delegation assures you that Japan is resolved to make its full contribution to such a constructive effort.

56. Mr. NESBITT (Canada): The Government and people of Canada have been watching with increasing concern the developments during the past few months in the Middle East, and particularly the situation in and around Syria. Earlier this year, we were encouraged to believe that we could look for an improvement in conditions in the area. We have been deeply gratified, as the Canadian Prime Minister indicated in the general debate [683rd meeting], that the United Nations has had some measure of success as a calming influence in some parts of the Middle East. In these circumstances, our concern about recent developments is given greater emphasis.

57. Like others in this Assembly, the Canadian delegation has followed with careful interest the course of the debate on the item submitted by the Government of Syria. In listening to the statements made by representatives of those States more directly concerned with the matter, we have been able to shape our opinions about what action, if any, the Assembly should take.

58. In the first place, we were not opposed to having the item raised in the Assembly. We share the opinions of those delegations which argue that the Assembly may discuss any questions related to the maintenance of international peace and security, and we would not quarrel with the view that any Member State, but particularly the smaller States, should be entitled to bring to the attention of the United Nations any cause of anxiety about its security and independence. Our assumption would be that the State concerned would be the best judge of where its best interest lay in a matter of this kind, but that in seeking assistance from the United Nations the interested Government would act with responsibility and moderation. We have frequently expressed in this Assembly our belief that the United Nations will grow in strength and stature if we, as Member States, are prepared to heed the appeal of nations—and this applies with perhaps greater force among the smaller nations—which seek here to establish order in their relationships on a basis of peace and justice.

59. Having said this, however, I would certainly not wish my remarks to be interpreted as meaning that the Canadian delegation believes that the complaint of Syria views the situation along its borders with anxiety and concern, but for our part we are satisfied that the Government of Turkey has not behaved, and has no intention of behaving, in any sense in the irresponsible manner suggested by the explanatory memorandum [A/3699] submitted with the Syrian item, and in the statements of the Foreign Minister of Syria during this debate. In this connexion, I should like thoroughly to endorse what the representative of the United States had to say on 25 October [710th meeting] about Turkey as a loyal Member of the United Nations.

60. On several occasions during the course of this debate, the Assembly has heard the solemn assurances of the Government of Turkey about its intentions. We believe that those assurances are entitled to receive our respectful attention. The representative of Turkey has given some account of the anxiety which his Government and his people have been experiencing because of recent developments in neighbouring countries. These comments from the representative of Turkey are surely relevant to our discussion here, particularly in view of the inflammatory remarks which we have heard from the Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union.

61. Our intention at this time is not to engage in polemics or propaganda, but we cannot fail to note the very considerable lack of restraint which has characterized the statements of the Soviet delegation during this debate. These have led us to question both the motives and intentions of the Soviet Government in supporting the complaint of Syria. The Canadian approach to this item would be to deal with it calmly and constructively, and we therefore deplore utterances here and statements elsewhere which, through their very lack of restraint, tend to aggravate not only the debate in this Assembly but the situation in the area. However, in saying this, we are fully aware that unwarranted charges and accusations cannot be left unanswered, as the representative of the United States made clear in his intervention on 25 October.

62. It was emphasized in the General Committee that the Syrian item involved a situation which all Members of the United Nations should try to discuss in an atmosphere of calm and confidence. We regard this as good advice. We believe, too, that the Assembly would be wise to consider this matter carefully with a view to bringing about a reconciliation, rather than an intensification, of conflicting views. In other words, we should seek to allay any apprehension and anxiety which might prevail in the States immediately concerned. By doing this, we would help to allay those wider anxieties which naturally stem from a deterioration of the situation in the Middle East. We have been happy to see that others share our preference for a constructive approach to the Syrian item.

63. In these circumstances, we warmly welcome the generous initiative of His Majesty King Saud because clearly His Majesty's main interest has been to ease undesirable tensions between two neighbouring States. It would be our view that the distinguished ruler of a third Middle Eastern State could effectively lend his good offices in a situation of this kind. It would be entirely consistent with the Charter if the Syrian complaint, which has brought into sharp focus serious charges and counter-charges as between Syria and Turkey, were to be dealt with through regional processes. If we interpreted his remarks correctly, we understood the representative of Afghanistan to express the same view in his thoughtful and welcome statement of 22 October [708th meeting]. We have no doubt that this opinion is shared by many other delegations in this Assembly.

64. The Assembly should note with approval, we suggest, the repeated assurances and practical demonstration that the Government of Turkey has been fully prepared to accept the worthy offer of King Saud. It is surely incumbent upon all Member States to explore fully all channels of negotiation, mediation, conciliation or other peaceful means for resolving their differences. As we see it, the Government of Turkey has acted in accordance with its Charter obligations in response to the initiative of His Majesty King Saud. We have been informed that this offer still stands. We hope we are right in assuming that the Government of Syria has not rejected it. The Canadian delegation joins with others who have urged the Syrian authorities to weigh carefully the advantages of accepting the offer.

65. Because of the uncertainties of the moment, we believe that the Assembly should be prepared to consider as well other means of dealing with the



situation. In consultation with other delegations, and in the light of views expressed during this debate, we have reached some conclusions about a possible course of action. If, for whatever reason, the parties are unable to avail themselves of this regional process for settling the present matter, there are other means, as implied in the Charter.

66. Several speakers in this debate have suggested that the Secretary-General, acting within the scope of the responsibilities given to him in the Charter, might be able to assist the parties to reconcile their differences and in this way to bring about an easing of tension, a situation of quiet. We have no hesitation in supporting that suggestion and in commending it to the Assembly and to the parties concerned.

67. In doing so, we have no wish to circumscribe the kind of action which the Secretary-General might take to achieve the aims I have mentioned. With the good will and co-operation of those most concerned, and in the relaxed atmosphere which should prevail now that the situation has been fully aired in this Assembly, the Secretary-General should be able to make a very helpful contribution.

68. I wish only to emphasize that the Canadian Government has complete confidence in the Secretary-General's diplomatic skill and patience. As we all know, he is no stranger to the political conditions which exist in the Middle East. We are sure that Governments in the area share our appreciation of the Secretary-General's helpfulness during difficult negotiations. Accordingly, we believe that it would be wise not to tie the Secretary-General's hands in this matter but to allow him the opportunity, consistent with his responsibilities under the Charter, to explore

the situation fully with the parties and with such others as may appear useful, all in order to bring about an easing of tension in the area.

69. It was for these reasons that the Canadian delegation joined with others in co-sponsoring the draft resolution [A/L.227] which has been introduced in the Assembly this morning.

70. I need not describe the proposal because the document is self-explanatory and because it has been ably explained by the representative of Japan. I wish only to underline that our joint proposal is not in any sense a preferred alternative to, or a move competitive with, the regional efforts which have been made to deal with the present matter. On the contrary, as I have indicated in this statement, we regard those efforts as highly commendable. In the circumstances, we urge that, if those regional efforts should prove unavailing, the United Nations diplomacy of reconciliation mentioned in the introduction to the Secretary-General's annual report [A/3594/Add.1] be permitted to take effect.

71. What the Canadian delegation has been looking for in this debate is an improvement in the actual situation, a means of making progress. We are confident that the approach which we and others have supported will serve those ends. We earnestly hope that this is the view of the great majority of delegations here.

72. The PRESIDENT: As I have no other speakers on my list, I suggest to the Assembly that we take a pause in this debate and, in an atmosphere of serenity and confidence that there will be peace, study the draft resolutions that are before us.

The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.