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NOTE

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SEVENTEEN HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND MEETING

Held in New York on Wednesday, 18 July 1973, at 10.30 a.m.

President: Mr. K. JAMIESON (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).

Present: The representatives of the following States: Australia, Austria, China, France, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Panama, Peru, Sudan, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Yugoslavia.

Provisional agenda (S/Agenda/1732)

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Admission of new Members:
 - (a) Application of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas for admission to membership in the United Nations:

Telegram dated 10 July 1973 from the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas to the Secretary-General (S/10966);
 - (b) Report of the Committee on the Admission of New Members concerning the application of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas for admission to membership in the United Nations S/10968).

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Admission of new members:

- (a) Application of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas for admission to membership in the United Nations:

Telegram dated 10 July 1973 from the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas to the Secretary-General (S/10966);
- (b) Report of the Committee on the Admission of New Members concerning the application of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas for admission to membership in the United Nations (S/10968)

1. The PRESIDENT: At our 1731st meeting, yesterday morning, we referred the application of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas for membership of the United Nations to the Committee on the Admission of New Members for examination and report in accordance with rule 59 of the provisional rules of procedure

of the Security Council. The report of the Committee on the Admission of New Members is now before the Council in document S/10968. Members will see that in its report the Committee recommends to the Council the adoption of a draft resolution whereby the Security Council would recommend to the General Assembly that the Commonwealth of the Bahamas be admitted to membership of the United Nations.

2. Since no member of the Council wishes to speak at this stage, I shall now put to the vote the draft resolution recommended in paragraph 3 of the Committee's report.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.¹

3. The PRESIDENT: I shall now call on the representatives who have asked to be allowed to speak following the vote on the draft resolution.

4. Mr. FAKIH (Kenya): Mr. President, I take this opportunity to greet you on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for the month of July. I am confident that like the previous occupier of this high office, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, whom I also congratulate for the manner in which he conducted our discussions, you will guide our work with distinction and wisdom. My delegation stands ready to co-operate with you in the discharge of your duties. I am happy to note that the first question to come before the Council during your presidency is the consideration of the admission of a new Member, the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, a former British colony, into the United Nations.

5. It is once again a happy occasion for me on behalf of the Government and people of Kenya, less than one month after my delegation made a statement of welcome on the admission of the two Germanys, to welcome a sister Commonwealth country, the Bahamas, and greet it as a new nation.

6. Kenya takes pride in the accession of the Bahamas to independence on 10 July. We share in the joyous moments of the people and Government of the Bahamas. It is a welcome coincidence to recall that in a few months, during the tenth anniversary of independence on 12 December of this year, my own country will be renewing its ideals towards being a nation. As a young nation, therefore, the Bahamas should feel in the good company of many friendly countries from all continents. For Kenya, there are certain definite

¹ See resolution 336 (1973).

affinities between the two countries. Both know the taste of imperial rule, both share deeply felt cultural ties, both are in the commonwealth of nations, and both are struggling to improve the quality of life of their peoples in the economic, social and other fields. I may also recall that both countries get enormous revenue from tourism.

7. Although a small Caribbean country, with a population of about 190,000 on a land area of 5,382 square miles, the Bahamas will, my delegation is confident, make an effective contribution in the affairs of Caribbean countries and to the changing international order through its participation in the work of the United Nations. We welcome it especially as an ally in our crusading task against imperialism and colonialism in Africa and elsewhere.

8. In our endeavours to devise a new order and create worth-while conditions for men, Kenya will fully co-operate with the Bahamas. It is therefore with joy that we have just voted to recommend the admission of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas to the family of nations in the United Nations, and we in Kenya look forward to our countries making the bonds stronger between us. For Kenya and the Bahamas, let us, in the words of the latter's national anthem: "March On" to evolve and strengthen an international order for all mankind.

9. And, for the United Kingdom, let us hope that this happy example will encourage a redoubling of efforts on the part of the United Kingdom and the rebel authorities in Salisbury to hasten the liquidation of rebellion and effect a peaceful transfer of independence to the majority of the people in Zimbabwe.

10. The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of Kenya for the kind remarks he addressed to me.

11. Mr. MOJISOV (Yugoslavia): Mr. President, I should like first of all to congratulate you on assuming the presidency of the Security Council for the month of July. My delegation will render all its assistance and co-operation to you in the discharge of your important task as President of the Security Council in the work before us.

12. It gives me genuine pleasure to welcome, on behalf of my country, the unanimous decision of the Security Council to recommend to the General Assembly the admission of a new State, the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, to the United Nations, an important event both for the people of the Bahamas and for our Organization.

13. We are actually welcoming on this occasion two events: the proclamation of the independence of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas and its entry into the community of independent and sovereign States of the world as well as the Security Council's positive decision to admit the Bahamas to membership of our Organization. Both those events constitute a further assertion of the inalienable right of every people to self-determination and independence in general, and in particular in a region where foreign domination had reigned supreme for a very long time.

14. Even today, 13 years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colo-

nia Countries and Peoples, a close look at the map of the Caribbean still reveals a multitude of colonial and neo-colonial situations. Nevertheless, the struggle for emancipation and independence has never ceased in that part of the world. Significant successes have been achieved, especially in the last decade or so. Today many countries of this region are independent States Members of the United Nations which decide their fate freely and which, together with other countries, participate on an equal footing in the taking of decisions of importance to the international community.

15. We are gratified that the Bahamas, after a long period of foreign domination, is joining the ranks of these countries. Its independence constitutes a new step forward along the path of decolonization and struggle of peoples for liberation. Its admission to the United Nations means the further strengthening of the role of the Caribbean and, generally speaking, the Latin American countries in world affairs. The long process of national emancipation of the Bahamas has been completed—the road leading from colonial subordination through relative autonomy to independence and admission to the world Organization.

16. The decision of the Bahamas that its first important step among the independent countries of the world should be its request to be admitted to United Nations membership has confirmed once again that our Organization has become an irreplaceable instrument of international relations and co-operation and an essential factor of democratization of international relations. Hardly a month has elapsed since the recommendation for the admission of the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic, and the Security Council is again in the position warmly to recommend and welcome the admission of yet another country to the United Nations. This is really yet another tribute to our Organization, another sign of its stability and strength, and a further step conducive to its full universality. One can rightly expect that other States too which may express the desire will be admitted to the United Nations in the near future. Full universality of the United Nations is a goal the attainment of which seems to be closer than ever before.

17. By its request to be admitted to the United Nations the Commonwealth of the Bahamas has opted for a constructive role in the present-day world. My country is convinced that the Bahamas will make a significant contribution towards the solving of the problems with which our Organization is faced today.

18. Yugoslavia, as an independent, socialist and non-aligned country, has always been interested in and sympathetic to the advance of the forces of progress everywhere. One of the basic tenets of its foreign policy is precisely resistance to any form of exploitation, domination or discrimination. Yugoslavia has always supported and expressed its solidarity with every genuine struggle for national liberation. That is why we shall whole-heartedly support and welcome the independent Commonwealth of the Bahamas as a new member of the international community and of the United Nations.

19. Besides, Yugoslavia has been consistently aware of the role of Caribbean and Latin American countries and peoples in world affairs because of its feeling of affinity with some of the basic preoccupations and problems of these countries and of the necessity to establish strong and friendly ties with the countries of that region. As a matter of fact, we share the same supreme concerns for peace and peaceful coexistence, for national independence and sovereignty and, especially, for equitable international political and economic relations. That is the reason why we follow with particular sympathy the struggle for progress and for the political and economic emancipation of these countries and that is why we are gratified to see the removal of the remnants of colonialism and foreign domination from that area, leading finally to their disappearance. Every country in the Caribbean and in Latin America, as well as every country in the world, has the right to be the only sovereign owner and user of all of its natural resources and to take decisions independently concerning their utilization for its own economic and social development.

20. I am proud to say that the links between my country and the countries of that region are well developed and very active indeed and I am personally very happy that I have the honour to represent my country as the accredited Ambassador in independent Caribbean countries. Yugoslavia has been constantly developing fruitful co-operation with them on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. I am confident that this co-operation will soon be developed with the independent Bahamas too—co-operation for which we are fully prepared.

21. In conclusion, may I recall the role that the non-aligned movement has always played in lending support to and achieving conditions for decolonization and for the national emancipation of every country, particularly small and medium-sized ones, including, of course, the Caribbean countries? In this connexion may I quote a passage from the Georgetown Declaration, which was adopted at the Conference of Foreign Ministers of Non-Aligned Countries held in Georgetown, Guyana, in August 1972:

“Meeting for the first time in the Caribbean area, the Conference expressed full solidarity with the peoples of that region who are still subject to colonialism, and demanded that their sacred and inalienable right to national independence be recognized.”

22. We hope that the other, still dependent Caribbean countries will soon follow the road taken by the Bahamas—the road leading to the achievement of full independence and to integration into the family of the United Nations.

23. The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of Yugoslavia for the kind remarks he addressed to me. I particularly welcome the assurance of his co-operation in the future work of the Council this month, knowing that his delegation has a significant contribution to make.

24. Mr. LA (Sudan): Mr. President, my delegation would like to take this opportunity to congratulate

you on the assumption of the presidency of the Council. We are confident that under your stewardship the Council will conduct its business. We also assure you of our co-operation during the remainder of your term. May I take this opportunity also to thank your predecessor, Ambassador Malik of the Soviet Union, for the skilful manner in which he conducted the business of the Council during the last term?

25. My delegation voted with particular pleasure in support of the application of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas for membership of the United Nations. The felicitations of the Sudan will be expressed later this year at a higher level. Suffice it for me to say that my delegation very much welcomes the contribution that the Commonwealth of the Bahamas has solemnly undertaken to make in joining the family of nations, and my delegation looks forward to co-operating with the delegation of the Bahamas.

26. The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of Sudan for the remarks he addressed to me and welcome his assurance of co-operation.

27. Mr. ANWAR SANI (Indonesia): Mr. President, allow me to join previous speakers in offering you my delegation's sincere felicitations on your accession to the presidency of the Council. My delegation is convinced that the success of our deliberations is assured in your competent and experienced hands.

28. I should also like to express my delegation's congratulations and thanks to the Council's President for the month of June, Ambassador Malik of the Soviet Union, whose wise and firm guidance contributed so much to the success of our work last month.

29. I should like to avail myself of this opportunity to extend to the Government and people of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas Indonesia's warm congratulations upon their attainment of independence on 10 July 1973. Independence for the Bahamas marks the culmination of a long and orderly process. We rejoice with the people of the Bahamas on the achievement of their independence.

30. As a sponsor of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and as one of the members of the Special Committee related to it,² my delegation has closely followed the developments which have finally led to the independence of the Bahamas. The endeavours of the Government of the Bahamas to achieve progress for its people in all walks of life are well known. We are sure that independence will lead to further progress.

31. My delegation would also like to congratulate the United Kingdom in successfully fulfilling its international obligation by granting independence to the Bahamas, thus acting in accordance with the wishes of the people of the Bahamas.

32. This example of the United Kingdom is worthy of emulation by those nations which continuously

² Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

choose to defy the demands of the international community that they respect, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, the right of self-determination and independence of the peoples in the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration.

33. It was with great pleasure that my delegation supported the application of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, a sister archipelagic State, to membership in the United Nations and voted for the draft resolution. All of us are aware that the presence of each additional Member committed to peace and to the principles of the Charter strengthens the fabric of international order. Each new membership brings us one step closer to the goal of universality.

34. My delegation hopes to welcome the Government and people of the Bahamas to the family of the United Nations in an appropriate manner at the coming session of the General Assembly. We look forward to a fruitful co-operation with the Bahamas in the United Nations and all its bodies.

35. The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of Indonesia for the kind remarks he addressed to me. As representative of the United Kingdom, I also thank him for his congratulations to my Government on this occasion.

36. Mr. DE GUIRINGAUD (France) (*interpretation from French*): First of all I should like to convey the gratitude of my delegation to Ambassador Malik, who presided with the great authority and competence of one of our leaders, over the difficult and important debates which the Council held in the month of June. This meeting, however, Mr. President, affords me the first opportunity to address to you the congratulations of my delegation on your assumption of the presidency, which you have exercised since the beginning of this month. If you have not had occasion to convene meetings very often during the 18 days you have been presiding, everyone here knows that nonetheless your burden has not been as light as it might appear. You may be assured that my delegation and I have appreciated your ability and wisdom and the efforts that you have undertaken during these three weeks to prepare the work of the Council for the rest of this month.

37. My delegation welcomes most warmly the application for admission to membership of the United Nations submitted by the Commonwealth of the Bahamas.

38. In achieving independence on 10 July last, after an evolutionary course conducted with wisdom and vision by the United Kingdom, the administering Power, the new State immediately expressed its wish to join the 132 other Members of the international community which form our Organization. The Government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas announced at the same time that it accepted the obligations of the Charter and was ready to comply with them. The French delegation has no doubt that that Government is determined to fulfil that solemn undertaking. We therefore were only too willing to favour the admission of the new State.

39. For the Members of our Organization, and in particular for the permanent missions in New York, the Bahamas is certainly not a distant and unknown land. Furthermore, for the French and the British, and also for the Dutch, the attraction which we feel towards the Bahamas is not a new thing, nor is it inspired solely by publicity in the press. It all goes back to the heroic age when the sailors of our countries plied the Caribbean for purposes not precisely touristic in nature, nor, it must be confessed, necessarily connected with the maintenance of international peace and security.

40. But these few reflections, prompted both by the physical and climatic characteristics of the Bahamas and also the subject of our meeting, which for once is neither grave nor troublesome, but, on the contrary, happy and smiling, should not prevent us from understanding the fundamental economic and political facts.

41. First of all, the people of the Bahamas has had long experience in conducting their own affairs: an elected assembly has existed there since 1841; in 1963, a governmental type of executive was established, while broad powers were transferred to the elected representatives of the people—powers that were expanded even further in 1969.

42. At the same time, a remarkable Prime Minister, Mr. Lynden Pindling, has, for some years, been the driving force behind an experiment yielding very concrete and direct benefits to all the population in terms of rapid economic development of the territory. By significant reforms wisely and carefully implemented, that experiment has made possible the creation of a homogeneous and prosperous society clearly capable of taking charge of its own destiny and of constituting a new fully fledged Member of the international community.

43. My delegation therefore would like to express its most sincere wishes for the new State, for its leaders and its people. We have no doubt that based upon the unanimous recommendation just adopted by the Council, the General Assembly will decide to admit the Commonwealth of the Bahamas to membership of the United Nations.

44. The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of France for the very warm, if undeserved, expressions of regard he addressed to me.

45. Mr. HUANG (China) (*translated from Chinese*): On 10 July 1973 the Bahamas proclaimed its independence. On the same day, the Commonwealth of the Bahamas applied for membership in the United Nations and declared its acceptance of the obligations contained in the Charter of the United Nations. The Chinese delegation is of the opinion that, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Commonwealth of the Bahamas is qualified for membership in the United Nations. We therefore support its application and agree that the Security Council should recommend to the General Assembly the admission of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas to membership in the United Nations. It is the hope of

the Chinese delegation that upon the approval by the General Assembly of the above-mentioned application, the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, together with the other Members of the United Nations, will make due contributions to the realization of the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter.

46. The Chinese people have long cherished friendly feelings towards the people of the Bahamas. On the occasion of the proclamation of the independence of the Bahamas on 10 July, Chou En-lai, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, sent a message of congratulations to Lynden O. Pindling, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, announcing the Chinese Government's decision to recognize the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. The Chinese Government and people wish the Bahamas prosperity and its people happiness and believe that the friendship between the peoples of China and the Bahamas will develop continuously.

47. Sir Laurence McINTYRE (Australia): Mr. President, let me first of all welcome you to the presidency for this month and also record our appreciation of the skilful and experienced manner in which your predecessor, Ambassador Malik, discharged his duties throughout the month of June.

48. Coming now to our agenda, my delegation, speaking on behalf of the Australian Government, has been very happy to endorse the recommendation of the Committee on the Admission of New Members that the Council should recommend to the General Assembly that the Commonwealth of the Bahamas be admitted to membership of the United Nations.

49. The Committee has examined the application for membership submitted by the Prime Minister of the Bahamas, Mr. Lynden Pindling, and has agreed unanimously that the Commonwealth of the Bahamas is well qualified for admission to membership. In this connexion we have taken note of the Prime Minister's solemn undertaking to accept the obligations contained in the Charter and to fulfil them.

50. My delegation has followed with interest and great goodwill the progress of the Bahamas to self-government in 1969, and more recently, as a member of the Special Committee on decolonization, we have kept abreast of the steps leading to the attainment of full independence on 10 July last. We were satisfied then, as we are now, that the decision taken by the Bahamian Legislature in November of last year to proceed to independence during 1973 clearly reflected the wishes of the majority of the people of the Bahamas.

51. On its accession to independence the Bahamas becomes a fellow member of the commonwealth of nations. We in Australia feel that special sense of association with the people of the Bahamas that comes from having to a certain degree a shared background of tradition and experience. I do not make that remark out of mere politeness. I am thinking, for example, of parliamentary democracy, and of the fact that the Legislature in the Bahamas is older than the government

in Australia. The House of Assembly was established in 1728, and there has been a continuity which Bahamians are understandably proud of. A number of past and present members of the Legislatures of both our countries are already well known to one another through the meetings and activities of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. I believe that the first international meeting where this newly independent State will be represented in its own right will be the meeting of Commonwealth Prime Ministers which is to begin in Ottawa on 2 August. Prime Minister Pindling will represent his country there, and the Australian Prime Minister, Mr. Whitlam, has already indicated that he is looking forward to meeting him in Ottawa and so establishing from the outset personal contact at the highest level between our two Governments and countries. The Australian Government had the honour and pleasure of having a special representative in the Bahamas for the celebrations of independence on 10 July.

52. It is particularly gratifying that the Bahamas has achieved its independence in a peaceful manner which has preserved in full measure the friendship and goodwill of the United Kingdom, the former administering Power. The United Kingdom to its great credit has consistently declared that it would not stand in the way of independence for the Bahamas once it had been made clear that this was the wish of the majority of the people.

53. We also note with satisfaction that Mr. Pindling's Government intends to participate fully in hemispheric and regional associations and to work for close relations with its neighbours and particularly the Commonwealth Caribbean countries.

54. Though independence has been achieved peacefully, it has not come about without work and planning and sometimes personal sacrifices on the part of many people. Prime Minister Pindling can take personal pleasure from the part he has played over many years in the political evolution of his country and the achievement of its independence.

55. Let me conclude by repeating that on behalf of my delegation and of the Australian Government, I have been happy to support the recommendation that the Commonwealth of the Bahamas be admitted to membership of the United Nations and I wish it well for the future. We look forward with confidence to seeing it take its seat in the forthcoming session of the General Assembly.

56. The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of Australia for his words of welcome to me.

57. Mr. JANKOWITSCH (Austria): Mr. President, first of all it is my agreeable duty to offer you the congratulations of my delegation on your assumption of the presidency for the current month. We wish to express to you on this occasion the full co-operation of my delegation in the performance of your difficult tasks.

58. It is an equally pleasant duty for me to offer to the President for the month of June, Ambassador

Malik, the sincere thanks of my delegation for his experienced and skilful handling of the work of our Council during that month.

59. The Council meets today with an important item on its agenda and a happy purpose—to recommend a newly independent nation for membership in the United Nations. It is gratifying to know that one of the first acts of sovereignty of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas was to apply for membership in the United Nations. That act is recorded in the telegram which the Prime Minister, Mr. Pindling, sent to the Secretary-General.

60. Austria, which has always—both in the League of Nations and in the United Nations—supported the principle of universality of international organizations, welcomes with deep satisfaction the new State which wants to join our Organization. In that wish my delegation sees a happy and fortunate sign for the political health of our Organization and the continuing strong attraction it exercises on the nations of the world, old and new.

61. The evolution of the Bahamas towards independence proceeded speedily, peacefully and with the full participation of the administering Power. That gives us an opportunity to offer our congratulations to the Government of the United Kingdom on its excellent contribution and loyal help in the events marking the birth of the new, free and sovereign nation.

62. The Government and people of Austria welcome most warmly this new State of the Americas. With the Council's permission, I should like to read at this juncture the telegram of congratulations from the Federal President of Austria, Mr. Franz Jonas, to the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, Mr. Milo Butler, on the occasion of the celebration of independence by the Bahamas on 10 July 1973. Federal President Jonas said:

“On behalf of the people of Austria and in my own name, I take great pleasure in extending to Your Excellency my warmest congratulations on the occasion of the declaration of independence of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas.

“I seize this opportunity to express my best wishes for Your Excellency's personal well being, as well as for the peaceful and prosperous future of the people of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas.”

63. The history of the Bahamas goes far back through the centuries. It has always been a meeting-place for peoples of different races and origins. And it was perhaps not by accident that on the shores of that island group Christopher Columbus many centuries ago established the first contacts between Europe and the Americas.

64. Apart from possessing many other qualities that have already been mentioned here this morning, the Bahamas have developed, above all, one of the most significant and most advanced tourist industries in the Western Hemisphere and have thus set an example for

the successful exploitation of an important natural resource—the natural beauty and climate of countries. That is what Austria shares with the Bahamas. It would indeed be difficult to find common features between my country, land-locked in the heart of Europe, and the Bahamas, a group of 700 islands close to the American continent. But we feel a community of purpose with this new nation in its endeavour to develop tourism as a principal natural resource and an important industry and source of revenue.

65. The United Nations has been dealing with the Territory of the Bahamas since 1964 and we are happy to note that, after nine years, the principles of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples have been successfully implemented there. Indeed, as far back as 1965 and 1966, Mr. Pindling, then Leader of the Opposition and of the Progressive Liberal Party in the Bahamas, appeared with his colleagues before the Special Committee of Twenty-Four. And it shows the significant role of the United Nations in the process of independence of countries now its Members that in this case too the Committee of Twenty-Four and other United Nations organs have played an important part in the course of the Bahamas towards full independence and sovereignty.

66. In 1967 Prime Minister Pindling and his party were elected to power by the people of the Bahamas. In the general elections of September 1972 a clear majority of the population of the Bahamas opted for independence. Accordingly, the Government of the United Kingdom arranged for a constitutional conference in December of last year in London which formulated the constitution appropriate to the Commonwealth of the Bahamas as an independent and sovereign State. Thus, the small but industrious people of the Bahamas took the last step in their long struggle for freedom, independence and human dignity. We cannot refrain from expressing our respect and admiration for this splendid achievement, which has led another people out of ancient bonds of slavery into a new era of dignity.

67. In welcoming the Bahamas, we greet a new country which, like other members of the growing family of independent Caribbean nations, owes its particular cultural and intellectual personality to a unique blend of the civilizations of Africa—the ancestral home of most of its people—Europe and the Americas. This happy synthesis of the cultures and civilizations of three continents augurs well for the future development of this new nation. It is a reminder of the fact—so well known in this Organization—that out of diversity unity and harmony, with all the human benefits involved, can grow.

68. In supporting warmly the application of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas for membership in the United Nations, my Government is also giving renewed expression to its firm policy of support for newly independent nations and its deep sympathy for the causes of their struggle.

69. It only remains for my delegation again to wish the Bahamas prosperity and happiness in its new life as an independent nation.

70. The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of Austria for his congratulations and assurance of co-operation.

71. Mr. PEREZ DE CUELLAR (Peru) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Mr. President, may I extend my congratulations to you and express my personal happiness at seeing you presiding over the Council's work, to which you have already brought your well-known ability and experience. I wish also to extend my congratulations and thanks to the representative of the Soviet Union, Ambassador Malik, for the able way in which he presided over our important and difficult debates last month.

72. Peru, which was particularly gratified to greet the recent independence of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, has now been able to give full support to the Security Council's resolution recommending that the General Assembly admit the Bahamas to membership of the United Nations.

73. My country and all the other countries of America have ancient and historic ties with this new State, because when Columbus first set foot on the soil of one of those islands, on 12 October 1492, he started the discovery and conquest of America. I am convinced that that fact will be the favourable symbol governing our co-operation with the Commonwealth of the Bahamas within the United Nations.

74. Furthermore, in the independence achieved by the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, my country sees a new and significant step towards the progressive, though slow, disappearance of all colonial dependencies from our continent. May I take this opportunity to recall that in resolutions adopted by the Tenth Inter-American Conference held in Caracas in 1954 the Latin American nations declared that nations possessing colonies on American soil should hasten to adopt measures that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, would allow those people fully to exercise their right to self-determination and thus completely to end colonialism in America. Now the United Kingdom is giving us a new example, which does it honour, and one that we trust will be generally and rapidly emulated by others.

75. Finally, the recommendation to the General Assembly which we have just approved, and which follows very closely the one on the admission to the United Nations of the two German States, not only further strengthens the universality of the Organization, but also goes to ratify the principle of the sovereign equality of States, irrespective of size or population. I do believe that the practice is now solidly gaining ground that to belong to the United Nations is the inevitable step that follows the achievement of independence by any State; so that daily the United Nations will become a clearer reflection of the international community.

76. Peru is convinced that this new sister-nation of America will contribute valuably to our achievement

of the purposes and principles set forth in the Charter, and we look forward to greeting its forthcoming entry into the United Nations.

77. The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of Peru for the congratulations he addressed to me.

78. Mr. RIOS (Panama) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Mr. President, at the outset my delegation wishes to congratulate you on occupying the Chair of the Security Council. Your experience and wisdom promise the best of results for our work. May we also take this opportunity to congratulate Ambassador Malik of the Soviet Union on the wise and responsible way in which he directed our work during the month of June?

79. Because we believe that all the conditions set forth in the Charter have been met, we wish to state that we enthusiastically support the application for membership submitted by the Commonwealth of the Bahamas to become a Member of the United Nations. It is always a reason for rejoicing when a people becomes free of colonial ties and freely exercises its right to self-determination. Whenever that occurs, it renews our faith that the United Nations is truly fulfilling the duties entrusted to it in ensuring the equality of States, great and small. Moreover, when a new State becomes a Member of our Organization the latter becomes revitalized and confirms the universalist nature which was and must remain the ultimate goal of mankind.

80. Most warmly and happily we celebrate the independence of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, since it is always pleasant for us to recall how our own people and the other peoples of the Antilles united their efforts at the time of the building of the Panama Canal. It is also interesting, I think, to note that the very name "Bahamas" has historical content of great importance: it is an archipelago which was the spearhead for the conquest of the American continent; and among the Bahamas—or Lucaya Islands—lies Watling Island, which was the first American soil on which Christopher Columbus landed during his famous first voyage of 12 October 1492. Watling is the island that the aborigines had called Guanani and which the Spaniards christened San Salvador—"The Holy Saviour".

81. That nation now comes to us as a sovereign State, having gone through a long and difficult history of colonialism. We welcome it most warmly and offer our co-operation in all that might help it to achieve the ideals that link all of us in the great United Nations family. I trust that we will very soon be able to hold further meetings of this nature in order to welcome among us all the peoples of Africa and other parts of the world that still struggle for their independence.

82. The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of Panama for the remarks he addressed to me.

83. Mr. BENNETT (United States of America): Mr. President, in expressing appreciation for the experienced handling of the affairs of this Council during the month of June of Ambassador Malik, I

naturally would want to extend to you the warmest good wishes of the United States as you assume the presidency. Your own thorough experience with this body and your own high sense of purpose will, I have no doubt, combine to make you a distinguished president of our Security Council, and you may be sure that you may count on the full co-operation of the United States.

84. The United States has a long history of warm and cordial relations with its closest overseas neighbour, the Bahamas. We have maintained official representation in Nassau for more than 150 years—since 1821. But even before that date, the peoples of the United States and the Bahamas had begun to develop strong cultural and economic ties with each other. These ties derived not only from the proximity of the Bahama Islands to our shores but also from our common heritage of concern for human dignity and self-determination.

85. Under the experienced leadership of Prime Minister Pindling, the people of the Bahamas have demonstrated a sincere desire to be masters of their own national destiny and to assume the considerable responsibilities of independence. My Government therefore has welcomed the decision of the United Kingdom and applauds its readiness, in response to the request of the Government of the Bahamas, to grant complete independence to the Bahamas on 10 July of this year.

86. On 10 July, the date of independence, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas announced its adherence to all the international commitments which the United Kingdom had previously undertaken on its behalf. Simultaneously the Government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas announced its support for the principles of the United Nations Charter and applied for membership in the United Nations. My delegation has been pleased to support the application of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas for membership in the United Nations and concurred whole-heartedly in the recommendation of this Council's Committee on the Admission of New Members, and we welcome the unanimous decision taken today by the Council to recommend the admission of the Bahamas.

87. My delegation is confident that the Commonwealth of the Bahamas will play a valuable and constructive role as a Member of the United Nations. The United States looks forward to welcoming the Bahamian delegation to the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly this fall and to working closely with the Bahamas at subsequent sessions.

88. The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of the United States for his good wishes and assurances of co-operation.

89. Mr. SEN (India): The formal action we have taken this morning should invite a few comments from the delegation of India. However, before making them, Mr. President, I should like to offer you our congratulations on your assuming the presidency of the Council. I do not think that this is the appro-

priate opportunity to speak about your qualifications or indeed about Indo-British relations. The latter are so intimate, so detailed and so long-standing that only the historians can discuss them adequately. As a representative of the United Kingdom and as President of the Council, you can expect to receive full co-operation from the delegation of India, and I assure you that we shall extend it most willingly and with the greatest of pleasure. We made a similar promise of co-operation to the outgoing President, Ambassador Malik of the Soviet Union, who conducted the business of the Council in June with remarkable skill and understanding, and we hope that he found our co-operation useful in the smooth and efficient carrying out of his complex and delicate tasks.

90. We have this morning decided to recommend the application of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas for admission to the United Nations as a full Member. In doing so we have fulfilled a part of our responsibility for bringing about freedom for as many colonial countries and peoples as possible and with as great a speed as is feasible. In a resolution adopted at the last session of the General Assembly [2984 (XXVII)] the question of American Samoa, the Bahamas, Bermuda and various other islands was discussed. In taking note of the recent independence of the Bahamas and in recommending its admission to the United Nations, we see a process, beginning with the Bahamas, which should eventually lead to the freedom of all these Territories.

91. Our special felicitations go to the people and Government of the Bahamas on this occasion. Today's decision should give particular satisfaction to the Bahamas as much as it will to the general membership of the United Nations. Today's action by the Council will also bring faith and comfort concerning the United Nations to many countries and peoples that are still unfortunately outside this great Organization: they can now confidently hope that their turn will also come soon.

92. The Bahamas enjoys stable government and freedom of speech and movement and has an extraordinarily good record of lack of violence in its political affairs. The Government is led by a Prime Minister who not only has full command of the affairs of the islands but who is an outstanding statesman in the region. His political party, the Progressive Liberal Party, has done much for the achieving of independence, and his foresight is clearly reflected in a statement he made in February 1971 in which he said that his country would be independent in the course of the next two years. This pledge has been kept, and we look forward to close co-operation with the Bahamas in the United Nations and elsewhere. We are confident that, irrespective of its newness as a Member, it will contribute significantly to our co-operative endeavours.

93. Finally, it is appropriate that we should express our appreciation to the Government of the United Kingdom for its understanding of the spirit of freedom that prevails in these islands and that Government's acceptance of the objective of the United Nations to

ensure the independence of these Territories at the earliest possible moment. We hope that this policy will be continued in respect of all other Territories in which the United Kingdom still rules as a colonial Power. The Bahamas can be expected to become a member of the Commonwealth, whose Prime Ministers will be meeting in Ottawa in a few days' time. We are sure that at that forum the Bahamas will receive as warm a welcome as we are giving it today on its application for membership in the United Nations. The fact that several authoritative statements indicate that the people of the Bahamas do not believe in joining military blocs and will adopt the general attitude of non-alignment gives us much pleasure.

94. For all those reasons we shall indeed be happy to welcome and cheer the admission of the Bahamas as a full and equal Member of the United Nations at the next session of the General Assembly, beginning on 18 September.

95. The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of India for his congratulations and assurances of co-operation. I now call on the representative of the Soviet Union to whom I should like to renew personally the expression of thanks for his conduct of business during the month of June.

96. Mr. MALIK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (*translated from Russian*): Mr. President, allow me first of all to thank the members of the Security Council who have spoken here for the kind words addressed to me as President for last month.

97. As has been pointed out, June was one of the Security Council's active and very busy months this year. The Council dealt with questions which are of great importance for the United Nations and for the cause of peace and security. The Council carried out the first stage of its examination of the situation in the Middle East. As we all know, this question, which is extremely important for international peace and security, will be considered further by the Council in July. We should like to wish the new President of the Security Council, and the Council as a whole, success in the continuing consideration of this problem. We should like to express the hope that the results of the discussion will promote a political settlement in the Middle East at an early date and the elimination of the consequences of the Israeli aggression against Arab countries.

98. During June, the Council also took a decision to extend the stationing of the United Nations Force in Cyprus for a further six months.

99. Lastly, the Council took a decision of historic importance, both with regard to the realization of the principle of the universality of the United Nations and with regard to the strengthening of peace in Europe and throughout the world: I refer to the decision to recommend to the General Assembly that the two sovereign German States, the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany, should be admitted to membership in the United Nations.

100. I should like once again to thank my distinguished colleagues in the Security Council for their friendly comments about my work as President of the

Council. I accept those remarks not on my own behalf, but on behalf of my country, the peace-loving Soviet Union.

101. I should also like to take this opportunity to welcome and congratulate the representative of the United Kingdom on his assumption of the high responsibilities of President of the Security Council, and to wish him success in carrying out his duties in that post. I should like to assure him that the Soviet delegation will co-operate fully with the new President and the other members of the Council in ensuring that the Security Council's work is successful, productive and, above all, effective in attaining a peaceful political settlement in the Middle East which in no way harms the interests of the victims of the aggression.

102. The Soviet delegation supported the application of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas for admission to membership in the United Nations. Our position is based on the consistent policy of the Soviet Union bequeathed to us by the great Lenin and recently reaffirmed by the Twenty-Fourth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union when approving a programme of peace and friendship among peoples. The essence of this policy was and remains all-round support for the struggle of peoples to liberate themselves from the colonial yoke and that of young States to strengthen their independence and sovereignty and guarantee their independent and free development.

103. The General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, speaking a few days ago when he was being presented with the International Lenin Prize "for the strengthening of peace among peoples", solemnly stated:

"We have always believed, and we believe today, that it is our bounden duty, arising out of our communist convictions and our socialist morality, to provide the broadest support to peoples struggling for the freedom which is their right. Thus has it always been, and thus it will be in the future."

104. In welcoming the young independent State of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas today as a new Member of the United Nations, one cannot but recall the fact that, over many centuries of colonial rule, its people endured many grave tribulations. Long ago the islands were seized by foreign *conquistadores*, who either annihilated the indigenous inhabitants or forced them to leave the islands. A succession of foreign masters and oppressors plundered the riches of the islands and exterminated their population. As has been the case for many peoples, the road of the Bahamas to freedom and independence has been long and difficult. At last, the struggle has been crowned with success.

105. In admitting to the United Nations this new State which has come into being as a result of the disintegration of the colonial system of imperialism, whose downfall began with the great October socialist revolution in Russia and was accelerated by the triumphant defeat of fascism, that most evil enemy of humanity, we cannot forget that in our time, in the

last third of the highly civilized twentieth century, many peoples still remain under colonial rule. At the same time, some of the colonial Powers resort to the most barbaric methods of bloody terror and genocide in order to keep peoples seeking freedom and independence under colonial rule by force. As an example, I might cite the recently exposed monstrous crimes of the Portuguese colonialists in Africa, in Mozambique. In the face of such crimes the United Nations and its Members cannot remain silent.

106. The position of the Soviet Union has been based and is based on the view that colonial racist régimes everywhere should be eliminated without delay. This principle should become the criterion guiding all States in adopting an honest attitude to the struggle of peoples who are still under the colonial yoke.

107. In that connexion, in view of the fact that the colonial flag of the United Kingdom has at last been lowered over its former colony of the Bahamas, the Security Council has a right to express the hope that the United Kingdom will give good advice to its old ally, Portugal, and counsel it to cease its vain opposition to the irreversible historical process of the liberation of colonial peoples. It would thus bring closer the moment, which is inevitable and so much desired by the peoples of Angola, Mozambique and Guinea (Bissau), when they will be rid of colonial tyranny. We, the Soviet people, are firmly convinced that the time will come when today's colonial Territories will become independent States and be admitted to membership in the United Nations.

108. In welcoming the young independent State of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas today, the Soviet delegation would like to stress with the greatest firmness that the Soviet Union and all its peoples support and will continue to support the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America who are still in the clutches of colonialism in their just and heroic struggle for freedom, independence, democracy and social progress. It is for that reason that, from the first days of the October revolution in Russia up to the present, we have been the object of such anger on the part of the imperialists and colonialists and, at the same time, such gratitude from those who are struggling to achieve freedom and independence for colonial peoples. In that connexion, I am reminded of the words of that outstanding African statesman and freedom-fighter, the distinguished President of Zambia, Mr. Kaunda. When I told him of the huge losses borne by the Soviet Union and its peoples during the great patriotic war of 1941-1945, he said that the colonial peoples should be eternally grateful to the Soviet Union for its victory in that struggle for its own and their freedom: for, if it had not won, the peoples of the Soviet Union would have become colonial slaves, and the colonial peoples would have remained in colonial slavery.

109. The Soviet Union has recognized the Commonwealth of the Bahamas as an independent and sovereign State.

110. In a cable dated 10 July of this year from the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, Aleksei Nikolaevich Kosygin, addressed to the Prime

Minister of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, Mr. Lynden Pindling, we read:

"Accept, Mr. Prime Minister, our sincere congratulations on the occasion of the proclamation of the independence of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas and our wishes of prosperity and progress for the people of your country along the road of independent development.

"The Soviet Government, in the light of its unchangeable policy, based on the principles of equality and the self-determination of peoples and aimed at developing friendship and co-operation among all countries, hereby states that it recognizes the Commonwealth of the Bahamas as an independent and sovereign State and expresses a readiness to establish diplomatic relations with it."

111. The Soviet delegation, in supporting the application of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas for admission to membership in the United Nations, wishes to express its conviction that that State will, upon the recommendation of the Council, be admitted to membership in the United Nations by the General Assembly, and that its official delegation will take its lawful place among the delegations of all other States Members of the United Nations at the forthcoming twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

112. The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of the Soviet Union for his expression of good wishes.

113. Mr. MADDY (Guinea) (*interpretation from French*): Mr. President, may I at the outset congratulate you on behalf of my delegation on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for the month of July? May I assure you of our full co-operation!

114. In supporting the application of the Bahamas for membership of the United Nations, we are honouring the Charter by restoring the legitimate rights of a people. Thus the international community that we represent should be able to create other opportunities of redress, so that in the next few years we can ensure that the desires of all peoples be met and that they be allowed to enjoy the same fraternal rights.

115. When talking of redress it is to Africa that instinctively and spontaneously our eyes must turn since on that continent the flag of colonialism still flies and peace and security are jeopardized and threatened. We think of Guinea (Bissau), Mozambique, Angola, South Africa, Namibia, Southern Rhodesia, where our brothers are still oppressed in the interests of imperialist oligarchies.

116. The joy that we feel at the accession of the Bahamas to independence is also in keeping with our own experience, since we have also known colonial occupation and suffered from it. There is nothing more marvellous for a people than to recover its freedom and independence.

117. On behalf of the people and Government of the Republic of Guinea, we address our sincere congratulations to the people and Government of the Bahamas and wish them happiness and prosperity.

118. I should not like to conclude my statement without reiterating the congratulations of my delegation to Ambassador Malik of the Soviet Union, the President of the Security Council for the month of June.

119. The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of Guinea for the congratulations he addressed to me.

120. There being no further names inscribed on the list of speakers, I should now like to make a statement in my capacity as representative of the UNITED KINGDOM.

121. It gives my delegation the greatest pleasure to welcome the application for membership of the United Nations by the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, and we have gladly joined in the adoption by unanimous vote of the draft resolution before the Council.

122. This occasion has not perhaps had the drama of the last occasion on which the Security Council considered applications for membership of the United Nations. Nevertheless, it too has its own significance. That is what the principle of sovereign equality is all about; and when we think in terms of individual people—as indeed the United Nations must think—the size and the power of Member States cannot be the only criteria.

123. My country's association with the Bahamas is a long one. In the early seventeenth century the islands were well known to British sailors. In 1648 about 70 British settlers, known as the Company of Eleutherian Adventurers, sailed for the Bahamas and founded a settlement on Eleuthera. Since then it has not been only British sailors who have been back again and again. It is perhaps hardly fair, as we scuttle, perspiring, from one air conditioner to another, to remind my fellow representatives that in the Bahamas summer temperatures rarely exceed 90 degrees while in winter 70 degrees is the average. The blue lagoons, the coral reefs, the golden beaches and, above all, the warm hospitality of the Bahamians every year bring thousands of my fellow countrymen to the Bahama Islands, refugees from the British winter.

124. But Britain's association with the Bahamas has been much more substantial than that. In 1671 those early settlers established a regular system of government. In 1729 the Bahamas' first Constitution was instituted, and it may be fairly said that the country's development towards independence began at that time. The legislature introduced by the 1729 Constitution, which is among the oldest in the British Commonwealth, comprised a Legislative Council of 11 members and

an elected House of Assembly with 33 seats. Two hundred years later, in 1964, a new Constitution providing for a ministerial system of government and allowing the Bahamas a wide degree of self-government was introduced; and in 1969 yet further powers were transferred to the local government.

125. There have indeed been many changes in the Bahamas since the introduction of that first Constitution in 1729. The steady evolution of the Bahamas' Constitution has been maintained. The Prime Minister, Mr. Lynden Pindling, was returned to power in September 1972 in a general election fought largely on the issue of independence. My Government, whose policy was to put no obstacle in the way of such a step once a clear desire for it had been expressed by a majority of the people of the Bahamas, forthwith convened the Bahamas Independence Conference. This was held in London in December last year, and at that Conference it was decided that the Bahamas would become independent on 10 July 1973 and agreement was reached on the final constitutional changes appropriate to the status of the Bahamas as an independent sovereign State.

126. Seven months later—a week ago yesterday—the Bahamas became the thirty-third independent member of the Commonwealth family of which we too, as well as three other Governments represented around this table, are proud to be members. My delegation has no doubt that the Bahamas, which has unhesitatingly sought to undertake the duties and rights of membership of the United Nations by sending its application for membership to us on the very day of independence, will be able and willing to fulfil conscientiously its obligations under the Charter.

127. It is thus with warm congratulations on this most happy fulfilment of our long and mutually rewarding relationship that my delegation joins in recommending the admission of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas to the United Nations and looks forward to extending a warm welcome to its representatives when they take their seats in the General Assembly.

128. Speaking now as PRESIDENT of the Council I should like to indicate that, in accordance with the provisions of rule 60 of the provisional rules of procedure, I shall immediately request the Secretary-General to transmit to the General Assembly the text of the resolution adopted this morning by the Council together with the verbatim records of the meetings at which the application of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas has been considered by the Council.

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.

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