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CELEBRATION OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Organization of the commemorative session

Report of the Committee for the Twenty-fifth Anniversary
of the United Nations.

Rapporteur: Mr. Giovanni MIGLIUOLO (Italy)

1. By resolution 2499 A (XXIV) of 31 October 1969 relating to the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, the General Assembly decided to establish a Committee for the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the United Nations, composed of twenty-five members^{1/} to be designated by the President of the General Assembly on the basis of equitable geographical distribution and bearing in mind the composition of the Preparatory Committee for the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the United Nations, for the purpose of:

- (a) Drawing up and co-ordinating plans for the anniversary;
- (b) Organizing suitable activities for the anniversary, to be undertaken by the United Nations in the light of the report of the Preparatory Committee;
- (c) Considering proposals and suggestions, in relation to the anniversary, for increasing the effectiveness of the United Nations.

^{1/} The members of the Committee are: Austria, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, China, France, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, India, Iran, Italy, Lebanon, Mauritania, Peru, Philippines, Somalia, Sweden, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

2. While the Assembly requested the Committee for the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the United Nations to submit a report on the observance of the twenty-fifth anniversary at its twenty-sixth session, the Committee is submitting this interim report to recommend that, under its mandate contained in operative paragraph 5 (a) and (b) of the above resolution, the following arrangements should be made for the commemorative session:

(a) The General Assembly, by its resolution 2499 A (XXIV) of 31 October 1969, decided that a commemorative session of the General Assembly should be held during a short period in the course of the twenty-fifth regular session, "culminating on 24 October 1970 with the signing and/or adoption of a final document or documents". The Committee for the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of United Nations was given the mandate, inter alia, of drawing up and co-ordinating plans for the anniversary. In view of the General Assembly's desire that the commemorative session should be held during a short period, the Committee initially fixed its dates as from 19 to 24 October 1970. Since, however numerous Heads of State or Government, in response to the General Assembly's invitation, have indicated their desire to make statements, the Committee now finds it necessary to recommend an increase in the length of the commemorative session, which will be held from 14 to 24 October. The Committee considers that this period is long enough to allow statements to be made by those Heads of State or Government who wish to attend, and yet not so long as to make it inevitable to convene a resumed session early in 1971, which would be a source of great inconvenience and heavy expenditure for Member States.

(b) The Committee recommends that the final document or documents should be adopted, rather than signed, at the culminating meeting on the morning of 24 October. It is understood that those representatives who wish to explain their position or make interpretations or reservations concerning the documents will have the opportunity to do so during their consideration by the plenary prior to the opening of the commemorative session. If necessary, time for explanations of vote will also be afforded after the end of the commemorative session. Discussions will thus not be necessary or appropriate at the culminating meeting on 24 October. The Committee

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recommends that, after the documents are adopted at that meeting, the commemorative session should be closed with remarks by the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly.

(c) Since the General Assembly expressed the hope that as many Heads of State or Government as possible would be able to participate in the commemorative session, and since the period which can be allotted to those meetings is short, the Committee believes that, as a general rule, priority must necessarily be given during the commemorative session to statements by Heads of State or Government or their deputies or such special envoys as appointed in exceptional circumstances.

(d) In view of the limited time available during the commemorative session, the Committee feels strongly that statements during that period should be as brief as possible. Desire was expressed in the Committee that the statements on behalf of Member States which have not participated in the general debate should not exceed a maximum of twenty-five minutes and that those on behalf of Member States which have already participated in the general debate should be correspondingly shorter, not exceeding a maximum of fifteen minutes. If these considerations are kept in mind, the Committee believes that it will be possible to have the widest participation in the commemorative session. The Committee wishes to recall, nevertheless, that those Members on whose behalf statements relating to the anniversary are made in the general debate but not in the commemorative session will also be regarded as having participated in the commemoration.

(e) The Committee noted that, by decision of the General Assembly, statements during the general debate in exercise of the right of reply are heard only at the end of the meeting. The Committee feels that, if a delegation deems it essential to reply to a statement made during the commemorative session, it should be heard at the end of the day on which the statement was made. The President of the General Assembly should indicate that points of order are to be avoided as far as possible during the commemorative session.