

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S
258

S/8466
18 March 1968

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 12 MARCH 1968 FROM THE PRIME MINISTER
OF MAURITIUS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour, on behalf of the Government of Mauritius, to make application for Mauritius to be admitted to the United Nations Organization.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this application to be placed before the Security Council and the General Assembly.

My Government endorses the purposes and principles stated in the United Nations Charter and declares that it accepts the obligations incumbent upon Members of the Organization and solemnly undertakes to fulfil them.

The Government and people of Mauritius are acutely aware of the proven value of the United Nations Organization to small and developing nations of the world and consequently attach great importance to membership.

I have, etc.

(Signed) S. RAMGOOLAM
Prime Minister

APPLICATION OF MAURITIUS FOR ADMISSION
TO MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNITED NATIONSLetter dated 12 March 1968 from the Prime Minister of Mauritius
to the Secretary-General

Note by the Secretary-General: Pursuant to rule 136 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of the Members of the United Nations, a copy of a letter dated 12 March 1968 from the Prime Minister of Mauritius concerning the admission of Mauritius to membership in the United Nations.

I have the honour, on behalf of the Government of Mauritius, to make application for Mauritius to be admitted to the United Nations Organization.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this application to be placed before the Security Council and the General Assembly.

My Government endorses the purposes and principles stated in the United Nations Charter and declares that it accepts the obligations incumbent upon Members of the Organization and solemnly undertakes to fulfil them.

The Government and people of Mauritius are acutely aware of the proven value of the United Nations Organization to small and developing nations of the world and consequently attach great importance to membership.

(Signed) S. RAMGOOLAM
Prime Minister

Part II. Other matters considered by the Security Council

ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS TO THE UNITED NATIONS⁴⁴

**Resolution 249 (1968)
of 18 April 1968**

The Security Council,
Having examined the application of Mauritius for admission to the United Nations (S/8466),⁴⁵
Recommends to the General Assembly that Mauritius be admitted to membership in the United Nations.

Adopted unanimously at the 1414th meeting.

⁴⁴ Resolutions or decisions on this question were also adopted by the Council in 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1952, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966 and 1967.

⁴⁵ See *Official Records of the Security Council, Twenty-third Year, Supplement for January, February and March 1968*.

UNITED NATIONS



SECURITY COUNCIL OFFICIAL RECORDS

TWENTY-THIRD YEAR

1414th MEETING: 18 APRIL 1968

NEW YORK

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Provisional agenda (S/Agenda/1414)	1
Adoption of the agenda	1
Admission of new Members:	
Letter dated 12 March 1968 from the Prime Minister of Mauritius addressed to the Secretary-General (S/8466)	1

NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

Documents of the Security Council (symbol S/. . .) are normally published in quarterly *Supplements of the Official Records of the Security Council*. The date of the document indicates the supplement in which it appears or in which information about it is given.

The resolutions of the Security Council, numbered in accordance with a system adopted in 1964, are published in yearly volumes of *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council*. The new system, which has been applied retroactively to resolutions adopted before 1 January 1965, became fully operative on that date.

FOURTEEN HUNDRED AND FOURTEENTH MEETING

Held in New York on Thursday, 18 April 1968, at 3.30 p.m.

President: Mr. Y. A. MALIK
(Union of Soviet Socialist Republics).

Present: The representatives of the following States: Algeria, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Ethiopia, France, Hungary, India, Pakistan, Paraguay, Senegal, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

Provisional agenda (S/Agenda/1414)

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Admission of new Members:
Letter dated 12 March 1968 from the Prime Minister of Mauritius addressed to the Secretary-General (S/8466).

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Admission of new Members

Letter dated 12 March 1968 from the Prime Minister of Mauritius addressed to the Secretary-General (S/8466)

1. The PRESIDENT (*translated from Russian*): The Security Council will now consider the statement concerning admission to the United Nations, submitted on 12 March 1968 [S/8466] by the Prime Minister of Mauritius. The statement is in letter form.
2. In this connexion, I should like to draw the attention of the members of the Council to the draft resolution of today [S/8547/Rev.1 and Add.1], which is co-sponsored by the delegations of Algeria, Canada, Ethiopia, India, Pakistan, Senegal and the United Kingdom.
3. Lord CARADON (United Kingdom): Mr. President, I should like, first, to join with you in welcoming Ambassador Boye of Senegal to this Council. He comes to us with an enviable reputation gained in many capacities, and most recently as Chairman of the Human Rights Commission. We greatly look forward to working with him. At the same time, I trust that the Ambassador will convey to Ambassador Diop the admiration we all felt for him, particularly when he was our President last month. I have served in this Council for some years, but I believe that all will agree with me that we have had no President for whom we had a greater devotion and a greater affection than we had for Ambassador Diop.

4. May I also take this first opportunity of publicly paying my respects to you, Sir, as our President. We have already warmly welcomed you to the Council; even more warmly we welcome you as our President. We welcomed you as a player; even more we welcome you as a referee. As a player you score; as a referee you are the embodiment of impartiality. Your great gifts could not be better employed. We confidently wish you every success, and I am even bold enough to hope that some of the habits of impartiality will last long after this month is over.

5. We meet today to consider the application of Mauritius to become the 124th Member of the United Nations. We congratulate Mauritius on its attainment of independence on 12 March of this year, when it was welcomed as the twenty-seventh independent member of the Commonwealth, and we now warmly endorse and commend its application for membership of the United Nations.

6. Mauritius is chiefly famous for two things: outstanding natural beauty and the rich diversity of its people. From the earliest days the island attracted navigators of many nationalities. It is said that the island was first discovered by the Phoenicians; then came the Malays from Madagascar, then the Portuguese, then the Dutch, who named the island after Prince Maurice of Nassau. For nearly a century, from 1715, the French occupied the island, giving it the name of Ile de France. Consequently, Mauritius now emerges into independence with the happiest combination of traditions, the enviable advantages of both French culture and British administration.

7. The island's three quarters of a million people are drawn from three continents and a score of different countries. More than ten separate languages are in regular use, and Europe, Asia and Africa have all contributed to the history and the life of the people. This diversity has sometimes led to differences and disputes and violent tensions. It was a bold action, therefore, not to hesitate or to delay, but to respond to the leadership of the Prime Minister, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, and advance confidently to independence.

8. All of us here will welcome and praise that courageous step into the future and all of us will join, I am sure, in wishing that the newly independent Mauritius will draw from its diversity fresh strength and unity. Mauritius will, we trust, give a lead to us all in showing how people of different origin and religion and race can live and work together in peace and brotherhood. The world is in sore need of such an example.

9. In that confidence, and in the belief that Mauritius will make a distinctive and distinguished contribution in the United Nations, I join with other members of the Council in commending the draft resolution [S/8547/Rev.1 and Add.1] before us for unanimous approval.

10. Mr. BOUATTOURA (Algeria) (*translated from French*): As we meet today on a happy occasion—an application from a new State for admission to membership in the United Nations—I feel I must express my pleasure at, and my approval of, everything that has just been said by Lord Caradon, the United Kingdom representative with reference to our new colleague from Senegal, Ambassador Boye, and to the President, Ambassador Malik of the Soviet Union.

11. My delegation has always believed that the advent of a new State should be regarded as something which increases our Organization's chances of fulfilling the great hopes the world places in it, hopes which will not be realized until the United Nations achieves what it has recognized to be its fundamental purpose—universality.

12. It is because we hold this belief that the people and Government of Algeria had such great pleasure in welcoming the accession to independence of Mauritius on 12 March last. In regaining its independence, that nation of course becomes a member of the universal community of free nations, and also a member of the group of African and Asian peoples, joining with them to shape the future of their continents and ensure their emancipation and development.

13. Furthermore, we have great pleasure in welcoming this country because its presence among us signifies the end of a colonial era for its people and the beginning of an age of freedom and prosperity. It also indicates that other peoples, especially Africans, engaged in the struggle for liberation, will sooner or later, like Mauritius, join the international community and work for peace in equality and harmony. Obviously, I am thinking of Southern Rhodesia, which is still under the colonial yoke, as Mauritius was once, and as Angola, Mozambique, South West Africa, Guinea (Bissau), South Africa, etc. are today.

14. We hope that one day, as in the case of Mauritius, the colonial era will be a thing of the past and that we shall be able to surmount the obstacles confronting us in Southern Rhodesia, as in all the other colonies, and lead them towards the independence and freedom which are their peoples' dearest wish. Today, we meet together formally to admit Mauritius to the United Nations. My delegation finds this occasion both gratifying and important, and it wishes warmly to support and recommend the admission of Mauritius to our Organization.

15. For all these reasons, Algeria has decided to add its sponsorship to that of the delegations which submitted draft resolution S/8547/Rev.1 and Add.1.

16. My delegation would be grateful, Mr. President, if you would take the necessary steps to give effect to this request which we should like to submit as formally as possible.

17. We are well aware of the difficulties which will inevitably lie in the path of this nation, but we are certain that Mauritius will overcome them, affirming its independence and playing a constructive role in our Organization.

18. We wish Mauritius progress and prosperity and express our good wishes to its people.

19. Mr. IGNATIEFF (Canada): Mr. President, I should like to associate myself first of all with your warm welcome to Ambassador Boye of Senegal and to say to him how happy the Canadian delegation is to share the privilege of being elected to membership of this Council together with Senegal.

20. The Canadian delegation is indeed very happy to co-sponsor the draft resolution S/8547/Rev.1 and Add.1 and we commend it to the unanimous endorsement of the Council.

21. Because of the Commonwealth relationship Canada has special ties with this new State which became independent on 12 March of this year and is now seeking admission to the United Nations. Indeed, Canada and Mauritius also share the distinction of being the only two States in the Commonwealth which are bilingual in English and French, a fact which constitutes an important cultural tie. We also share the important historic tradition which Lord Caradon mentioned—I refer, of course, to the happy marriage of French culture with British administration.

22. We know that the road to independence is not always easy and that the responsibilities after independence bring equally grave or even graver problems. It is after a nation has assumed the responsibilities and begun to enjoy the privileges of independence that the even more difficult choices arise about how that nation is to conduct its economic, social and political life, both in its own interests and even more important, the wider interests of the world community. Some of these choices are dictated by geography and the existing social structure at the time of independence; but there are others such as the means of developing a thriving and varied economy and the creation of an administrative machinery capable of meeting the changing needs of an evolving society which must weigh heavily on the leaders of that new nation. My country recognizes the responsibility of developing countries and of developed countries to assist those in the process of development to resolve the difficulties confronting them. Canada for its part is prepared to continue making available, through its external aid programme, technical assistance to help Mauritius in its self-development.

23. Having welcomed Mauritius into the Commonwealth of Nations we now are happy to welcome it into the United Nations and we wish Mauritius every success in the great task and opportunities that lie before it in the community of nations.

24. Mr. PARTHASARATHI (India): Before I address myself to the item before us, I should like to associate myself with you, Mr. President, and other colleagues in extending a warm welcome to our new colleague, the distinguished and respected Permanent Representative of

Senegal, Ambassador Boye. My delegation had very friendly and close relations with the Senegalese delegation during Ambassador Diop's term here at the United Nations. We look forward to close co-operation with Ambassador Boye and to have the benefit of his mature wisdom in our deliberations.

25. The Security Council is meeting today to discharge a very pleasant duty, namely, to consider the request from the Government of Mauritius for admission to membership in the United Nations. It is always a matter of great joy and satisfaction to see a dependent Territory emerge into free and sovereign nationhood. With every additional Territory which breaks the chains of colonial bondage and establishes itself as an independent nation, we come closer to the goal of complete decolonization which is one of the primary objectives of our Organization. Today's occasion is particularly gratifying to us in view of the fact that the United Nations, through the General Assembly and its organs, principally the Committee of Twenty-Four¹ has devoted considerable time and energy to accelerate the progress of the people of Mauritius towards their cherished objective. There has, thus, been a very close association between Mauritius and the United Nations even before the independence of Mauritius. It is, therefore, only natural that Mauritius should seek membership in the world body. My delegation has no doubt that as a Member of the United Nations the Government and the people of Mauritius will make important contributions towards strengthening and furthering the universal desire for peace and security.

26. The independence of Mauritius is a matter of particular gratification to my delegation. India and Mauritius are linked by varied and close ties which go back to hundreds of years. The similarities in our cultural history and heritage, the geographic proximity and, most of all, our mutually shared values of freedom and peace bind us closely together. We have followed with great interest and admiration the steady march of the people of Mauritius towards their independence under the leadership of their outstanding Prime Minister, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam. We have every confidence that the very close and friendly relations which happily exist between Mauritius and India will grow from strength to strength in the coming years to the mutual benefit of our two countries.

27. I take this opportunity of once again extending to the Government and people of Mauritius our warmest felicitations and best wishes. Having become the master of its own destiny, I have no doubt that Mauritius will be able to make rapid progress in all fields of national life and become a strong, stable and prosperous nation.

28. My delegation whole-heartedly supports the application of Mauritius for admission to the United Nations and hopes that it will be endorsed by the Security Council by acclamation.

29. Mr. BORCH (Denmark): Mr. President, first, I want to associate myself with the warm welcome that you have expressed in regard to the new representative of Senegal,

¹ Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

Ambassador Boye, and to tell him that we look forward to continuing the close relationships and ties which we enjoyed with the Senegalese delegation during the tenure of Ambassador Diop.

30. The Danish Government whole-heartedly welcomes the attainment of independence by Mauritius and my delegation supports the draft resolution [*S/8547/Rev.1 and Add.1*] recommending the admission of Mauritius to membership of the United Nations, presented to us by Algeria, Canada, Ethiopia, India, Pakistan, Senegal and the United Kingdom—the former administering Power.

31. During our membership in the Committee of Twenty-Four my country had an opportunity to follow closely the progress towards and the preparation for the independence of Mauritius. The process has now been completed and in a short while Mauritius, being a full-fledged and sovereign member of the community of nations, will take its seat in this world Organization. In doing so, and in accepting the obligations contained in the Charter of the United Nations, Mauritius has made a solemn pledge that will serve as a basis for its participation in the international co-operation in this Organization. We wish it well in its endeavours to participate actively and constructively in that co-operation, which is aimed at promoting peace among nations, international understanding and material progress for the whole of humanity.

32. Mauritius has become independent as a result of a democratic process and through an agreement freely negotiated between the representatives of the people of Mauritius and the Government of the United Kingdom. We feel confident that the problems, internal and external, which this new State may face in the future will similarly be solved in accordance with democratic principles and on the basis of agreement and mutual understanding

33. Today we welcome Mauritius to the United Nations, and we wish the Government and people of Mauritius all the best in their efforts to build their future. Clearly, the prime goal of any new State is political stability and economic progress. It is our wish that Mauritius achieve both, thus creating the strongest possible basis for its existence as a nation and as a State.

34. Mr. BERARD (France) (*translated from French*): I need hardly say that it gives my delegation great pleasure and satisfaction to welcome to our midst the new representative of Senegal, Ambassador Ibrahima Boye. We welcome him as the representative of a State with which my own country has particularly cordial relations. We also greet him as a colleague on whom we can rely for friendly and efficient collaboration. Finally, we welcome him as an able jurist of vast experience. He has served as a lawyer in several courts of appeal, as a magistrate, as a Justice of the Peace with a wide jurisdiction, and finally as Attorney General of the Supreme Court of Senegal. He has a background which will be most valuable to our Council as well as to each of us. His professional qualifications, together with personal qualities of which we are all aware, are such that they can somewhat mitigate our regret at the departure of his predecessor, Ambassador Ousmane Socé Diop. Our work in the United Nations is often saddened by the departure of a

colleague whose friendship we cherish, but we are often also consoled by the arrival of new colleagues whose friendship soon becomes equally dear. Ambassador Ibrahima Boye has brought to us in New York not only the welcome sunshine of his country but also the warmth of his friendship.

35. In a vote which we hope will be unanimous, my delegation will signify its approval of the draft resolution before the Council recommending that the General Assembly admit the independent State of Mauritius to the United Nations. We are particularly pleased to be able to do so because, since the beginning of the 18th century, political and later cultural and linguistic ties have linked France to that great island. For a hundred years—from 1710 to 1810—my country was responsible for the administration of the island, which was then known as Ile de France. Memories of the French Indies Company were evoked quite recently in the inspired words of the Mauritian writer and poet Edouard J. Maunick:

“The Indies Company reminds me of the garden of the same name, a stone’s throw from the ocean, skirting the roadstead of Port Louis, where I served my apprenticeship for manhood. Port Louis, the capital, and the Company garden full of banyan trees, calabash and acacia—the garden with its fountains and its Institute Museum, towards which an immensely thick baobab tree spread its arms, its bandstand and its old green benches and the little river Pouce flowing past like an endless caress.”

36. France was fortunate enough to be represented, at the head of the island’s administration, by Mahé de la Bourdonnais, an outstanding Governor who accomplished there what the Mauritian historian Auguste Toussaint called “a veritable creation *ex nihilo*”. He founded Mahébourg, the capital, later abandoned in favour of Port Louis. “Roads were built”, Edouard Maunick writes, “and towns laid out. Coffee, cassava, maize, vegetables, fruit trees, indigo, clove trees and, above all, sugar cane spread over acres upon acres of land.”

37. Ile de France of the 18th century had a considerable influence on the intellectual and literary life of my country. It inspired that great writer, Bernardin de Saint-Pierre, to write his *Voyage à l’île de France* and later, after the sensational wreck near the Island of Ambre of the ship *Saint Gérant* on which the young Virginie de la Tour was travelling, the famous novel *Paul et Virginie* which started the exotic trend in French literature. It was the same island which inspired Charles Baudelaire to write his well-known lines:

“Once, in a perfumed country, sun-caressed,
“I knew, under a roof of crimson trees
“and palms that dip their languour on the eyes,
“A creole lady of hidden charms.”

38. My country is deeply moved by the fact that the island’s inhabitants are so attached to that part of their history. Beau Bassin, Quatre Bernes, Rose Belle, Grande Rivière, Sant-Antoine, Poudre d’Or, Pamplemousse, Souillac, Chemin Granier—the entire countryside is dotted with

French place names. French is still the language spoken by almost 250,000 inhabitants of the island and its dependencies. It is the language commonly used by cultivated people of diverse origin and serves as a means of communication between the various ethnic groups. Most of the newspapers, furthermore, are in French.

39. When the Prime Minister of Mauritius visited France in October 1967, he was good enough to say that his country would co-operate with ours, particularly in intellectual and economic matters, and that he hoped to see agreements concluded between the two countries which would strengthen their cultural and historical ties. We were most receptive to his remarks.

40. Lying as it does at the crossroads of Europe, Africa and Asia and having been for centuries a port of call for all trading nations, Mauritius is today experiencing an extraordinary population growth. The new independent State which unites indigenous inhabitants, Europeans who have settled there, Africans from the neighbouring continent and Indians who have contributed their skills, clearly has a place in the United Nations. It is, in a way, a microcosm of this Organization. It has already shown us and will continue in the future to show us an example of that coexistence and peaceful co-operation among peoples and races which is the ideal and standard of our Organization.

41. To all its inhabitants, whatever their origin and language, to its Government and its leaders, to independent Mauritius, the French delegation extends its warmest wishes for happiness and prosperity.

42. Mr. PEDERSEN, (United States of America): I should like first to join other members in welcoming to the Council our distinguished new colleague from Senegal, Ambassador Ibrahima Boye. Ambassador Boye is no stranger to the United Nations councils, and we recall with particular pleasure his recent outstanding work as Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights. He brings to the Security Council a profound understanding and deep experience in this important realm of United Nations activities. He also brings to us a distinguished background in law, including the post of Attorney-General of the Senegalese Supreme Court. In Ambassador Boye, as in his distinguished predecessor, Ambassador Diop, who presided with such dignity and capability last month in both our public sessions and private consultations, Senegal has sent us another outstanding representative with whom the United States delegation takes satisfaction in being associated.

43. It is indeed a pleasure to speak to this Council in support of the application of Mauritius for membership in the United Nations and to welcome the Mauritian delegation here today.

44. We welcome the interest of Mauritius in participating in efforts at the United Nations to achieve the goals of our Charter. The path toward the reconciliation of international differences and toward world peace is long and arduous. Membership in the United Nations offers to Mauritius, on the one hand, the prospect of hard work in the service of hopes and ideals as yet only partially realized; on the other

hand, membership also offers Mauritius the prospect of satisfaction in our achievements and a sense of responsible participation in, and of contribution to, the world community. We are convinced that Mauritius will accept this challenge with the same spirit of determination, wisdom and moderation that it demonstrated during the years leading to its independence.

45. This distant isle has long played a role in world commercial and political affairs. Among its population of three quarters of a million persons there are representatives of many races, religions and nationalities. Lord Caradon has referred to the ten languages spoken in Mauritius. It is of special interest that among those languages, two working languages of the Security Council are included. While the island was a Crown Colony of Great Britain, Mauritian authorities steadfastly directed their efforts toward economic and social development and increasingly participated in their own government before Mauritius obtained full independence on 12 March 1968.

46. In crediting their accomplishments and efforts, we believe also that due acknowledgement should be given to the Government of the United Kingdom under whose aegis advances were made toward democratic self-government and complete independence.

47. The United States believes that the people of Mauritius and their Prime Minister, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, share with us the strong conviction that governments, to be stable and effective, must be representative of, and based upon the confidence of, those whom they govern. My Government is well aware of the many obstacles Mauritius has overcome, and of those that it still faces, in its praiseworthy drive to build a nation where a man's dignity and worth are not determined by his race, his religion or his place of origin. In its efforts, Mauritius will be taking part in a world-wide crusade for the achievement of equal rights and opportunities for all.

48. The United States looks forward to strengthening relations with Mauritius. Our consular contacts with that lovely island date back over one hundred years. Our experiences have convinced us that Mauritius can and will make continuing and meaningful contributions toward solving the problems that lie before it and before us all. My Government will gladly vote for the draft resolution [S/8543/Rev.1 and Add 1] before this Council recommending approval of the application of Mauritius for admission to membership in the United Nations.

49. Mr. BOYE (Senegal) (*translated from French*): I should like to thank my colleagues for their very kind words of welcome and assure them of my loyal co-operation. On the particular item now before us, I should like to say, on behalf of my Government, that we are always pleased to welcome a new Member to this Organization. Aside from the satisfaction we experience when a country is decolonized or when a dependent country is granted independence, my Government takes the view that all nations should be in a position to put their moral and intellectual capital to work and to combine their efforts to settle more readily such conflicts as may arise among them.

50. The United Nations offers one great advantage in that it is a place in which a dialogue can be initiated. We all know that when one has an opportunity to speak, to express one's ideas and compare them with those of others, there is always hope that the problem will be the more easily solved.

51. I am therefore happy to come here on behalf of my Government to recommend the admission to the United Nations of Mauritius, an island which presents a remarkable example of the harmonious multiracial society which we should like to see established in certain other countries. My Government believes that Mauritius is a peace-loving State, able and willing to carry out the obligations contained in the Charter.

52. My Government is therefore in agreement that we should recommend the General Assembly to admit Mauritius, to which we wish every success.

53. Mr. SOLANO LOPEZ (Paraguay) (*translated from Spanish*): Mr. President, before turning to the matter before us today, I should like to join with you and other members of the Council in extending a most cordial welcome to the new representative from Senegal, Mr. Ibrahima Boye. Knowing as we do his country's long-standing tradition in the United Nations, we are sure that in discharging his duties he will display the brilliance, talent and integrity which marked his predecessor, our much admired President during the month of March, Mr. Diop.

54. This is indeed a day of rejoicing as we meet to consider the request for admission to membership of the United Nations submitted on behalf of his country by the Prime Minister of Mauritius. It will be a real pleasure for my delegation to vote in favour of the unanimous adoption by acclamation of the seven-Power draft resolution [S/8547/Rev.1 and Add.1] by which the Council will recommend to the General Assembly that Mauritius be admitted to membership in the United Nations.

55. With this preliminary and necessary step, followed up promptly by the approval of the General Assembly, the doors of the Organization will open to admit one more member to the great family of free, sovereign and independent nations it comprises.

56. For each and every one of the States striving to hasten the advent of the final abolition of colonialism, this is indeed an occasion for justifiable rejoicing.

57. Now that the efforts of Mauritius to achieve independence have reached a happy conclusion, I offer its people and Government the most cordial and sincere congratulations of the people, Government and delegation of Paraguay, together with our heartfelt wishes for the progress, prosperity and happiness of the people of Mauritius, now freed from their former state of dependence and masters, in their own legitimate right, of their sovereign destiny.

58. Lij Endalkachew MAKONNEN (Ethiopia): Mr. President, I should like, first of all, to associate my delegation with the eloquent and much deserved message of welcome that you and other colleagues have addressed to our new

colleague from Senegal. I should like to assure him of the Ethiopian delegation's co-operation and goodwill.

59. During the past several months we have spent many difficult and at times agonizing hours in this Council chamber deliberating on questions relating to international peace and security and trying to accomplish what at times almost seemed the impossible. It is needless for me to remind members of this Council that although our tasks in those gloomy hours have indeed been very difficult, even frustrating, our efforts have not always been in vain. We have had our moments of satisfaction.

60. This note of optimism on my part is no doubt prompted and strengthened by our consideration today of the type of item that we have on our agenda. For today we are here not to extinguish a fire ignited by tragic human conflicts or to uphold a threatened principle of the Charter of the United Nations, but to add new blood to the Organization. This is indeed the most pleasant and highly gratifying duty that we have as members of this vital organ.

61. Even as the birth of a child represents the best gift that nature offers to man, so too the birth of a nation signifies the highest form of expression of the principles of the Charter of our Organization. It is perhaps the best tribute that can be paid to the United Nations which is dedicated to, among other things, the reaffirmation of faith in what the Charter itself underlines as fundamental human rights, the dignity and worth of the human person, the equal rights of men and women and of all nations large and small.

62. When a people which has long suffered under the yoke of colonialism succeeds in breaking the shackles of bondage and moves to the cherished status of freedom and sovereignty, there is good cause for joy, good reason for optimism and hope, not only for the people directly concerned but also for humanity as a whole.

63. The independence and admission of Mauritius to membership of our Organization should be of particular joy to the United Nations because it is the most recent crowning of the Organization's tireless efforts over the past number of years. Since 1964 the United Nations General Assembly, the Special Committee of Twenty-Four and its subsidiary organs have devoted considerable time and effort working for the independence and self-determination of the people of Mauritius. The Ethiopian delegation, as a member of each of these organs of the United Nations, has played an active role to this end.

64. Therefore our sponsorship of this resolution recommending the admission of Mauritius to membership of the United Nations is a duty which devolves upon us by virtue of our participation in these historic efforts. We take pride in the achievements of the people of Mauritius, and we wish to assure them of our continued co-operation and goodwill as we welcome them to the family of independent nations.

65. A multiracial nation such as Mauritius, however small in territory and population it may be, can, we are confident, serve as yet another good example of the possibility, I may even add of the need, for a people of

different ethnic and racial origins to live together in harmony and mutual respect. It is our earnest hope that the example of Mauritius as a nation, and of others which have multiracial populations living in peace, will serve to inspire misguided advocates of racialism and others of similar persuasion to have a better and much larger vision of humanity. It is in such a vision that the hope for the ultimate security and survival of the whole of mankind lies.

66. In conclusion, I wish to convey once again our sincere congratulations and best wishes to the people and Government of Mauritius.

67. Mr. DE SOUZA E SILVA (Brazil): First of all, I should like to extend to Ambassador Boye of Senegal the warm welcome of the Brazilian delegation. In the first three months of 1968, we benefited from the wisdom and experience that his predecessor, Ambassador Diop, brought to this Council, especially during this past March. My delegation is confident that under Ambassador Boye the delegation of Senegal will continue to give to the Security Council the co-operation that is expected by all of us from that great African country, with which my Government and my country has close ties of friendship and co-operation.

68. On behalf of the Brazilian delegation, allow me to refer to the draft resolution [*S/8547/Rev.1 and Add.1*] before this Council on the admission of Mauritius to the United Nations.

69. My delegation will vote in favour of the adoption of this draft, and I wish to take this opportunity to welcome Mauritius into the United Nations.

70. A new nation born of a rich past, Mauritius, like Brazil itself, is a multiracial society drawing its cultural values from many sources and building with them a new human synthesis and a new world in the tropics. Representing so many different hopes and dreams, Mauritius is in a special position to make a vital contribution to the work of this Organization and to the creation of world order. I express not only my personal feelings, but also the feelings of the Brazilian Government and people when I say that we will all profit from that contribution.

71. Mr. CSATORDAY (Hungary): Comrade President, since today is the first time this month that my delegation is making a statement in the Council, I wish to express my hearty congratulations to you on the occasion of your assumption of the high functions of the Presidency of the Security Council. Your rich experience and deep knowledge of the matters before the Council have already greatly contributed to the successful discharge of the duties of the Council. Your skilful and brilliant statesmanlike approach to the different and very complex and difficult questions have met with the satisfaction of the members of this Council.

72. At the same time, with your kind permission, I wish to express my delegation's congratulations to the former President of our Council, Ambassador Diop of Senegal, and I request the Ambassador of Senegal to convey to him our congratulations on the tactful, patient and very competent manner in which he acted as President of our Council. At

the same time, Comrade President, I wish to join you in greeting our new colleague, Ambassador Boye of Senegal, and, on behalf of my delegation, I wish to express our satisfaction at seeing him in our circle. We are convinced that he will fulfil his duties with great success.

73. The Security Council has before it for consideration the application of the newly independent State of Mauritius for admission to the United Nations. We also have before us the joint draft resolution [*S/8547/Rev.1 and Add.1*] of Algeria, Canada, Ethiopia, India, Pakistan, Senegal and the United Kingdom requesting the Security Council to recommend to the General Assembly that Mauritius be admitted to membership in the United Nations. The Hungarian delegation wishes to state that it supports the application of Mauritius for membership in the United Nations and is ready to vote in favour of the draft resolution submitted by the seven co-sponsors.

74. In its firm determination to eliminate all forms of colonialism and racial discrimination, the United Nations has given attention to the problem of Mauritius for a number of years. Together with the great majority of Member States, the Hungarian People's Republic has given active support to the people of Mauritius in the achievement of their freedom and independence. We were pleased to receive leading political personalities of Mauritius in Hungary last year, and my Government had friendly and useful talks with them on establishing relations between our two countries.

75. In considering the admission of Mauritius to membership in the United Nations, we cannot fail to direct our attention to the explosive situation existing in the southern part of Africa. It is the duty of the United Nations and of all States to prevent the establishment of a hotbed of racism in Africa. As can be seen from the latest discussions on South West Africa and Southern Rhodesia in the Security Council, events on the African continent cause serious anxiety and require effective measures on behalf of the world community against all manifestations of colonialism, *apartheid* and racism.

76. My delegation felt it necessary to call the attention of the Council to the dangerous developments in the southern part of Africa and to the responsibility of the Security Council for coping with that situation. We feel all the more happy and satisfied that, in spite of those ominous signs, another former colonial territory, Mauritius, has won its independence. It is of particular importance that the newly independent State of Mauritius had more than ample experience of colonialism. In fact it had been ruled by no less than four different colonial Powers. That is one more reason why my delegation is confident that, after shaking off the colonial rule, the newly independent nation of Mauritius will exert all possible efforts to overcome its present difficulties resulting from that heritage and will achieve progress in all fields of its national life. We trust that as a Member of the United Nations Mauritius will make a useful contribution to our efforts to liquidate all the remnants of colonialism and racism and preserve international peace and security.

77. In a resolution the Presidential Council of the Hungarian People's Republic has recognized Mauritius as an

independent State. At the United Nations the Hungarian delegation is looking forward with great pleasure to co-operating with the delegation of Mauritius in promoting the noble ideas and principles set forth in the Charter.

78. Mr. SHAHI (Pakistan): Mr. President, I should like to associate myself with the warm welcome that you and my other colleagues have extended to the new and eminent Ambassador of Senegal, Mr. Boye. Even in the brief period that has passed since he presented his credentials, Mr. Boye has shown himself to be endowed with the same high qualities and of the calibre which marked his distinguished predecessor, Mr. Diop.

79. Pakistan has great pleasure in supporting the application of Mauritius for admission to the United Nations. The accession of the island country to independence and membership in the United Nations marks another step in the process of decolonization which was initiated with vision and statesmanship by the United Kingdom after the Second World War.

80. The Prime Minister of Mauritius, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, has pledged that his Government accepts the obligations incumbent upon Members of the Organization and solemnly undertakes to fulfil them. That declaration makes us confident that the Government of Mauritius will surmount the difficulties that confront new nations and will do its utmost to promote respect for human rights, a fundamental principle of the Charter of the United Nations and one of cardinal importance to the governance of multiracial societies [*see S/8466*].

81. The people of the island are linked to the people of Pakistan by historical and cultural ties. We extend our warmest congratulations to the Government and people of Mauritius and wish them godspeed on the high road of independence. With admission to membership in the United Nations, it will be possible for Mauritius to derive in full measure the benefits of participation in the mainstream of international life and of the economic and technical assistance which the United Nations system is able to provide to developing nations.

82. It is with great pleasure that I commend to the Council for unanimous adoption the joint draft resolution [*S/8547/Rev.1 and Add.1*] which Pakistan has co-sponsored together with the delegations of Algeria, Canada, Ethiopia, India, Senegal and the United Kingdom.

83. The PRESIDENT (*translated from Russian*): As President of the Security Council, I should like to express my thanks to those members of the Council who have associated themselves with the words of welcome and congratulation which I addressed on their behalf at the proceeding meeting to our new colleague, the distinguished representative of Senegal. I should also like to thank those members of the Security Council who addressed kind words to me.

84. Now I shall address the Council in my capacity as the representative of the UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS.

85. We have heard the statements of the members of the Security Council on the item of the admission to membership in the United Nations of a new State, Mauritius.

86. Speaking now as the representative of the Soviet Union, I should like to stress particularly that the proclamation of independence by Mauritius is one more blow to the colonial system of subjugation and exploitation. We note with great satisfaction that many peoples of colonial countries have already broken the chains of foreign domination and have taken the path of independent existence and development. Millions and millions of people who were subjugated in the past have become free citizens of their own national States. Dozens of former colonial territories are today sovereign States, equal Members of the United Nations. The fact that Mauritius—a country which for over 150 years was a British colony—has now become independent provides yet another proof of the invincible power of the national liberation struggle of the peoples, in their fight for freedom and independence.

87. Consistently and invariably guided by the policy of giving full support to the struggle of peoples against colonial rule and oppression, the Soviet Union has always supported and continues to support the legitimate and just demands of the peoples, including the people of Mauritius, who wish to become free and independent. We are very happy to see that the struggle of the people of Mauritius to achieve these lofty goals and ideals has been crowned with success.

88. The Security Council has received an application from the Government of Mauritius to be admitted to membership of the United Nations. In its application [S/8466], the Government of Mauritius declares its full support for the principles and aims of the United Nations Charter, accepts the obligations of membership and solemnly commits itself to fulfilling those obligations.

89. The Soviet Union welcomes this declaration of the Government of the new independent State and supports the application of Mauritius to be admitted to the United Nations. The representative of the Soviet Union has been authorized to vote in favour of the admission of Mauritius to membership in the United Nations.

90. We warmly congratulate the Government and the people of Mauritius upon the attainment of independence and we express our firm conviction and hope that this new State, which is located in the Indian Ocean, together with the large family of independent States of Africa and Asia, will make its own worthy and useful contribution to the work of this Organization and will contribute to the cause of strengthening peace and developing friendship among nations.

91. The Government of the Soviet Union, in its message to the Government of this new State, has warmly congratulated the Government and people of Mauritius upon the attainment of independence and has stated its desire to establish diplomatic relations with Mauritius, to exchange embassies and to develop relations of friendship and co-operation.

92. The peoples of the Soviet Union sincerely wish the people of Mauritius every success in the building of a new, free life and the speedy elimination of the distressing consequences of colonialism, as well as strengthening the sovereignty of their State.

93. Now I shall address the Council in my capacity as PRESIDENT of the Security Council.

94. The list of speakers has been exhausted. In accordance with rule 60 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council I shall now put to the vote the draft resolution [S/8547/Rev.1 and Add.1] before the Council.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.²

95. The PRESIDENT (*translated from Russian*): In accordance with rule 60 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, I shall forthwith ask the Secretary-General to transmit to the General Assembly the text of the resolution which has just been adopted, together with the record of this meeting. The examination of the item on the agenda has been concluded. The representative of the United States has asked for the floor. I now call upon him.

96. Mr. PEDERSEN (United States of America): Now that we have completed our favourable action on the specific item before us for today, I wish to call the Council's attention briefly to a separately pending membership matter.

97. Members will recall that on 13 December 1967 Mr. Goldberg addressed to the President of the Council a letter³ suggesting that the Council's Committee on the Admission of New Members be convened to consider the matter of "micro-States", a matter raised by the Secretary-General in the introductions to his annual reports of 1965⁴ and 1967.⁵

98. This is the first meeting at which the Council has considered a membership matter since that time. We did not suggest that the Council's Committee on the Admission of New Members be reconvened in this instance. I should like to recall, however, that our letter of 13 December 1967 requesting consideration of the problem of "micro-States" by the Committee is an outstanding request.

99. We all realize that the urgent matters which have come before the Council over the past three months have precluded our devoting the required time to this matter. We do continue to look forward, however, to an early convenient reconvening of the Committee on the Admission of New Members to consider the implications with

² See resolution 249 (1968).

³ *Official Records of the Security Council, Twenty-second Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1967*, document S/8296.

⁴ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twentieth Session, Supplement No. 1A*, p. 12.

⁵ *Ibid.*, *Twenty-second Session, Supplement No. 1A*, paras. 163-167.

regard to membership for what the Secretary-General has referred to as "micro-States".

100. The PRESIDENT (*translated from Russian*): I have no further speakers who wish to take the floor on the

agenda item which the Council was convened to discuss. If there is no other representative who wishes to speak, the Council will adjourn.

The meeting rose at 5.5 p m.

HOW TO OBTAIN UNITED NATIONS PUBLICATIONS

United Nations publications may be obtained from bookstores and distributors throughout the world. Consult your bookstore or write to: United Nations, Sales Section, New York or Geneva.

COMMENT SE PROCURER LES PUBLICATIONS DES NATIONS UNIES

Les publications des Nations Unies sont en vente dans les librairies et les agences dépositaires du monde entier. Informez-vous auprès de votre librairie ou adressez-vous à: Nations Unies, Section des ventes, New York ou Genève.

КАК ПОЛУЧИТЬ ИЗДАНИЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ

Издания Организации Объединенных Наций можно купить в книжных магазинах и агентствах во всех районах мира. Поводите справки об изданиях в нашем книжном магазине или пишите по адресу: Организация Объединенных Наций, Секция по продаже изданий, Нью-Йорк или Женева.

COMO CONSEGUIR PUBLICACIONES DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

Las publicaciones de las Naciones Unidas están en venta en librerías y casas distribuidoras en todas partes del mundo. Consulte a su librero o diríjase a: Naciones Unidas, Sección de Ventas, Nueva York o Ginebra.

UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

262

A/7083
19 April 1968

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twenty-second session

ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Letter dated 18 April 1968 from the President of the Security Council
to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to request you to transmit to the General Assembly the following resolution^{1/} on the admission of Mauritius to membership in the United Nations, adopted by the Security Council at its 1414th meeting on 18 April 1968:

"The Security Council,

"Having examined the application of Mauritius for admission to the United Nations,^{2/}

"Recommends to the General Assembly that Mauritius be admitted to membership in the United Nations."

In accordance with rule 60, paragraph 2, of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, I also request you to transmit to the General Assembly, for its information, the verbatim record of the 1414th meeting of the Security Council, at which the application of Mauritius was discussed.

(Signed) Yakov A. MALIK
President of the Security Council

^{1/} Resolution 249 (1968).

^{2/} A/7073, S/8466.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED WITHOUT REFERENCE TO A MAIN COMMITTEE

C O N T E N T S

<i>Resolution No.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Date of adoption</i>	<i>Page</i>
2371 (XXII)	Admission of Mauritius to membership in the United Nations (A/L.545 and Add.1 and 2)	99	24 April 1968	1
2372 (XXII)	Question of South West Africa (A/L.546/Rev.1)	64	12 June 1968	1
2374 (XXII)	Credentials of representatives to the twenty-second session of the General Assembly (A/6990/Add.1)	3 (b)	12 June 1968	2
2375 (XXII)	Credentials of representatives to the twenty-second session of the General Assembly (A/6990/Add.1)	3 (b)	23 September 1968	2
Other decisions				
	Question of the consolidation and integration of the special educational and training programmes for South West Africa, the special training programme for Territories under Portuguese administration and the educational and training programme for South Africans	68	23 September 1968	3
	The situation in the Middle East	94	23 September 1968	3

2371 (XXII). Admission of Mauritius to membership in the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Having received the recommendation of the Security Council of 18 April 1968 that Mauritius should be admitted to membership in the United Nations,¹

Having considered the application for membership of Mauritius,²

Decides to admit Mauritius to membership in the United Nations.

*1643rd plenary meeting,
24 April 1968.*

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-second Session, Annexes, agenda item 99, document A/7083.*

² A/7073. For the printed text of this document, see *Official Records of the Security Council, Twenty-third Year, Supplement for January, February and March 1968, document S/8466.*

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

TWENTY-SECOND SESSION

Official Records



264
1643rd
PLENARY MEETING

Wednesday, 24 April 1968,
at 3 p.m.

NEW YORK

CONTENTS

	Page
<i>Resumption of the twenty-second session.</i>	1
<i>Organization of work</i>	1
<i>Agenda item 99:</i>	
<i>Admission of new Members to the United Nations (concluded).</i>	2

President: Mr. Corneliu MANESCU (Romania).

Resumption of the twenty-second session

1. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I declare open the 1643rd plenary meeting with which the General Assembly resumes its twenty-second session.

2. It gives me much pleasure to welcome the representatives who have come here to take part in our work. I take this opportunity to express the hope that, through our combined efforts, we will succeed in reaching fair decisions which will meet the aspirations of the world's peoples and serve the interests of international peace and security, in accordance with the ethics governing inter-State relations.

3. I should like to remind representatives that on 19 December 1967 [1642nd meeting] the General Assembly agreed to give further consideration to the following three items: item 28 (a) (Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons: report of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament), item 64 (Question of South West Africa) and item 94 (The situation in the Middle East).

4. On that occasion the Assembly decided that the work of the session should be resumed when, after the necessary consultations, it was established that the conditions were appropriate for consideration of one of those items.

5. As a result of subsequent consultations, it was agreed that the conditions set by the General Assembly for the resumption of the twenty-second session were now present, and that the work of the session should begin today.

Organization of work

6. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I now invite the Assembly to decide upon the procedure it wishes to follow in carrying out the work of this session. Representatives have, no doubt, taken note of the document [A/7090] which lists the three items remaining on the agenda of this session in accordance with the decision taken by the General Assembly on 19 December 1967.

7. At the beginning of the session the General Assembly referred item 28 (Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons) to the First Committee, requesting it to report to the plenary.

8. As a result of consultations which I have held, I understand that Member States wish the Committee so to organize its work as to ensure that this item is given careful scrutiny on the basis of the relevant documentation. If I hear no objection, may I take it that the Assembly still wishes agenda item 28 (a) to be dealt with by the First Committee?

It was so decided.

9. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): With regard to item 64 (Question of South West Africa), I wish to inform the Assembly that the Chairman of the Afro-Asian Group, H.E. Ambassador Shahi of Pakistan, has conveyed to me the Group's request that the General Assembly begin its consideration of this item at once, on the understanding that plenary meetings of the Assembly and meetings of the First Committee will not take place at the same time.

10. I consulted as many representatives of Member States as I could during the short time at my disposal and I have reached the conclusion that it is generally felt that items 28 (a) and 64 should be discussed immediately, provided that the meetings on those two questions are not held concurrently. I should therefore like to consult the Assembly on this matter.

11. If there are no objections, may I take it that the Assembly agrees to that procedure?

It was so decided.

12. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): Agenda item 94 (The situation in the Middle East) will of course, as decided earlier, remain before the General Assembly.

13. During the period which has elapsed since we interrupted our work another sovereign and independent State, Mauritius, has emerged as a result of the irreversible process of decolonization. As we all know, the State of Mauritius has submitted an application for admission to membership in the United Nations [A/7073] and the Security Council has unanimously recommended that its application should be accepted [A/7083].

14. I understand from the exchanges of views I have had with representatives of certain States and geographical groups that the Assembly wishes to decide now on the application of Mauritius for admission to the United Nations. May I take it that the General Assembly agrees with this procedure?

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 99

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

15. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I wish to draw the General Assembly's attention to the draft resolution on agenda item 99 which has been submitted by a number of countries [A/L.545 and Add.1 and 2].

16. May I take it that the General Assembly adopts this draft resolution by acclamation?

The draft resolution was adopted by acclamation [resolution 2371 (XXII)].

17. The president (translated from French): I declare the State of Mauritius admitted to membership in the United Nations.

The delegation of Mauritius was escorted to the place reserved for it in the General Assembly hall.

18. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I trust that I speak for all the Members of this Assembly in welcoming the young State of Mauritius to membership in the United Nations and in expressing to its Government and people our sincere congratulations and best wishes for their prosperity and for success in attaining their goals.

19. Mr. PARTHASARATHI (India): Mr. President, during the first part of the twenty-second session, my delegation had an opportunity to convey our greetings and felicitations to you on your assuming this high office and to salute your great nation as a bridge-builder and a pathfinder in Europe. Your masterly handling of the matters dealt with in the early part of the session has further confirmed us in our belief in your outstanding statesmanship and the dynamic and important role played by your great country in international affairs.

20. The resumed session has to consider important questions such as non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, the problem of South West Africa and the situation in the Middle East. My delegation has not the slightest doubt that under your able leadership the Assembly will be in a position to find adequate solutions to these intricate questions. We wish to assure you that my delegation will continue to extend the fullest co-operation to you in the performance of your tasks.

21. It is with great joy and pride that we welcome the emergence of Mauritius from colonial bondage to freedom and independence, and to its rightful place in this world body. My Prime Minister welcomed the independence of Mauritius with this message to the Prime Minister of Mauritius. She said:

"On the historic day of attainment of independence by your country, my colleagues in the Government of India and I send our warmest felicitations to the Government and the people of Mauritius. . . . I want you to know that you have our most sincere good wishes for your personal happiness and welfare. May the people of Mauritius prosper under your wise, dedicated and distinguished leadership. We look forward to an era of friendship and co-operation between our two countries."

22. The attainment of independence by any nation is always a matter of pleasure and of great emotional satisfaction to all freedom-loving countries. However, if I seek to express today the particular gratification of my delegation at the independence of Mauritius, it is due to the long-standing, close and indissoluble ties which have bound our two countries together in deep friendship and amity. These ties are deeply rooted in our similar cultural heritage, our colonial history and struggle for independence, our geographic proximity and above all our mutually cherished goals of freedom for all dependent peoples and universal peace.

23. My delegation, along with several others, has keenly followed the progress of Mauritius towards independence. We have had the occasion to express our feelings from the forums of the United Nations and to encourage the people of Mauritius to carry on the fight for freedom, undeterred by any setback. It is, therefore, not only with joy but with profound satisfaction that my delegation welcomes Mauritius to the comity of nations.

24. May I be permitted to reiterate my delegation's warm and sincere felicitations to the Government and people of Mauritius. We are confident that Mauritius, known for the spirit of enterprise and the courage of its people, will grow into a strong and prosperous nation under the outstanding leadership of its great Prime Minister, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, and that it will be a dedicated and active Member of the United Nations, wedded as it is to the principles on which this body was founded. We are equally confident that independent Mauritius will join our common struggle for freedom, peace and progress and will make a valuable contribution to the various fields of activity of the United Nations.

25. Mr. RABETAFIKA (Madagascar) (translated from French): There can be no pleasanter duty for any delegation, and particularly for my own, than to welcome a new Member State to our great international family.

26. Mauritius's request for admission represents the culmination of the political evolution of that country which, having acquired independence, has clearly indicated that it wishes to play its full part in the concert of nations.

27. At a time when, in this troubled world of ours, certain basic values seem to be challenged, if not discarded, it is a source of pleasure and deep satisfaction to find once again that the principles of peace, tolerance, co-operation and mutual respect have not been advocated in vain.

28. Thus we are firmly convinced that Mauritius, by its tradition, its history and its culture, will make a contribution to our Organization the unique nature of which will in no way detract from its universal import.

29. Perhaps in an Organization such as ours one should not emphasize the quality of uniqueness, but we must admit that countries situated in the western part of the Indian Ocean have certain common attitudes, actions and reactions, which to some extent condition their participation in international life.

*Resumption of the debate of the 1630th meeting.

30. In so saying Madagascar is not attempting to act as a spokesman for anyone else; but the age-old and traditional relations which my country has enjoyed, first with the Ile de France and then with the island of Mauritius, give us some title to attempt to analyse the enriching phenomenon of diversity in unity.

31. These general considerations lead my delegation to pay a tribute to the people and Government of Mauritius, who have been able to rise above the circumstances of their past, harmonize them into a human and brotherly whole, and fully realize their desire for independence. That continuous and comprehensive growth has been made possible through the far-sightedness and determination of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, the Prime Minister, who is held in great and friendly esteem in Madagascar, both among its leaders and among the Malagasy people as a whole.

32. For many years, Madagascar has followed with a sympathetic interest the policy carried out by Sir Seewoosagur with the backing of the Mauritian people, a policy aimed at development, social progress and national well-being.

33. Because the Malagasy Government shares the belief that priority should be given to the growth of democracy, to the welfare of the most humble as well as the most highly favoured without discrimination, with an overwhelming concern for justice and equity, my delegation would like to assure the representatives of Mauritius that they can count on its brotherly co-operation so that these same principles to which we are so deeply attached may prevail in our Organization.

34. At a moment of such historic importance for the Mauritian people, my delegation could not fail to mention the role of the erstwhile administering Power. The act which establishes the international sovereignty of Mauritius is clearly in the line of the liberal tradition which has been in evidence over the past twenty-years. We rejoice, and we hope that the same willingness and the same determination will be maintained whatever happens, particularly in those painful situations which are a constant appeal to our consciences and our sense of freedom.

35. Mr. BERARD (France) (translated from French): Mr. President, there is no need for me to say what a great pleasure it is for me to speak once again with you in the Chair.

36. At the Security Council's meeting on 18 April [1414th meeting] I had an opportunity to say how happy the French delegation was to welcome the independent State of Mauritius to our Organization.

37. Of course we are always happy when a new State comes to join our family of nations, but we rejoice particularly when that new State is one which is so closely linked to my own country by historical and cultural ties.

38. It has been 150 years since Mauritius ceased to have any political relations with France, but in that great island French is still the everyday language of a large section of the population, the language of culture among its élite, and the language of communication between its different ethnic groups. My country is particularly touched by this faithful adherence to our common culture.

39. For more than two centuries, the relationship between our two countries has been one of cultural exchange. Mauritius and, as the poet says, "its happy shores dazzled by the flames of a monotonous sun" have markedly inspired several of our greatest novelists and poets, and French literature has been enriched in turn by the contributions of many Mauritian writers, from Léoville l'Homme to Malcolm de Chazal.

40. The Prime Minister of Mauritius, when he honoured us with a visit to our capital in October 1967, was kind enough to say that his country intended to co-operate with mine, especially in intellectual and economic matters, and that he wished to see agreements concluded between our countries strengthening the existing cultural and historical ties. My countrymen were particularly receptive to that statement, and it is the wish of France that the friendship and cultural co-operation between the two countries may continue.

41. From this rostrum, I should like to renew our warmest wishes for happiness and prosperity to the newly independent State of Mauritius, to its leaders and its people, and especially to Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, its Prime Minister.

42. Mr. BUFFUM (United States of America): When the Security Council considered the application of Mauritius for membership in the United Nations just last week, the United States made it clear that we welcomed both the achievement of independence by Mauritius and its desire to participate fully in the work of this world Organization, with all the responsibilities, satisfactions and frustrations that United Nations membership entails.

43. Rather than reiterating the points made in our statement to the Council in support of the application of Mauritius, I should like to use this opportunity to extend a warm hand of friendship and welcome from the people and Government of the United States to all the people of Mauritius and to their distinguished Prime Minister, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, a leader who has commanded our respect for the important role he played in bringing his country to independence.

44. You, Mr. Prime Minister, represent a country whose population embraces diverse races, religions and nationalities. These diversities and your long history of dealing with them have provided that country with a wealth of experience with the problems, challenges, opportunities and richness which such diversities entail. We shall look to you to enrich us all by sharing that experience here at the United Nations.

45. We are gratified that you have joined us and we are determined to do all in our power, both as host country to the United Nations and as one of your fellow Members, to make your participation in this Organization enjoyable and satisfying. Our gratification and determination stem from a deep and renewed awareness of the meaning of independence for a former colony and of the importance which the concept of self-determination has under the United Nations Charter. Our gratification also stems from our realization of your determination to share responsibility

with all the other Members of the United Nations in seeking solutions to the world-wide problems which we face in common.

46. Mr. IGNATIEFF (Canada): Canada was happy to be a co-sponsor when last week the Security Council in resolution 249 (1968) recommended that the General Assembly admit Mauritius to membership in the United Nations. Therefore the Canadian delegation has particular reason to welcome the decision taken today by acclamation by the General Assembly, because of the special ties which this new Member of the United Nations has with Canada, since both our countries are members of the Commonwealth and both are bilingual in culture and tradition.

47. As a new nation in the world community, Mauritius faces a great challenge in the task of development. My country recognizes the responsibility of developed countries to assist those in the process of development to resolve the difficulties confronting them. Canada, for its part, is prepared to continue making available, through its external aid programme, technical assistance to Mauritius.

48. Mauritius has before it also great opportunities to participate in the valuable work of this Organization for peace and international co-operation, and we are particularly happy that on this auspicious occasion, when this association of Mauritius with the world Organization begins, the distinguished Prime Minister of this new nation, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, who has already contributed so richly to the political life and development of his country, should be present here in person, and I wish to express, on behalf of the Government and people of Canada, to the Prime Minister and to Mauritius our very best wishes for the future.

49. Mr. VAUGHAN (Barbados): It was a great honour and pleasure for the Barbados delegation to be a co-sponsor of the draft resolution [A/L.545 and Add.1 and 2] in accordance with which Mauritius has been admitted to membership of the United Nations.

50. After more than three centuries Mauritius, which has changed hands under no less than three imperialist Powers, has shaken off the shackles of colonial bondage and is now free. In the immediate circumstances in which it has occurred this is, by any standards, a great triumph, and we heartily congratulate the Government and people of Mauritius. Let me say too that my country, which became independent less than two years ago, shares to the full their aspiration and confidence in their ability to realize and maintain the ideals of the Charter of this Organization.

51. There are other respects in which my country is able to enter fully into the feelings of the Government and people of Mauritius at this hour. Mauritius is a predominantly agricultural country and, like Barbados, is tied to a sugar economy with all the problems and difficulties that such a nexus entails. It is not so densely populated as Barbados, yet it is a fact that economic and demographic pressures have, as in Barbados, contributed much to its constitutional development. Indeed, the same large-hearted, if somewhat self-willed, ruler who initiated a period of organic change in Barbados, went from there to Mauritius and effected a similar development. Above

all, though comparatively small in land mass and population, Mauritius brings to this Organization an enlightened example of the way in which people of different races, religions, languages and cultures can co-exist peacefully and strive harmoniously for the common goals of human dignity, progress and self-respect. No greater contribution can be required from a country seeking membership of this great Organization.

52. Admittedly, there have been other agencies which have contributed to this great result. We applaud Her Majesty's Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for its co-operation in bringing Mauritius to independence. My Government is equally appreciative of the splendid work which is being done in the field of decolonization by the Committee of Twenty-Four and by other organs of the United Nations family. This places the struggle for independence by any colony within a wider ambit and gives to its people a clearer and nobler vision.

53. Mr. President, permit me once again to extend our warmest congratulations to the Government and people of Mauritius.

54. Mr. AKWEI (Ghana): Today, as the delegation of Mauritius takes its place in this great Assembly, the United Nations is once again adding another glorious page to the history of human freedoms and national independence.

55. On 12 March 1968 the Government and people of Ghana rejoiced with the Government and people of Mauritius on the accession of Mauritius to independent statehood.

56. Ghana, together with other members of the group of Commonwealth States, is gratified to have sponsored the resolution, which has just been adopted by acclamation, admitting Mauritius to membership in this world body. Now, as the current Chairman of the group of Commonwealth States, I take great pleasure and pride in welcoming Mauritius to membership of this Organization of equal sovereign States. Our pleasure derives from the conviction that this Organization has welcomed into its ranks the newest member State resolved to contribute its share to world peace and human brotherhood. Our pride springs from the happy outcome of the determination of the people of Mauritius in rejecting colonialism in all its forms and manifestations.

57. This Organization cannot fail at this time to look back with pride on the role which it has played in exerting pressure on the colonial Power to accelerate the independence of Mauritius. Mauritius, with its rich and varied culture, the island whose exotic enchantment was sung by some of the poets of the Parnassian and Symbolist movements in French literature, has had a long history of contact with the peoples of many nations. Out of this long period of contact Mauritius has emerged as the meeting point of different races and civilizations and now provides a much needed example of inter-racial co-operation. This phenomenon alone is a good qualification for Mauritius' membership in the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Nations—Organizations which span different races and cultures.

58. Let us take renewed hope and confidence from the success of Mauritius that the racist territories of Southern Rhodesia and South Africa and the oppressed people of South West Africa will also before long be ushered into the sunlight of freedom and independence. As Mauritius, with its multiracial society, joins this Organization we are encouraged in our resolve to exert every effort to eradicate the twin evils of colonialism and racism from the face of the earth.

59. The Ghana delegation welcomes the delegation of Mauritius as they take their seats for the first time in this Assembly. The representatives of Ghana pledge their fullest collaboration with the representatives of Mauritius in our work here. To the Government and people of Mauritius Ghana extends its warmest good wishes as they embark on the exciting but arduous task of nation building.

60. May the peaceful development and progress, on which Mauritius is already so happily launched, continue and expand to the satisfaction of its people and the advancement of world peace and prosperity.

61. Mr. OTEMA ALLIMADI (Uganda): The group of African States has bestowed on me the honour of extending to the newest Member of this Organization a very warm welcome to our midst. At the same time, and in the same representative capacity, I wish to extend to the delegation, the Government and the people of Mauritius our congratulations on having travelled successfully the very difficult road towards political independence, an experience which we in the liberated portion of Africa have every reason to commemorate.

62. We wish the Government and people of Mauritius the best of luck in all their endeavours to achieve their aspiration of national identity both at home and here in the family of nations. We extend to the delegation of Mauritius the friendly hand of co-operation in our joint deliberations in this Organization.

63. We hope that the General Assembly will in due course welcome to membership many countries which are not yet liberated; I have in mind countries from all regions of the world, including South West Africa and Rhodesia.

64. I wish also, on behalf of my delegation, to extend our sincere congratulations to the Government and people of Mauritius upon this historic occasion in the life of their country and, in a joyful spirit, to welcome the Mauritius representatives as the 124th delegation to be seated in this Hall.

65. Mr. BELOKOLOS (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) (translated from Russian): I should like, on behalf of the group of socialist countries, to express our sincere welcome to the new State Member of this Organization, Mauritius.

66. The birth of the independent State of Mauritius constitutes yet another success for the forces of the national liberation movement and proof of the invincibility of the people's struggle for freedom and independence against the system of exploitation imposed by colonialism and imperialism.

67. The people of Mauritius, who have been living under British colonial domination for more than a

century and a half, have followed the road taken by many other former colonial peoples who, after a long, stubborn struggle, have freed themselves from colonial slavery and joined the family of independent States.

68. We wish to express our most sincere satisfaction at the Mauritian people's success in their legitimate struggle—a success which brings even closer the final abolition of the shameful system of colonialism.

69. In welcoming today the admission of the State of Mauritius to membership of the United Nations, the socialist countries, which call and have always called for a speedy and complete end to colonial rule, wish to convey to the Government and people of Mauritius their sincerest wishes for success in the speedy elimination of the onerous consequences of colonialism, the consolidation of their nation's sovereignty and the building of a new life, with progress and prosperity for their development as an independent nation.

70. Allow me also to express our confidence and hope that the State of Mauritius, as an independent country and a new Member of the United Nations, will be making its contribution, together with the other independent States of Asia and Africa, to the work of our Organization in the strengthening of peace and friendship among peoples.

71. Sir John CARTER (Guyana): In congratulating the Government and people of Mauritius upon their achievement of independence and in welcoming them to membership of the United Nations, I speak on behalf of a nation whose people sprang from origins as diverse as those of the people of Mauritius. It is especially for this reason that we welcome Mauritius here today, for we believe that plural societies such as those that our two countries have in common represent the true hope of the world. Such societies are a living witness of the evil lies of apartheid. In the self-respect which they offer to all their people, regardless of racial or cultural origins, such societies are in the vanguard of that true freedom which some day will triumph.

72. We express to His Excellency the Prime Minister our warmest good wishes, and our confidence that our two countries will find many opportunities here at the United Nations to work together for the benefit of the international community and of ourselves.

73. Mr. PIÑERA (Chile) (translated from Spanish): Mr. President, as we renew our confidence in the spirit of fairness with which you guide our debates, we also wish today to welcome a country that is with us for the first time. In renewing my country's confidence in you, allow me also to extend a special welcome to your family, which is with you and supports you.

74. In the United Nations family vast geographical and historical distances are forgotten in our adherence to the principles which make us neighbours and even brothers. Such are Mauritius and Chile, perhaps the two lands most remote from one another on earth: Mauritius in the Indian Ocean, and Chile very near the South Pole. However, this immense geographical distance does not prevent Chile from feeling very close to Mauritius.

75. The United Nations, based on the exercise of the sovereign independence of States, is greatly enriched by the presence of a new independent country. It is all the more enriched because the State of Mauritius has harmoniously integrated aspirations derived from many diverse origins, religions and cultures. Nations gain autonomy by sharing needs and difficulties.

76. Mauritius has a rural population with the highest density in the world, and a rapidly rising birth rate. That is a direct challenge to the courage and unity of this new Member of the United Nations, which today sets us a new example.

77. This is not my delegation's first contact with Mauritius. A few weeks ago at New Delhi, at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, we had the honour to welcome Mauritius as a new member of that great body and to work with it on more than one committee in the defence of common views. For us, therefore, Mauritius is more than the 124th State Member of the United Nations; it is a country with which we have already worked and hope to continue to work in the defence of our common interests.

78. With deep emotion I welcome this new Member to the community of nations today; and I would add that Mauritius is joining this Organization at the culmination of its history. Its presence will bring even closer the long-sought universality of the United Nations, which expects a bold and original contribution from Mauritius.

79. I wish today modestly to convey the greetings of the Government and people of Chile to the people of Mauritius, so ably represented by their Prime Minister Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam. Chile extends its most fraternal welcome to the rulers and people of Mauritius.

80. Mr. KJARTANSSON (Iceland): It is a great privilege to welcome Mauritius to membership in our Organization. I do so on behalf of those members of the group of Western European and other States that have not already spoken or are not going to speak individually for themselves. So many eloquent words have already been spoken that I believe I can limit myself to joining in the chorus of congratulations and good wishes. The advent of a new and independent State to the community of nations is always a joy. For me as a representative of an island country, it is a particular pleasure to welcome the distinguished Prime Minister and the delegation of another island nation. I wish to assure them that my country, as well as all the members of the group of Western European and other States, is looking forward to friendly and fruitful co-operation with them within this world Organization.

81. Mr. SHAHI (Pakistan): Mr. President, my delegation takes great satisfaction in the fact that you will be presiding over this resumed session of the General Assembly which is charged with the consideration of some of the most momentous issues that have confronted the United Nations. I shall have several opportunities, in due course, to state the views of my Government on the question of South West Africa and on the action to be taken on the draft non-proliferation treaty submitted to the General

Assembly by the two Co-Chairmen of the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee.

82. On this occasion I should like to extend the sincere felicitations of my Government to Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, to his Government and to the people of Mauritius on the unanimous admission of their country to membership of the United Nations. Speaking in the Security Council on 18 April last, I expressed confidence

"... that the Government of Mauritius will surmount the difficulties that confront new nations" in general "and will do its utmost to promote respect for human rights, a fundamental principle of the Charter... and one of cardinal importance to the governments of multiracial societies."

83. It is not necessary for my delegation to dwell at this moment on the many ties of history and culture that the people of Mauritius have in common with the people of Pakistan. With the achievement of independence by the island, these links are reinforced by the political interest of Pakistan in the preservation of the independence and sovereignty of Mauritius and in the promotion of the prosperity and welfare of the communities that constitute its people. Under Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam's dedicated and inspiring leadership, we have not doubt that the people of Mauritius will realize their deepest aspirations.

84. It is my privilege and pleasure, on behalf of all the Asian States Members of the United Nations, to extend our warmest welcome to Mauritius as it joins our ranks and to express our best wishes to its people in their march along the high road of independence.

85. Lord CARADON (United Kingdom): We warmly welcome you, Mr. President, on your return to direct our deliberations, and all of us rejoice today in welcoming a new Member to the United Nations. Especially we of the Commonwealth welcome Mauritius to this world assembly of free nations.

86. In the Commonwealth we are proud of the equality amongst us. Now that Mauritius has become the twenty-seventh independent nation of the Commonwealth, we welcome it as an equal partner. We boast that amongst us there is no precedence and no privilege on grounds of age or size or geography or race or origin. The last shall be first and the first shall be last. It was President Nyerere of Tanzania who said:

"The Commonwealth binds together in friendship and likemindedness the astonishing variety of nations great and small, without distinction between them and without discrimination amongst them."

87. My country had responsibility in Mauritius for more than a hundred and fifty years. The people of the island have advanced to independence on a well-trodden road. They have advanced, as in other countries under British administration, through adult suffrage, through representative government, with the executive responsible to the elected legislature, and with an independent judiciary. There was eventually a series of constitutional conferences and then a final general election in which all the people were able freely to express their views before independence was achieved.

88. These are the methods which have been tested and tried in the Commonwealth, and I warmly acknowledge, in particular, the generous comment on that record made this afternoon by the representatives of Madagascar, Barbados and other States. It is on this broad road of free government that the peoples of the Commonwealth, a quarter of the population of the whole world, have advanced to nationhood.

89. We are glad, I am sure, that the Prime Minister of Mauritius, the Hon. Dr. Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, could be here to listen to the speeches of welcome today. He has long been an outstanding leader among his people. Twenty years ago he advanced with his party to win in the first elections held in Mauritius under adult suffrage. He has always been robust and positive and progressive, a happy warrior in the rough-and-tumble of democratic political life. To him most of all is due the credit for the courageous decision to go forward confidently into independence. He knows as well as anyone the difficulties and indeed the dangers which his country faces, and all of us will join today in wishing him and all his countrymen well, in the hope that under resolute leadership Mauritius will draw from its rich diversity strength and unity for the future.

90. We specially wish the Prime Minister well in his reconstruction and development programme. Many are giving practical support, including support through the Commonwealth Assistance Plan and the United Nations Development Programme. British aid will continue; in this financial year it stands at over 4,000,000 pounds.

91. On this happy day, all of us—French and English, African and Asian, East and West—have vied with each other in a competition of congratulation and a chorus of sincere good wishes. May our international unanimity be a welcome augury for the future of Mauritius, a future, so we pray, of unity and harmony and increasing good fortune.

92. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I have the honour and the pleasure to invite H.E. Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, the Prime Minister of Mauritius, to address the General Assembly.

93. Sir Seewoosagur RAMGOOLAM: Mr. President, I should like to express to you and to all the distinguished representatives my cordial thanks for the admission of my country to the United Nations. My special thanks go to those Member States which have so generously sponsored and co-sponsored our application for membership. It is gratifying to acknowledge the wide response and welcome Mauritius has received from Members of the United Nations. By this act, you have given formal consecration to the accession of Mauritius to the status of a sovereign independent State. Although I come from a small country, my Government and the people of Mauritius are very conscious of the honour of belonging to this great Assembly, and we can assure you that we shall strive to uphold the great ideals which are enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and will play fully our part in the struggle for justice, racial equality, peace and understanding among nations.

94. This is indeed a solemn moment in the history of my country. I stand here in all humility, in the

midst of this great world community as the symbol of the hope of my people that through the effort of the United Nations mankind will really see the ultimate fulfilment and practical realization of the principles and purposes to which men and women in this august Assembly have dedicated themselves. In that grand and noble endeavour, we as a small nation will bring our contribution, however modest it may be, to the shaping of the destiny of a better world—a contribution which we hope will lead towards a new and broader world civilization in which man's essential needs will transcend considerations of national self-interest.

95. I also bring to you, Mr. President and distinguished representatives, the greetings and good wishes of my country which after successive periods of colonization by the Dutch, the French and the British, is now looking forward to an era of fruitful collaboration and partnership with all nations.

96. Mauritius has a rich historical background and it has in the past played a notable part in some of the great events which have moulded the course of history. Mauritius is a densely populated island, and over an area of 720 square miles live a population of almost 800,000. It is a view commonly held among some scholars that our island was visited by Dravidian seamen in pre-Aryan days, and during the time of their great awakening, the Arabs sighted Mauritius in the early part of the Christian era while plying between India and the Red Sea.

97. However, it was the Dutch who took formal possession of the Island in the 17th century and gave it its present name. But colonization proper was started earnestly by the French who succeeded the Dutch, and France has left its lasting imprint on the history of Mauritius. Such indeed has been the impact of French culture and civilization on the life of the people that even those who came from other lands have been profoundly influenced by it. The meeting of the peoples of Asia, Africa, and the West in Mauritius has enriched our precious heritage, and as I said in France during my last visit:

"Sovereign Mauritius will ally itself still more closely with France, as with the other countries from which our forefathers came. Thus this remote island in the Indian Ocean will become one of the most important meeting places of East and West."^{1/}

98. Towards the end of the Napoleonic Wars, in 1810, Britain conquered Mauritius. Because of the island's proximity with India, Mauritius was captured from the French with the help of Indian troops from Bengal, Madras and Ceylon. British power in the Indian Ocean became supreme after the annexation of Mauritius to the British Crown and British rule was to last until the accession of Mauritius to independence on 12 March 1968. In the course of European colonization of Mauritius, people from Africa and Asia came to its shores and they have all played a decisive part in the progress and development of the island. Ever since, the people of Mauritius have been trying to promote the maintenance of contrasted cultures within the framework of a wider community to which each group could contribute its own share.

^{1/} Spoken in French.

99. It is indeed true to say that although Mauritius has drawn its cultural inspiration from Africa, Asia and Europe, yet it has succeeded to a remarkable degree in evolving a distinct Mauritian way of life. The visitor to Mauritius is impressed by the fact that the average Mauritians have more in common with each other than with the native inhabitants of the land of their forbears. Indeed, it has been the privilege of my small country that its citizens have inherited the influence of the best traditions of the East and of the West. And this influence is noticeable in the works of our poets and writers as has just been pointed out by many speakers who have preceded me.

100. I spoke a little while ago of the basic principles of the United Nations and of its work for the oppressed peoples who have been struggling for the recognition of their rights to nationhood. We are all here pledged to this great ideal, and indeed all Member States have with great fervour and dedication been working to achieve these great ends we all hold in common. But it is still unfortunately true that in many areas of the world denial of human rights, hatred and violence are still raising their ugly heads, and human beings are being subjected to segregation from one another because of the colour of their skin or their ways of life which appear alien to the selfish outlook of a small minority. It is a statistical fact that more than half of the world's population is forced to live in conditions where human dignity and social justice have hardly any meaning. Even in some of the progressive countries which have been the bulwark of democracy, men of goodwill are constantly trying to find a formula by which the under-privileged can banish inequality and fear and aspire to a place in the sun.

101. We in Mauritius have a long tradition of mutual respect, tolerance and understanding, despite the occasional evil exploitation of our diversity. Our social customs and habits have transcended racial and cultural differences. Although much has been achieved in the past two years in the field of economic and social development, Mauritius, like other developing countries, is bedevilled by the rapid rate of population growth. As a sequel, unemployment is a cause of great anxiety, for the rapid increase in the birth rate is a constant and positive threat to our present standard of living. We are taking steps to contain this serious population explosion, and to counteract it a comprehensive programme of family planning is being launched.

102. Fully conscious of the seriousness of the problem, the Mauritian Government has embarked on the diversification of our economy. Great efforts are also being made to stimulate the production of tea, tobacco and food crops, and a number of manufacturing industries have been set up. We have also been giving

careful consideration to the possibilities of emigration as a means of easing our unemployment problem. In this respect I am glad to say that a large number of Mauritians who have emigrated to countries like Britain, Australia and Canada are actively contributing towards the development of those countries. I should like to add that Mauritian workers are efficient, intelligent and adaptable, and have proved to be an asset to those countries which have welcomed them. We all know that there are yet many large areas of the world available for settlement, whereas in other territories like Mauritius there is a serious surplus of human resources. It is precisely in this vital task of revolutionizing the social and economic set-up of Mauritius that my people are looking forward to a close and fruitful partnership with Member States of the United Nations.

103. Here, with your permission, Mr. President, I should like to avail myself of this opportunity to express the gratitude of my Government and my country for the help and assistance that have already come to us from these quarters and the various United Nations agencies; and I might add in this context how deeply indebted we are to countries like Britain, France, India, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the United States of America and Pakistan, which have sympathized in a practical way with the problems we have been facing.

104. We are very much aware of the fact that economic stability and world peace depend so much on the understanding between individual groups at a national level, as well as in the field of international relations, and on the success achieved by many countries in their efforts to give a reasonable standard of living to their populations. It is in this great task of bridging the gap between the rich and the poor that we join our efforts to dedicate ourselves, together with other Member States forming part of this Assembly.

105. To conclude, allow me on behalf of my delegation and my country to renew our pledge to carry out our obligations under the United Nations Charter and our firm determination to stand by the great principles which inspire this comity of nations in its pursuit of peace and happiness.

106. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I thank the Prime Minister of Mauritius for his statement.

107. I should like to inform the Assembly that the flag of the new Member State will be hoisted at a ceremony scheduled to take place tomorrow at 2.45 p.m., in front of the delegates' entrance.

The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m.