

Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea

1973-1982

Concluded at Montego Bay, Jamaica on 10 December 1982

Document:-

A/CONF.62/SR.53

53rd Plenary Meeting

Extract from the *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, Volume IV (Summary Records, Plenary, General Committee, First, Second and Third Committees, as well as Documents of the Conference, Third Session)*

53rd meeting

Thursday, 27 March 1975, at 10.55 a.m.

President: Mr. H. S. AMERASINGHE (Sri Lanka).

Tribute to the memory of King Faisal of Saudi Arabia

1. The PRESIDENT said that the Conference was holding a special meeting to pay tribute to the late King Faisal of Saudi Arabia. The world had been shocked by the news of his assassination at a ceremony of great significance to Moslems everywhere, that marking the Prophet's birthday.

2. King Faisal had become Viceroy, Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief 11 years previously and had been proclaimed King of Saudi Arabia 8 months later. Even then his gift for leadership and diplomacy had long been acknowledged; he had led his country's delegation at the San Francisco Conference and at the first session of the General Assembly.

3. His reign had not been a mere display of the panoply of power but a demonstration of its reality. To adapt the words of Pericles, wealth and power for him had not been a matter for vainglory, but a means of achievement. He had used his fabulous wealth wisely and prudently to transform and modernize Saudi Arabian society, paying special attention to the educational and health needs of his subjects, and had not spared himself in their service. He himself had lived a modest and simple life.

4. He had given munificently from his vast resources to strengthen the economies of developing countries affected by economic crises. With the co-operation of other oil-producing countries, he had stormed the citadel of exclusive economic power and rocked it to its foundations, thereby giving strong impetus to the movement to establish a new international economic order within which prosperity would not be the privilege of a few but would be accessible to the many. It had not been given to him to witness the fulfilment of that dream, but if and when the new international economic order was created, he would be remembered as one of its principal architects.

5. With King Faisal's death the Saudi Arabians had lost an enlightened and benevolent ruler who had served his people well, a redoubtable champion of their rights who had combined strength with moderation in diplomacy. The Islamic world had lost a revered and devout spiritual leader. The developing world had lost a sincere and generous friend who had given clear evidence of his desire to help it in its struggle for economic growth and to free itself from the trammels of economic dependence. The world as a whole had lost a statesman of towering stature whose beneficial influence and moderation had begun to make a powerful impact in some of the most explosive international disputes.

6. The late King had left a formidable task to his successor but had also bequeathed a legacy of achievement and a high standing for his country in international affairs. On behalf of the Conference, he expressed to the family of the late King and to his Government and people heartfelt condolences, and wished the new ruler, King Khaled, every success in promoting the well-being and happiness of his people and of the Arab peoples as a whole. A new era had been inaugurated in the Arab world, and he hoped it would bring

peace and justice to all peoples in the Middle East, thus fulfilling King Faisal's most fervent hope.

On the proposal of the President, the representatives observed a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of King Faisal.

7. Mr. ZULETA (Special Representative of the Secretary-General) read out the following statement on behalf of the Secretary-General:

"I was shocked and saddened by the news of the tragic death of His Majesty King Faisal of Saudi Arabia. As one of the most influential leaders of the Middle East, King Faisal played a central role in a time of rapid evolution. In the early years of the United Nations he was a familiar figure in this house as the representative of his country in the General Assembly. His wisdom and statesmanship will be sorely missed at this critical juncture in the history of the Middle East."

8. Mr. YASSEEN (Iraq), speaking on behalf of the group of Arab States, said that they were grief-stricken as they paid tribute to King Faisal, whose death was a grave loss to his nation, the Arab countries and the entire world. Faisal had been a great monarch: his untiring efforts to solve many international problems had been the subject of admiration, and his achievements were known to all. His loss had come at a difficult time, when grave political and economic events were impending.

9. On behalf of the group of Arab States and his own delegation, he expressed most sincere condolences to the family of the late King and to the Saudi Arabian delegation, and the hope that consolation would spring from the actions of King Faisal's successor, His Majesty King Khaled.

10. Mr. FADIGA (Ivory Coast), speaking on behalf of the group of African States and in his personal capacity, paid tribute to King Faisal as an outstanding statesman and spiritual leader who had changed the course of history and had promoted greater justice between peoples.

11. King Faisal had sought first and foremost to be the architect of a modern Saudi Arabia and had wanted it to play its part in the concert of nations, to develop and to help others to develop. For that, a man of his exceptional qualities had been needed. Neither his power nor his prestige had ever diminished his deep faith or the nobility which in men of the desert subordinated material things to spiritual values. Guardian of the Holy Places and spiritual head of millions, he had maintained his simplicity, courtesy and justice towards the humblest, which was the mark of a leader of men.

12. Africans would never forget his devotion to solidarity, fraternity and co-operation between the Arab and African worlds. He had given generous help to many African countries under bilateral agreements and, together with other heads of States, had given practical proof of solidarity between nations of the third world and particularly between Arab and African peoples. At a time when co-operation between Arabs and Africans had received new impetus, one of its strongest advocates had been removed

from the international scene. He extended his sympathy to the delegation of Saudi Arabia, to King Khaled, his Government and people, and to the royal family.

13. All should find consolation in the words of the Koran: "We belong to God, and to him we return."

14. Mr. FARES (Democratic Yemen), speaking on behalf of the group of Asian States, expressed their deep sorrow and grief at the loss which had been suffered by the Arab and Islamic countries and the world in general. The late King Faisal had been a leader of international stature, known for his discretion, farsightedness, wisdom and experience. During his long period in power he had acquired a great reputation, and achieved a prominent place in international politics: his name would be remembered in history.

15. On behalf of the Asian group and his own delegation, he expressed deep condolences to the delegation of Saudi Arabia, to the Saudi Arabian Government and people and to the family of the late King, and wished the new monarch all success as the future leader of his country.

16. Mr. YANKOV (Bulgaria), speaking on behalf of the delegation of the Eastern European States, expressed their heartfelt sympathy to the delegation of Saudi Arabia. The assassination of King Faisal, one of the most distinguished statesmen in the Middle East, had been a serious blow to all who supported the Arab nations in their struggle for a just solution of the Middle East crisis, for the liberation of the occupied territories and for the establishment of lasting peace in the area. He assured the Arab people of the fullest support of the socialist peoples in their efforts to promote social justice, progress and international co-operation.

17. Mr. ZEGERS (Chile), speaking on behalf of the group of Latin American States, said that the death of King Faisal was an irreparable loss for his people, the Arab nations and the international community in general. The King had been a faithful servant of his State for 50 years and had seen his people take its place among the nations which had set the course of the international community in the post-war era.

18. The late King had been a nationalist with an almost mystical devotion to the tasks of state and to the interests of his people. He had served his people in a spirit of humility, and his last words before his spirit returned to the God whom he had served devoutly throughout his life had been a call for the unity of Saudi Arabia. But his nationalism had not prevented him from serving the cause of international understanding; he had been a defender of the developing countries and of the cause of peace.

19. For the Latin American States, which were linked to the Arab world not only by the common cause of economic development but by racial and cultural ties which could be traced back to the Iberian Peninsula, King Faisal's death was a source of particular grief. The Latin American group asked the Saudi Arabian delegation to transmit its sincere condolences to the Saudi Arabian Government and people.

20. Mr. RIPHAGEN (Netherlands), speaking on behalf of the group of Western European and other States, paid tribute to the memory of King Faisal and conveyed the condolences of the delegations in the group to the late King's family and to the people of Saudi Arabia.

21. King Faisal had shaped the modern Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and had demonstrated remarkable wisdom and powers of leadership. He had played an influential role not

only in Arabia but also in international politics, and his death was a loss to the whole world.

22. Mr. KEDADI (Tunisia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said that all delegations had been deeply shocked and grieved by the news of King Faisal's death. The King had played a prominent part in international politics for 40 years and had contributed to the establishment of the United Nations as the leader of the Saudi Arabian delegation to the San Francisco Conference in 1945. His position among the leaders of the non-aligned countries and his role in Afro-Arab rapprochement were known to all. He had promoted co-operation among the countries of the third world in their efforts to foster economic development and improve the conditions of their peoples.

23. He asked the Saudi Arabian delegation to convey the sincere condolences of the Group of 77, as well as those of his own delegation, to the Government and people of Saudi Arabia.

24. Mr. ANWAR SANI (Indonesia), speaking on behalf of the Association of South East Asian Nations, expressed their deep sorrow and their sincere condolences on the tragic death of King Faisal. King Faisal had been a prominent leader in the Arab world and had played a constructive role in international affairs. His death was a serious loss to the entire international community.

25. His Government had always maintained close and friendly relations with Saudi Arabia and it had great respect for the protector of the Holy Places of Islam. For many years, through the annual pilgrimage to Mecca, many thousands of Indonesians had had an opportunity of appreciating the hospitality of the King and people of Saudi Arabia. During his life, King Faisal had shown sympathy for the aspirations of the Indonesian people, and the Association of South East Asian Nations as a whole mourned his tragic death.

26. Mr. CREMIN (Ireland), speaking on behalf of the European Economic Community, said that he had learned of the death of King Faisal with the greatest sorrow. The King had been a statesman of outstanding influence who, while playing a decisive part in international affairs, had also shown his deep concern for his people's welfare by the dedication with which he had pursued policies of economic and social betterment at home. At the same time, he had been spiritual leader of one of the great religions of the world, Islam, a religion which linked the Arab States, with which Europe had long had cordial relations. It was particularly distressing that the King should have been struck down in the course of a ceremony commemorating the birth of the founder of Islam, and also on a day of significance for another religion profoundly respected by the Prophet.

27. The delegations of the nine countries of the European Economic Community shared the grief of the Government and people of Saudi Arabia at the tragic event and conveyed their deepest sympathy to the Saudi Arabian delegation.

28. Mr. EVENSEN (Norway), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, extended sincere and heartfelt condolences to the people and Government of Saudi Arabia and to its royal family on the tragic death of King Faisal.

29. With the passing of the King, the Arab and Islamic world and the international community as a whole had lost

a leader of immense stature. While his devoutness, integrity, idealism and sense of purpose made him a spiritual leader of the first order, his grasp of political reality, farsightedness and sense of perspective had established him as a leading statesman in a world that was undergoing far-reaching structural changes. The loss of such a leader was particularly tragic in view of the serious situation in the Middle East.

30. Mr. AL-SABAH (Kuwait) said that it was with deep sorrow and grief that his delegation paid tribute to the memory of King Faisal of Saudi Arabia. His tragic death was particularly poignant for Kuwait because of the family ties which existed between the two countries and because of their unity of creed. King Faisal had been the father of his people and a leader in their struggle to achieve victory and dignity; he had spared no efforts to promote the development of his nation.

31. He himself had been particularly affected by the news since he had had the honour of meeting King Faisal only a few days before his death. He expressed his delegation's deep sympathy to the family of the late King, and to the Government and people of Saudi Arabia.

32. Mr. AL-ATYIAH (Qatar) said that his delegation shared the sorrow of all at the loss of a great leader. King Faisal had died at a time when world affairs were at a difficult stage and needed understanding and co-operation. The current meeting was a demonstration of the international community's desire to pay tribute to his achievements in promoting international rapprochement. The only consolation was that his message of love and brotherhood would survive him. His delegation expressed its condolences to the bereaved family and to the Government and people of Saudi Arabia.

33. Mr. SHEHAB (Egypt) said that his delegation expressed its condolences not only to the Arab States and the people of Islam, but to all peace-loving nations. The sorrow at the loss of a man of peace who had protected the rights of all Arabs and preserved the sacred lands of Islam was world-wide. His efforts in the political and economic fields had had a great impact, and he had worked to ensure the rights of Arabs and Palestinians and to maintain the Arab character of Jerusalem. Egypt could never forget his stand following the 1967 aggression when he had promised that all Arab resources would be used to regain the occupied lands and for reconstruction. He had also played an important role in helping to pave the way for the victories of the 1973 war. A new city at the entrance to the Suez Canal had been named after King Faisal in tribute to his achievements.

34. At the international level, King Faisal had been one of the founders of the United Nations and had helped to draft its Charter. He had been a model king, who had worked for his people and international peace, and those qualities had made him the equal of other world leaders.

35. Mr. SADI (Jordan) said that his country felt great grief at the loss of a great pioneer and prominent Islamic leader. The relationship that had existed between King Faisal and King Hussein and between Saudi Arabia and Jordan made his death a common loss. He expressed his delegation's deep condolences to the Government and people of Saudi Arabia and to all Arab and Islamic nations.

36. Mr. ABDUL KADIR (Malaysia) expressed his delegation's condolences to the Saudi Arabian delegation on the death of King Faisal. He had been a great and enlightened

leader, and his country had achieved much progress under his rule. King Faisal had been a staunch friend of Malaysia.

37. Mr. HASSAN (Sudan) said that King Faisal had served humanity and had sought to obtain prosperity for all Arab and Islamic peoples. He had aided the developing countries ever since the establishment of the United Nations. Sudan shared the loss felt by all Arabs and all Islam, and wished the new King every success.

38. Mr. ROBLEH (Somalia) said that the world had lost a truly great leader; that loss was a particularly grievous one for millions of Moslems. King Faisal had been a dependable custodian of the holiest Moslem shrines and the champion of Islamic solidarity. Even though his country was wealthy, he himself had shunned material things and had led a frugal life; indeed, his greatness had lain in his asceticism and simplicity.

39. King Faisal had valued human dignity, hated the subjugation of man by man, condemned racial discrimination and colonialism in southern Africa and supported the cause of the Palestinians and other liberation movements. He had contributed to the solidarity of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and to the recently established African-Asian Development Bank. He had always been ready to assist helpless victims of natural disasters.

40. King Faisal would be sorely missed by the Somali people, who had loved and revered him. The best tribute to a man who had dedicated his life to peace and understanding would be to rededicate oneself to his causes.

41. His delegation expressed its condolences to the new King, his family and to all the Saudi Arabian people.

42. Mr. HUMAIDAN (United Arab Emirates) expressed his delegation's deep sorrow and regret at the passing of King Faisal at a crucial moment in the struggle to restore usurped Arab lands. His work in seeking just and lasting peace and the restoration of the rights of others would be missed by the international community.

43. He asked the Saudi Arabian delegation to convey to the family of King Faisal and to the Government and people of Saudi Arabia the deep sympathy of the people of the United Arab Emirates.

44. Mr. EL BACCOUCH (Libyan Arab Republic) said that the loss of King Faisal had caused great sorrow to all Arabs, to Islam and to the international community. The people of the Libyan Arab Republic sympathized with the family of King Faisal and the Government and people of Saudi Arabia.

45. Mr. AL-NIMER (Bahrain) said that his delegation was deeply grieved by the loss of King Faisal. The Arabs had lost a great leader, who had devoted himself to international peace and security and the pursuit of economic stability and prosperity for his nation. He had believed that justice would prevail and that brotherhood and love were sublime objectives: to that end, he had humbly served Moslems and had been a worthy custodian of Islam's sacred shrines. He had also willingly assisted his brothers in the developing countries.

46. Bahrain had strong ties with Saudi Arabia, and King Faisal had sought to strengthen those relations. The people and Government of Bahrain expressed their condolences to their brothers in Saudi Arabia.

47. Mr. MEDJAD (Algeria) said that the world had been shaken by the loss of a man who had striven for an international community based on equity and justice. His great qualities of wisdom and farsightedness had enabled him to achieve progress for his country and to give it its rightful place in the community of nations. He had striven to secure understanding and co-operation on all issues, and his loss was felt all the more because the region in which he had lived had been experiencing abnormal conditions for over a quarter of a century; it was a region in which human rights and international conventions and resolutions were being flouted.
48. Mr. KHARCHI (Mauritania) paid tribute to King Faisal, the custodian of the sacred shrines of Mecca and Medina and protector of Islam, a man whose manifold qualities and unflagging efforts to achieve world peace were known to all.
49. He expressed his sincere condolences to the Saudi Arabian delegation and to the royal family, and extended his best wishes to the late King's successor.
50. Mr. BENNOUNA (Morocco) said that the many virtues of the late King were universally acknowledged; Morocco would remember him in particular for his success in achieving unity among the ranks of Arabs and Moslems. It was the late King who, together with the King of Morocco, had convened the first Islamic Conference at Rabat in 1963, and the stand he had taken then, and at subsequent international and regional conferences, would not be forgotten.
51. He extended his sincere condolences to the Saudi Arabian people on the loss of a great leader.
52. Mr. EL-FATTAL (Syrian Arab Republic) said that no words could adequately express the feelings of the Arab nations at the loss of a great man at a crucial point in the struggle for development and liberation. The late King Faisal had devoted his life and a wealth of resources to the struggle to free the Arab nations.
53. He extended his condolences to the Saudi Arabian people and Government and to the royal family.
54. Mr. AL TOOBI (Oman) said that the late King had played a prominent role in efforts to attain world peace and justice, and his loss was one that would be felt not only by Saudi Arabia but by the whole world. He expressed his delegation's condolences to the Saudi Arabian people and Government and to the royal family.
55. Mr. AL DEIRI (League of Arab States), speaking at the invitation of the President, said that the late King had been renowned for his wisdom and courage. He had throughout his life pursued noble ideals of humanity and justice and had never spared himself in a good cause.
56. The Arab nations had lost a leader of great stature, who had acted as their faithful spokesman and had supported their cause over the years, though ever mindful of international requirements. His memory would remain enshrined in the hearts of all Arab peoples.
57. Mr. HUSSEIN (Palestine Liberation Organization), speaking at the invitation of the President, said that the Palestinian peoples were deeply saddened and shocked at the loss of one of the greatest leaders of the third world. The late King would be remembered for his outstanding contribution to the Arab cause; he had, in addition, helped the countries of the third world to regain their rights and to control their own resources. He had also played an important role in attaining peace in his native region for the benefit of all mankind.
58. He expressed his sincere condolences to the Saudi Arabian delegation and people. It was his hope that Saudi Arabia would continue to prosper under King Faisal's successor.
59. Mr. KHARAS (Pakistan) said that, because of the fraternal relations between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan and of the high esteem in which the late King had been held by all the people of Pakistan, the sense of grief felt throughout the country was profound. The late King had played a leading role in ensuring the success of the Islamic Conference, to which Pakistan had been host, and had endeared himself to the people of Pakistan by his faith and unassuming personality. His delegation extended its deep sympathy to the Saudi Arabian people.
60. The world had lost a great and respected statesman whose voice in world councils was one of moderation and compassion. He had devoted his life to the cause of Islamic solidarity and world peace, and had made an outstanding contribution to the promotion of international understanding. His passing would be universally mourned. As a mark of respect and affection, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, together with the Chairman of the Senate and the Speaker of the National Assembly, had flown to Riyadh to join in the funeral prayers for the late King.
61. He extended his delegation's best wishes to the new monarch of Saudi Arabia.
62. Mr. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh) expressed to the Saudian Arabian Government and people the sincere condolences of the President, Government and people of Bangladesh.
63. The late King, a great spiritual leader of the Islamic world, had fought for a noble cause which would benefit both existing and future generations. He had been an international figure and as such belonged not to Saudi Arabia alone but to the whole world. He had been a statesman who had worked untiringly to make his visions of a new order of peace and tranquility for all humanity a reality. Moreover, he had wisely acquired the power to implement his visions for the benefit of his people. Though moderate of expression, his inherent strength of mind and courage had been manifest.
64. He himself was proud to have known the late King and to have been able to convey to him the greetings and good wishes of the people of Bangladesh and to sense immediately his sympathy for them. Always receptive to the needs of those who suffered, he had not hesitated to provide aid when Bangladesh was afflicted by devastating floods, and for that he would be gratefully remembered. The world's loss was irreparable but the spirit of King Faisal would live on to inspire peoples to fight for a just cause.
65. He conveyed the best wishes of the President, Government and people of Bangladesh to His Majesty King Khaled in carrying out the heavy task ahead.
66. Mr. STEVENSON (United States of America) said that his delegation deeply regretted the tragic death of His Majesty King Faisal, who had been a close friend of the United States and a leader whose wisdom had earned the respect of the entire world. All shared the loss of the people

of the Arab world and of Islam at his untimely death. His achievements for his people would be long remembered. His delegation expressed its condolences to the delegation of Saudi Arabia and asked it to convey the sympathy of the United States Government to the royal family and the people of Saudi Arabia.

67. Mr. GOKHALE (India) said that his delegation had been grieved to learn of the death of His Majesty King Faisal, and conveyed its deepest condolences to the Saudi Arabian delegation and, through it, to the Government and people of Saudi Arabia and to the bereaved family.

68. In an official statement, the Government of India had expressed its deep regret upon learning of the assassination of King Faisal, under whose leadership the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had been making rapid progress in its development. It had gone on to state that His Majesty had played an extremely constructive role in the Arab world and that his wisdom, statesmanship and experienced leadership would be missed during the forthcoming critical days in West Asia.

69. The President of India would represent India at the funeral.

70. Mr. WILLESSEE (Australia) conveyed to the people of Saudi Arabia, through their delegation, the deep sympathy of the people and Government of Australia.

71. During his years of rule, King Faisal had gained world-wide respect not only for his wise policies but also for his moderation and restraint. Upon his accession, he had promised to accelerate the economic, social and administrative development of his country, and he had achieved much in those fields. On the international scene, he had been regarded as a leader of the Arab peoples of the highest standing, judgment and influence, to whom all could look for constructive guidance.

72. All those present were unanimous in their condemnation of senseless violence which, in the latest act, had assumed such tragic dimensions. The destruction of a leader struck at the sinews of society. His country knew that the people of Saudi Arabia had the strength and resilience to resist the attack on them; but the people of Australia shared their loss, and mourned with them.

73. Mr. SADEGHI (Iran) said that his delegation had been shocked to learn of the death of His Majesty King Faisal. No words could express his delegation's deep sorrow at the loss of a great leader who had been world-renowned as a dedicated and faithful statesman.

74. He asked the Saudi Arabian delegation to convey his delegation's profound sorrow to the royal family and to the Government and people of Saudi Arabia.

75. In conclusion, he wished His Majesty King Khaled every success and power in leading the great nation of Saudi Arabia.

76. Mr. OGUNDERE (Nigeria) expressed his delegation's heartfelt condolences to the Saudi Arabian delegation and to the Government and people of Saudi Arabia on the occasion of the tragic death of His Majesty King Faisal, a monarch of great piety and wisdom. His death had been a great loss not only to the Arab world, for whom he had been a great leader and loving father, but also to the entire national community, which had recognized him as a world leader and great statesman. He had played a memorable role

in the modernization of his own country and symbolized the political and religious unity of his people.

77. Nigeria had strong links with Saudi Arabia: every year, thousands of Nigerians performed the holy pilgrimage. Furthermore, Nigeria enjoyed the confidence and partnership of Saudi Arabia in their common effort with other developing nations to assure prosperity for their peoples. That was why Nigeria shared Saudi Arabia's grief and feeling of loss.

78. His delegation conveyed its deepest condolences to the delegation of Saudi Arabia, to the family of the late King and to the Government and people of Saudi Arabia.

79. Mr. AKRAM (Afghanistan) said that his delegation felt a deep sense of loss at the sad death of King Faisal. The traditional links between the people of Afghanistan and those who lived in the holy places of Islam dated back many centuries.

80. The late King had rendered great services to his country and his important political influence had made itself felt throughout the international community; through his firm conviction and his devotion to the cause of Islam he had become, during his own lifetime, a legendary figure in Asia and the whole world. The world had lost an illustrious and wise statesman.

81. His delegation requested the delegation of Saudi Arabia to convey its condolences to the people of Saudi Arabia and to the family of the late King.

82. Mr. GIORGIS (Ethiopia) paid tribute to His Majesty the late King Faisal for his great wisdom and moderation. Those qualities had made him one of the statesmen to whose views most attention had been paid throughout the Arab region and the international community. The Ethiopian people had been particularly saddened to learn of the sudden demise of the leader of a neighbouring country which had since time immemorial shared the same sea. By virtue of his impartiality, the late King had gained international prestige for his people. He had always been ready to find a compromise and to help the most needy, as Ethiopia could testify. His passing was a great loss to the third world.

83. He asked the Saudi Arabian delegation to convey his delegation's sincere condolences to His Majesty King Khaled and the royal family, and to the people and Government of Saudi Arabia.

84. Mr. CAMARA (Guinea) paid sincere tribute to the memory of King Faisal, one of the great figures of contemporary history. The late King had been the champion of the new economic order and the incarnation of the struggle of the developing peoples for sovereignty over their natural resources. In Guinea four days of national mourning had been decreed in tribute to his memory, and a delegation had been sent to attend the funeral ceremony at Riyadh. His delegation expressed its sincere condolences to the Government and people of Saudi Arabia on their tragic loss.

85. Mr. BEESLEY (Canada) expressed the deep sorrow of the Canadian Government and people at the loss of a devout and devoted leader and a truly influential statesman. He expressed his delegation's sincere condolences to the family of his late Majesty and to the Government and people of Saudi Arabia.

86. Mr. TUFUI (Tonga) said that the circumstances of the passing of King Faisal had shocked his delegation no less deeply than they had shocked the community of nations as a whole. The King's name had been well known in Tonga, where it had been associated with qualities of tolerance, humility, wisdom, stability and generosity, and his untimely death was therefore felt with great anguish.

87. He asked the Saudi Arabian delegation to convey to the late King's family, to his successor, and to the Government and people of Saudi Arabia, as well as to all their brother Arabs, the heartfelt condolences of the Tongan delegation in Geneva and of the King and people of Tonga.

88. Mr. MARTINEZ (Panama) said that his delegation was deeply distressed at the loss of a great man, and a great statesman, the Father of the Islamic world, who had always been active in the struggle against imperialism and against those who wished to maintain colonialist enclaves.

89. Mr. SALLAH (Gambia) said that King Faisal's death had caused deep grief and sorrow to his delegation. It had meant the loss of a paragon, a living symbol of the State, who had demonstrated the Koranic tenet of the brotherhood of man and the unity of all the peoples under Allah.

90. Mr. OGISO (Japan) said his delegation had learned with deep sorrow of the death of King Faisal, who throughout his life had been the living incarnation of the cause of peace, justice and the furtherance of development to which Saudi Arabia was dedicated.

91. The sense of loss experienced by his delegation was all the greater because of the friendly relations existing between Saudi Arabia and Japan, notably in the economic field, and also because of the respect of the Japanese people for the person of King Faisal, who had paid a State visit to Japan in 1971.

92. He requested the delegation of Saudi Arabia to convey to the royal family, and the Government and people of Saudi Arabia his delegation's deepest condolences.

93. Mr. BARNES (Liberia) said that his delegation had been saddened and shocked at King Faisal's death, which was a loss for the entire international community. King Faisal had been a symbol of peace and justice. He conveyed to the Saudi Arabian people the regret and sympathy of the Government and people of Liberia.

94. Mr. LEE (Republic of Korea) said that his delegation had been profoundly grieved by the death of King Faisal. He expressed the deepest condolences of the President of the Republic of Korea to the Government and people of Saudi Arabia and to the whole of Islam. King Faisal's achievement in the cause of freedom, peace and prosperity for the entire world would long be remembered.

95. Mr. MESSAN (Niger) said that all Moslems were in mourning, and his Government wished to associate itself with the expressions of sympathy to the Government and people of Saudi Arabia.

96. Mr. YOLGA (Turkey) said that the people of Turkey felt the tragedy deeply because there were deep spiritual and historical ties between Turkey and Saudi Arabia. King Faisal had been the personification of the concept of king and sovereign and, through his strong personality, wisdom and moderation, had guided his people to progress and been a stabilizing force in the region. His delegation conveyed

the profound sympathy of the people of Turkey to the Government and people of Saudi Arabia.

97. Mr. VELLA (Malta) said that his delegation shared the universal grief and mourning at the death of King Faisal, an outstanding leader and statesman who had used his opportunities to great effect. His moderation, humanity and wisdom had earned him the love of his subjects and the esteem and admiration of the entire world. His delegation extended its condolences to the Government and people of Saudi Arabia, and wished King Khaled every success in carrying out his onerous responsibilities.

98. Mr. YTURRIAGA BARBERAN (Spain) said that his delegation was profoundly grieved at the death of King Faisal. His loss was felt not only by Saudi Arabia, but by Spain and the international community as a whole. King Faisal had often visited Spain and mixed with its people, and his delegation conveyed the Spanish people's condolences to the royal family and to the people of Saudi Arabia.

99. Mr. BARRO (Senegal) said that the news of King Faisal's death had been received with consternation in Senegal. His delegation expressed the heartfelt sympathies of the Government and people of Senegal to the Government and people of Saudi Arabia.

100. King Faisal had been devoted to the Arab cause and to that of the third world and his visit to Senegal in 1973 would always be remembered. Senegal and Saudi Arabia had a history of co-operation within the Islamic Conference and at the bilateral level, and for that reason the loss of King Faisal would be acutely felt.

101. Mr. SEFAKO (Lesotho) said that his delegation had been greatly saddened by the news of King Faisal's death. He had been a man of love, justice and peace, and his delegation expressed its heartfelt condolences to King Faisal's family and to the Government and people of Saudi Arabia.

102. Mr. TARCICI (Yemen) said that the President, Government and people of the Republic of Yemen felt a great sense of loss which was also that of humanity as a whole. King Faisal had been a prominent leader who would be remembered by history because of his service to Arabs, Moslems and all peace-loving peoples. He had been a wise man who had taken great interest in preserving religious principles. His delegation conveyed its deep sympathy to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to the new King and to his people.

103. Mr. SHEIKHELARD (Saudi Arabia) thanked the President, on behalf of his Government and delegation, for convening the special meeting. He thanked the representatives of the regional groups and all the delegations present for their expressions of sympathy and for the tributes paid to His Majesty the late King Faisal. They would be remembered with gratitude.

104. The late King would go down in history as an example of leadership and humanity. Appointed Foreign Minister at the age of 25 and subsequently appointed Prime Minister, he had emerged as a brilliant statesman who had striven to protect the people's rights within the law. In so doing he had adopted a policy similar to that followed by the Moslem Caliphates. His reforms were a manifestation of his genius, and he had been a well-known negotiator at international gatherings.

105. The late King had been a hero in every sense of the word. He had not only waged battle in the cause of

unification of the peninsula, but had transformed it into a modern country with a high standard of living in which justice prevailed and which had taken its rightful place in the international community. He had always been the champion of right alone.

106. A modest man, given to neither criticism nor futile controversy, he had believed that actions spoke louder than words. He had not been affected by wealth, regarding

himself as a citizen like any other, a servant of all Moslems and a brother to his people.

107. The principles which His Late Majesty King Faisal had devoted his life to defending would live on, and the struggle would continue until right emerged victorious and peace and justice were established throughout the world.

The meeting rose at 2 p.m.

54th meeting

Friday, 18 April 1975, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. H. S. AMERASINGHE (Sri Lanka).

Progress of work

1. The PRESIDENT said that he had held the usual consultations with the Chairmen of the three Committees in order to ascertain the status of the work and to determine whether the procedures and methods of work being employed satisfied the needs of the occasion.

2. In the First Committee a text of article 9 of the convention—the key article which covered the questions as to who might exploit the area and what the basic conditions of exploration and exploitation should be—was being worked on and might possibly be available at the end of the week. A unified text covering the entire scope of the First Committee's mandate would probably be ready by the end of the sixth week.

3. In the Second Committee groups with common interests and other groups continued to function, but the very fact that they were limited in size made it imperative to prepare, with the least possible delay, some text that would form the basis for that kind of negotiation, even if it was an informal one. Groups, both formal and informal, were dealing with the most critical issues before that Committee. The small groups with common interests within the Committee were proceeding with their work, and a procedure had been adopted which would minimize duplication of the work being done in other formal and informal groups, for example, with regard to the question of the economic zone.

4. The work of the Third Committee depended very heavily on the resolution of the essentially jurisdictional issues being examined in the Second Committee. With regard to scientific research, for example, the Second Committee had to decide whether the coastal State had an exclusive right; the idea had been put forward that the coastal State should exercise exclusive rights over applied research and that pure research might be undertaken after notification to the coastal State. Similarly, in the area beyond national jurisdiction, the question of pollution and scientific research involved the International Authority and the powers to be granted to it. Hitherto, the Third Committee had been considering the question of monitoring pollution without examining matters of jurisdiction. Scientific research, the régime of artificial islands and installations, and the matter of responsibility and liability for damage resulting from scientific research were questions which appeared to involve more than one Committee. Those examples clearly demonstrated the interdependence of all the issues.

5. Two vital questions had to be settled before the Conference went any further. The first related to the initiation of the process of negotiation involving all participants. He reminded members that, early on in the session, he had said that negotiations involving all the participants should be based on a single text, reflecting all the current positions, to be prepared by the Chairman of each Committee in consultation with his fellow-officers. A text of that kind, which might be informal, seemed to be particularly indispensable in the case of the Second Committee; the First and Third Committees were already drafting unified texts. During the negotiations on the unified text, each delegation would be free to propose amendments, but it would be advisable to avoid the pitfall of protracted monologues and dialogues at cross-purposes. Furthermore, provision had been made for joint meetings of Committees—a procedure that might be useful in the case of the issues for which the Third Committee was awaiting the outcome of the Second Committee's negotiations. In order to ensure proper co-ordination, the negotiations would have to be conducted by the President in association with the Chairmen of the three Committees.

6. The second question was that of the time-schedule for the remainder of the Conference. He suggested that the single texts should be ready by the end of the week so that the sixth and seventh weeks might be devoted to negotiations in plenary meetings of the Committees, which might be informal. The single texts need not initially cover the full range of issues falling within a Committee's purview, but each should include sufficient material on closely related issues for the Committee to consider it in informal plenary meetings. The final week of the session should be devoted to plenary meetings of the Conference and would provide the indispensable link in the co-ordination of the work of the three Committees.

7. At that stage it would be possible for the Conference to decide whether or not another short session should be held during 1975. Whatever the degree of progress achieved, another session of four weeks during the summer might prove extremely valuable. If there was agreement to that effect, the current session would not be closed but would be adjourned. Since there was a very heavy calendar of conferences for the current year, the Secretariat had been asked to be prepared to furnish all the relevant information if it should be necessary.

8. At the beginning of the session he had stated that at the end of the first three weeks he would present to a plenary meeting of the Conference an evaluation of the progress