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73rd Plenary meeting

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73rd meeting

Monday, 13 September 1976, at 10.55 a.m.

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

Tribute to the memory of Mao Tsetung, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China

1. The PRESIDENT said that the Conference was meeting in solemn session to pay a last tribute to the late Mao Tsetung, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and leader of the largest segment of humanity ever to be brought under a single government. Chairman Mao, one of the few men to have become a legend in his own lifetime, had launched an epic struggle against vastly superior forces to bring China out of the confusion and chaos of internecine strife and free it from the shame and indignity of one of the most arrogant forms of colonialism ever experienced, the system of foreign concessions and extraterritoriality imposed on its people by adventurous foreign Powers, whose strength had been matched only by their cupidity and which had received the support and collusion of a régime that had completely alienated itself from the masses. The outcome of that struggle had secured for China the lawful status to which her civilization and the free will of her people entitled her.

2. Chairman Mao's indomitable courage, patient endurance and invincible faith in his people, a faith which had been abundantly reciprocated, had helped to unify the country and given it a stable government responsive to the true interests of the common man. For Chairman Mao had himself been a rare combination—a peasant by origin, a revolutionary by conviction, a philosopher by instinct and a leader by nature. He would live on in the minds and hearts of his people as the founder of modern China, where official policy was to satisfy the basic needs of the many rather than gratify the acquisitiveness of a privileged few.

3. He shared with the people of China their deep sense of grief and deprivation at the passing of their great and revered leader, who had governed through the impeccable credentials of their spontaneous affection and admiration. He extended his sincere condolences to the bereaved family and to the people and Government of China.

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

"The world has learnt with deep sorrow and sadness of the passing away of Chairman Mao Tsetung, who was a truly outstanding figure of our age. He was a leader with great vision, determination and courage, who inspired his people and devoted his whole life to building his country into a dynamic, modern State.

"As leader of his people and as the architect of his nation he was much loved and is now universally mourned. His impact as statesman and political thinker has won the respect of people all over the world and his outstanding contribution will continue to influence peoples both in his own and in other nations for generations to come.

"In a great international co-operative undertaking such as that in which you are all at present gathered, it is essential to recall the search for a greater international understanding and the achievement of an enduring world peace, which Chairman Mao embarked upon. Under his leadership China joined with other nations, in the United Nations and in this very Conference, in order to strive not only for better international co-operation but also for the realization of lasting agreements among nations so that tension in a world with so many problems might be reduced. In this spirit we shall always remember Chairman Mao Tsetung as one of the great inspirational leaders of our time.

"I have already conveyed in a message to the Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, as well as in a statement before the Security Council last Friday, my deep sympathy and condolences to the Government and people of China as well as the bereaved family. May I take this opportunity to express to the Chairman of the delegation of China to this Conference, and through him to the members of his delegation, my sympathy and condolences upon their sad loss."

5. In conclusion, he expressed his personal condolences to the Chinese delegation.

6. Mr. GAYAN (Mauritius), speaking on behalf of the group of African States, said that the world was poorer with the passing of so illustrious a statesman as Mao Tsetung. As a pre-eminent world figure, he had not only shaped the destiny of his own country, but had also unreservedly helped to shape the destinies of many oppressed countries in many continents. In Africa he would always be remembered with love and admiration not only as the architect of modern China but also, and primarily, as the champion of many causes that were dear to the peoples of the African continent.

7. The life, teachings and thoughts of Chairman Mao would continue to be an inexhaustible source of inspiration for all peoples of the world who were striving to achieve freedom by eliminating all forms of domination. His qualities as a leader and a political theorist imbued with revolutionary ideals were unparalleled, and it could truly be said that he had become a legend in his own lifetime. He conveyed to the Chinese delegation, the family of Chairman Mao and the Government and people of China the most sincere condolences of the group of African States on their tragic loss.

8. Mr. MIRZA (Iraq), speaking on behalf of the group of Asian States, said that the members of the Group joined the delegation and people of China in their deep sorrow at the loss of Mao Tsetung, whom history would remember with fervent admiration. Under his leadership, the Chinese people had made giant strides in science and technology and had succeeded in catching up with the great Powers in a very short period of time. The world had lost in Mao Tsetung an enlightened philosopher and a poet who had responded to the aspirations and wishes of his people and had discharged his functions with total devotion. Peoples struggling for freedom and against colonialism and exploitation in all forms would always remember him.

9. The delegations on whose behalf he was speaking wished the people of China unity, cohesion and progress, the course for which had been set by Chairman Mao.

10. Mr. YANKOV (Bulgaria), speaking on behalf of the group of Eastern European States, expressed condolences to the Chinese delegation on the passing of Chairman Mao and requested it to convey the deep sympathy of the delegations concerned to the Chinese Government and the bereaved family.

11. Mr. GALINDO POHL (El Salvador), speaking on behalf of the group of Latin American States, paid tribute to the memory of Mao Tsetung, who had led his people to peace, unity and progress. His remarkable personal qualities had enabled him to identify and bring forth latent forces which had profoundly altered the age-old Chinese society.

12. The history of China and of the world had been indelibly marked by the life and works of Chairman Mao, who had become one of the most active figures in contemporary international relations and a decisive force in world politics. His writings and actions should always be studied, for he had

left a legacy, often original, in matters relating to the burning issues of the twentieth century.

13. At a time of uncertainty regarding the future of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, it was fitting to recall the role that patience had played in the life and work of Chairman Mao.

14. The Latin American group requested the delegation of China to convey its deep condolences to the people and Government of China on the death of Chairman Mao.

15. Mr. ANDERSEN (Iceland), speaking on behalf of the group of Western European and Other States, said that Chairman Mao's efforts on behalf of China and his vision of the way towards a better life for its people were monumental symbols that had inspired many throughout the world. His death marked the end of an era and left an unfillable void in the ranks of the leaders of nations. It was, indeed, a significant historical event.

16. The delegations on whose behalf he was speaking understood and sympathized with the feeling of loss which the Chinese people must now bear; they expressed their sincere and profound condolences to the Chinese delegation and requested it to convey those condolences to the Government and people of China.

17. Mr. BALLAH (Trinidad and Tobago) said it was with deep sorrow that the Group of 77, on whose behalf he was speaking, had received the news of the death of Chairman Mao Tsetung, which was a great loss not only for the people of China but for all peoples of the world. Chairman Mao's precepts and teachings were a continuing source of inspiration to China and the developing countries, particularly those colonized peoples who were struggling for freedom and independence.

18. Under the outstanding leadership of Chairman Mao, the People's Republic of China had emerged as a great nation which was devoted to the advancement of mankind and the protection of its common heritage. He extended to the Government and people of China the profound condolences of the Group of 77.

19. Mr. SHEHAB (Egypt), speaking on behalf of the group of Arab States, said that the death of Mao Tsetung was a great loss felt by the peace-loving peoples who aspired to liberty and prosperity in the world. Future generations would remember Mao Tsetung as one of the most illustrious military heroes of the current century, as well as a leader whose devotion, perseverance and modesty had won him the affection and admiration of his people. He would also be remembered as a philosopher and as a man capable of transforming political doctrines into daily practice to achieve the best possible results. History would record the struggle he had waged in the cause of peace, freedom and independence, dignity and social justice and against imperialism, oppression and subjugation throughout the world.

20. Oppressed peoples would never forget the help they had received from Chairman Mao and the people and Government of China in their struggle for independence and freedom. The thought, philosophy and precepts of Chairman Mao had been and would always be a source of inspiration for all peoples struggling for freedom, dignity, independence and prosperity.

21. Mao Tsetung has been a great champion of the just causes of the Arab peoples, who would always esteem him highly for his efforts to safeguard their rights. He had led his people to victory and his creative ideas had imparted a new image to Chinese civilization and culture.

22. In conclusion, he requested the Chinese delegation to convey the sincere condolences of the Arab delegations to the friendly people of China.

23. Mr. RIPHAGEN (Netherlands), speaking on behalf of the European Economic Community, said that he wished to convey to the Chinese people the Community's deepest

sympathy on the occasion of the death of their great leader, who had played a key role during the past 50 years in the political and social development of China. The position which China currently occupied in the international community had Mao's mark upon it.

24. The China seen by Mao during his lifetime was an independent China which had freed itself from foreign custody and inner dissension, relying on its own strength during a continuing process of revolutionary change. Even those who did not share his social ideals would recognize that Mao already belonged to history, and even after his death he would live on in his writings.

25. Mr. EVENSEN (Norway), speaking on behalf of the Nordic States, expressed deep condolences to the Government and people of China on the passing of Chairman Mao Tsetung. Few, if any, political leaders during the current century had placed their mark on history to the same degree. Under his leadership, the Chinese people had reasserted themselves in confidence and pride. The Nordic countries enjoyed good relations with the Chinese people and recognized their achievements with great admiration. The influence of Mao on Chinese and world history would persist, and he would be an inspiration to future generations.

26. Mr. DJOUDI (Organization of African Unity) said that an important period in contemporary history had come to an end with the death of Chairman Mao Tsetung. The representatives of the Organization of African Unity could not find words enough to express to the delegation of the People's Republic of China, and through it the Communist Party, the Government and the people of China, the sorrow and sympathy which they felt. Chairman Mao had belonged not only to China but to the entire third world, and in fact to all mankind, which he had profoundly marked by his thinking and his actions. In freeing China from centuries of feudal and colonial oppression and building a modern State based on justice, dignity and respect for man, Chairman Mao had become a symbol of human greatness. Yet he had always remained a man of the people and had worked unremittingly to restore to the people their inalienable rights. His influence had spread beyond the frontiers of China, for his struggle had taken on a global dimension, in which the struggle of the third world countries assumed major importance. It was those countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America which now paid tribute to him as an example and a source of inspiration to all oppressed peoples. The Long March and the spirit it had created had touched off radical changes first in Asia, then in the rest of the third world and finally throughout the world. Indeed, the entire liberation movement in Africa had been inspired by the example of Chairman Mao and one of his disciples, Ho Chi Minh.

27. The Organization of African Unity drew comfort from the fact that the Chinese people had transformed their grief at Mao's death into determination and an implacable will to carry on his work. Already a legend in his lifetime, Mao would, by his teachings and his example, guide future generations in the search for a life based on principles and justice rather than on vested interests and oppression. The Long March would only end with the establishment of a world based solely on justice, freedom and human dignity, and it was by building such a world that mankind would best pay tribute to Mao's memory.

28. Mr. ENGO (United Republic of Cameroon) said that his delegation felt a sense of personal loss at the death of Chairman Mao Tsetung, whose life had embodied the aspirations of all who struggled for fundamental freedoms and human dignity and whose impact had far exceeded the boundaries of his own country. Learning from the mistakes of history, he had not stopped short at gaining baseless political freedom for his people but had consolidated that freedom by using the power gained to revolutionize and enhance condi-

tions of economic and social development for the ordinary man. He had proved that, given the opportunity, all peoples could organize their nations in a pattern of life best suited to their needs and culture, without the intrusion of cultural imperialism. That was particularly true of the African and other third world countries. Death alone could not extinguish the revolutionary flame which Chairman Mao had helped to kindle, and those he had left behind would continue to follow his inspired example.

29. He wished to convey, through the Chinese delegation, his country's solidarity with the Government and people of China and with the family of Chairman Mao Tsetung.

30. Mr. ALI (Pakistan) said that recent history had known no equal to Chairman Mao Tsetung, whose thoughts and actions would always be a source of inspiration not only to the Chinese people but also to the rest of the world, particularly those poor and downtrodden masses whose cause he had always championed. Any one of Chairman Mao Tsetung's numerous qualities would have assured him a place in history, and modern China was a living tribute to his genius and work.

31. His delegation wished to convey its heartfelt condolences to the Chinese delegation and, through it, to the people and Government of the People's Republic of China and the family of Chairman Mao. It was confident that the Chinese people would face up to their tragic loss with courage and determination and, guided by his philosophy, would continue the march towards even greater progress and achievements.

32. Mr. LEARSON (United States of America) joined earlier speakers in expressing condolences to the Chinese delegation on the death of Chairman Mao Tsetung. As President Ford had said in his recent tribute on behalf of the people and Government of the United States, Chairman Mao Tsetung had been a giant figure in the history of modern China, whose actions had profoundly affected the development of China and whose influence on history would extend far beyond the borders of that country.

33. Mr. RASOLONDRAlBE (Madagascar) said that no words could adequately express the emotion which his delegation felt at the death of Chairman Mao Tsetung. The depth of Mao's vision had earned him an extremely important place in history, and his analysis of relations between different social classes and countries had helped to trigger off a process of change which had gone far beyond the frontiers of China. The third world owed as much to Mao as did the Chinese people itself, and it now wished to pay respectful tribute to his memory. The man of flesh had gone, but as a symbol he would live on to perpetuate the ideals of peace and justice and the revolutionary struggle of the oppressed. Mao had also set the powerful nations of the world an example of wisdom and generosity which should serve them as a constant source of inspiration. His delegation wished to convey its condolences to the Chinese delegation, the people and Government of China and the bereaved family.

34. Mr. CHAN YOURAN (Democratic Kampuchea) said that his delegation joined with the Chinese people in lamenting the death of Chairman Mao Tsetung and expressed its profound sympathy with the Chinese delegation.

35. Ever since the birth of the Chinese Communist Party, Chairman Mao had personally led the Chinese revolution from victory to victory. China, formerly a backward semi-feudal and semi-colonial country, had become a powerful socialist country with modern industry, agriculture, science and technology. The Chinese revolution had changed the face of China and of the world and was a source of inspiration for the liberation struggle of oppressed peoples throughout the world. Mao's foreign policy had contributed decisively to the struggle of the third world and of all peace-loving countries to promote national independence and to combat foreign interference and aggression. His writings too represented an

incalculable wealth of historical theory for countries struggling for their independence.

36. Chairman Mao had always supported the national liberation struggle of the people of Kampuchea and their current struggle to create an independent sovereign State. The brotherly and militant friendship which had bound the two countries had been based on mutual respect for one another's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and on genuine internationalism. The people of Democratic Kampuchea drew consolation from the fact that Chairman Mao had been able to witness their historic victory of 17 April 1975, which had given rise to a new, truly independent, united, peaceful, neutral, non-aligned and sovereign Kampuchea.

37. His delegation was confident that the Chinese people would transform its sorrow into a determination to guarantee the success of the revolution and the building of socialism in China to contribute to the liberation of all mankind.

38. Mr. KADIR BIN YUSOF (Malaysia), speaking on behalf of the Association of South-East Asian Nations, said that Chairman Mao Tsetung had become a legend in his own time as patriarch, poet, soldier and statesman. His entire life had been devoted to building the new China, which under his selfless leadership had been transformed into a modern, self-reliant country. Present-day China was a fitting monument to his efforts.

39. Mao Tsetung had not only been a great leader for China, but he had also helped to establish a new world order based on peace and justice, and although he had died his ideals would live on.

40. The Association of South-East Asian Nations requested the Chinese delegation to convey to the people and Government of China its heartfelt condolences.

41. Mr. NANDAN (Fiji) said that Chairman Mao Tsetung had been not only a great leader for China but also an eminent international statesman. His intellectual, cultural and political leadership had had a tremendous influence on China and the whole world. He had not only shaped contemporary history but had also left his mark on the future course of history. His death was a loss to peoples throughout the world who recognized and respected men of his stature. The delegation of Fiji wished to convey the deepest condolences of its Government and people to the Chinese delegation and through it, to the Government and people of China and the family of Mao Tsetung.

42. Mr. JEANNEL (France) said that his delegation shared the profound sorrow of the Chinese people at the death of Chairman Mao Tsetung, an outstanding statesman who had played a vital role in the history of his country. The people of France were perhaps particularly appreciative of the feelings of the Chinese people towards the person who had succeeded in winning for them their legitimate place in the world. His delegation wished to convey his country's heartfelt condolences to the delegation, people and Government of the People's Republic of China.

43. Mr. PINTO (Sri Lanka) recalled how China had once lain in ruins, torn by internal strife and ravaged by its enemies, and how the movement started by Chairman Mao Tsetung in Yen-an had swept across the land, purifying it, creating a unity of thought, purpose and action and giving history a new beginning. That movement had served as an inspiration for the oppressed and wretched of the world and as a dire warning to the oppressor, and in all the years since then Chairman Mao and his country had been a constant friend of the world's poor. In his lifetime he had recreated a dream, and after his death his message would live on forever in the hearts of all mankind.

44. The delegation of Sri Lanka saluted Chairman Mao, his family, the Chinese Communist Party and the great Chinese people.

45. Mr. WOLF (Austria) said it was impossible to give a complete account of the life and achievements of Chairman Mao Tsetung. From early youth Mao had devoted himself to the cause of China's progress and had inspired the great strides made by that country in recent decades. Already during his lifetime he had occupied a significant place in the history of China and of the whole of mankind, and he had left an indelible imprint on the twentieth century. The Austrian delegation wished to express its deepest sympathy with the Chinese people and to convey its condolences to the Chinese delegation, and through it, to the Government and people of the People's Republic of China.

46. Mr. ANGONI (Albania) said that the Communist Party of China and the entire Chinese nation had lost a beloved leader who had devoted his entire life to the revolution and to the building of socialism. Chairman Mao had been the inspiration and leader of all the revolutionary victories of the Chinese people and of the transformation of China into a strong, united and prosperous socialist State. His death was a great loss not only for the Chinese people but also for all revolutionary and progressive forces throughout the world. It was a cause of great grief to the people of Albania, who had thus lost their closest and most beloved friend. Mao had helped to build up a friendship between the two countries which was based on the principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism. The memory of his achievements would live in the minds of all revolutionary and progressive forces throughout the world.

47. Mr. FUJISAKI (Japan) associated himself with previous speakers in expressing condolences on the death of Chairman Mao Tsetung and in paying tribute to his unique achievements as the revolutionary leader of the People's Republic of China. His accomplishments as the revolutionary leader of China would be long remembered and admired. The Japanese delegation felt a particular sense of loss at his death because of the historical and cultural ties and friendly relations which existed between the two peoples, and it requested the Chinese delegation to convey its condolences to the family of Chairman Mao and to the Government and people of the People's Republic of China.

48. Mr. GLIGA (Romania) said that his delegation had learnt with profound sorrow of the death of Chairman Mao Tsetung. The General Secretary of the Romanian Communist Party and President of the Socialist Republic of Romania had already transmitted, on behalf of the Romanian people, sincere condolences on the exceptionally heavy loss suffered by the Chinese people.

49. Chairman Mao Tsetung had led to victory the revolution of the Chinese people, an event of historic importance and one which had had a profound influence on the revolutionary struggles of peoples to free themselves from foreign domination, gain their national independence and construct a better life. Under the leadership of Mao Tsetung, the Chinese people had been remarkably successful in the building of socialism and of modern China, and the People's Republic of China had asserted itself as an outstanding power in the contemporary struggle against imperialism, colonialism, and neo-colonialism.

50. Chairman Mao Tsetung had been a great friend of the Romanian people. It was therefore with profound sympathy that his delegation extended its condolences to the delegation of the People's Republic of China and the Chinese people as a whole.

51. Mr. SOURINHO (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that the international community had lost one of its most prestigious leaders. Chairman Mao Tsetung had played a historic role both in the evolution of his own country and in international relations. His statesmanship, transcending the frontiers of his great country, had contributed most actively to the consolidation of peace and stability in the world.

52. To his own people, Chairman Mao Tsetung had been not only a great patriot, a great soldier and a great poet, but also an adored and venerated guide. He had combined the qualities of a thinker and a man of action and had succeeded in translating his great vision into reality.

53. His wisdom, penetrating intelligence, extraordinary memory and prophetic vision had made a profound impression on all foreign statesmen who had had the honour of meeting him. Few men of the present century had left as profound an imprint on the memory of peoples and on the international political scene. His ideas and his philosophy would continue to inspire the revolution of the peoples and the conduct of international affairs. His passing was not only an irreparable loss to the Chinese people and the People's Republic of China, but a catastrophe for mankind and the international community as a whole.

54. The Lao people, on whom Chairman Mao Tsetung had bestowed special attention, joined with the Chinese people in mourning his death.

55. His delegation requested the Chinese delegation to transmit to the Government and people of China and to the family of Chairman Mao its sincere condolences.

56. Mr. KAZEMI (Iran) said it was with great sorrow that he associated himself with previous speakers in offering his delegation's condolences to the delegation of the People's Republic of China on the passing of Chairman Mao Tsetung, one of the greatest men of the twentieth century. There could be no doubt that the demise of Chairman Mao Tsetung, whose efforts for the realization of progress and justice were an inspiration for the world at large, was a great loss to the people of China. The people of Iran shared the sorrow of their Chinese brothers, and his delegation extended its deepest condolences to the Chinese delegation.

57. Mr. GAUCI (Malta) said that Chairman Mao Tsetung had been truly a shining light in contemporary history and had made a lasting impression on future events, which his profound thoughts and writings would continue to influence. The Prime Minister of Malta had expressed the feelings of the Maltese people when he had said:

"The people of Malta have learnt with great sorrow of the passing away of Chairman Mao Tsetung, the greatest leader of the Chinese people of all time. Chairman Mao was father, philosopher and teacher to his people and to all the oppressed people of Asia. The people of Malta have found in him a true friend and active supporter for their independence. They join the heroic people of China in their grief and mourning."

58. The President of Malta had also sent a message, in which he had stated:

"The death of Chairman Mao Tsetung leaves the People's Republic of China and the whole world bereft of a great statesman and leader whose life was dedicated to the advancement of the Chinese people and of all oppressed nations of the world. The Government and the people of Malta have lost a true and great friend and they join me in mourning his passing away. We all share this profound grief with the family of the deceased and with the Government and the friendly people of the People's Republic of China."

59. The delegation of Malta wished to be associated with the messages sent by the Prime Minister and President of Malta on behalf of the Maltese people.

60. Mr. BAYONNE (Congo) said that his delegation was profoundly saddened by the death of Chairman Mao Tsetung and, in expressing its condolences to the Government and people of China, wished to pay a respectful tribute to one of the greatest men of the twentieth century.

61. The passing of Chairman Mao Tsetung left a void which would be difficult to fill. Nevertheless, his delegation had every confidence that the courage and genius of the Chinese

people would enable them to stand the test which fate had imposed on them.

62. Chairman Mao Tsetung had incarnated man's desire to become free and to be spared from poverty, tyranny, oppression, slavery, colonialism and imperialism in all its forms. His unequalled knowledge of Chinese society and of the legitimate aspirations of his people had enabled him to play the leading role in one of the greatest revolutions of the century, which had restored unity to the most populous country on earth and enabled it to regain its proper place in the concert of nations.

63. Historians, in describing the vicissitudes of the Chinese revolution, had described the decisive struggle, intelligently and uncompromisingly waged, against the enemies of the Chinese people, which had led to the liberation of China and the founding of the People's Republic. But history would also record Chairman Mao Tsetung's guiding role in the evolution of the third world—his unconditional support for the just causes of the developing countries and for the national liberation movements. In that respect, the Chinese revolution had been an important component of the world revolution. Chairman Mao Tsetung's immense achievements would continue to inspire the world. His was a light which would never be extinguished.

64. Mr. POCH (Spain) said that, on behalf of his Government, his delegation wished to express to the Government and people of China sincere sorrow at the loss of a very great contemporary leader who, for so many years, had inspired the political and social order of the People's Republic of China.

65. Mr. LI In Gyu (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that his delegation wished to express to the Government and the fraternal people of the People's Republic of China and to the members of the bereaved family its deepest condolences at the passing away of Comrade Mao Tsetung, the great revolutionary of the proletariat and the great leader of the Chinese people.

66. Comrade Mao Tsetung had devoted all his energies to the victory of the Chinese revolution and to the revolutionary cause of the international working class. He had founded the Communist Party of China and the People's Republic of China, which had been turned from a backward country into a new socialist State with powerful economic and defence capabilities. His whole life had been devoted to the revolutionary struggle of the Chinese people and the liberation cause of the oppressed peoples of the world. A most intimate friend of the Korean people, Comrade Mao Tsetung had regarded the revolutionary struggle of the Korean people as the struggle of his own people. His immortal deeds would be engraved in the hearts of the Korean people for ever.

67. His delegation was convinced that the Chinese people would continue to achieve great victories in the revolutionary struggle under the current leadership of the Communist Party of China and the Government of the People's Republic of China.

68. Mr. KIBRETH (Ethiopia) said that the feelings of deep and grievous loss aroused in Ethiopia by the passing of Chairman Mao Tsetung had been expressed in his Government's message of condolence to the Government and people of China.

69. Mao Tsetung—a man who through his many and varied works and exploits had become in his own lifetime a legendary figure—was certainly assured of a place of pride in the pantheon of history. Architect of the "new China", he had shaped the destiny of his own nation and immensely influenced the course of world history. Mao's revolution was not a revolution of intellectuals; it was the revolution of the broad masses of people, symbolized in the epic struggle of the Long March. Through his indomitable will, supreme sense of sacrifice and intellectual discipline, he had proved to the world that the ordinary man, if organized, possessed an

infinite capacity for creative achievement towards an ever-improving standard and quality of life. He had come to grips in a most dramatic fashion with the greatest crisis of the current era, namely, the rising expectations of disadvantaged people everywhere and their quest for a new order based on equality, justice and freedom. While Ethiopia mourned the death of Chairman Mao, who had been its great and good friend, it derived strength and inspiration from the legacy of his great ideas and deeds.

70. The members of his delegation wished to offer their most sincere sympathy to the members of the Chinese delegation on the death of their beloved leader.

71. Mr. HYERA (United Republic of Tanzania) said that words could not express the warmth of the friendship between the Chinese people and the Tanzanian people or the shock and sorrow which the sad news of the passing away of Chairman Mao Tsetung had aroused in his country.

72. Oppressed peoples the world over were experiencing grief at the loss of their comrade in arms. Chairman Mao Tsetung's whole life had been devoted to the cause of their liberation. Through his teachings and writings their miseries and aspirations had been well articulated, and through him they had found their common identity and common goals. His name was a symbol of their common struggle and their common strength. Although China was not a rich country, the late Chairman and the selfless Chinese people had done their utmost in material terms to assist those struggling to liberate themselves from colonial, racist and foreign domination.

73. The world as a whole had lost one of the greatest architects of peace, inasmuch as Chairman Mao's life had been committed to building an exemplary society in China where the values essential to peace—namely, justice, mutual respect and co-operation—were upheld. His impact throughout the world had been greater than language could convey.

74. While joining the Chinese people in the sorrow of their bereavement, his delegation would like to reiterate its dedication to the expansion of the liberation struggle which Chairman Mao had led against all forms of domination and exploitation. The fire of freedom, independence and liberation which Chairman Mao had kindled would not be extinguished until the goal of respect for all men had been reached.

75. U MYINT MAUNG (Burma) said it was with profound sadness that his delegation had learnt of the death of Chairman Mao Tsetung, an eminent statesman, a political philosopher, a master military strategist and a poet, who had dedicated his entire life to the cause of his great country. More than half a century of devoted leadership and teachings had earned him the esteem and undying love of his people. His achievements, to which the establishment of the People's Republic of China was a fitting tribute, had been truly monumental and inspiring.

76. His delegation tendered its heartfelt condolences to the delegation of China and the Chinese people upon their tragic and irreparable loss.

77. Mr. BRENNAN (Australia) said that for the Australian people Chairman Mao had been one of the great world figures of the twentieth century and indeed of all time. It would be difficult to find any man in history who could equal Chairman Mao's impact on the development of the spiritual and material goals of a country. The fact that China was the world's most populous nation, and one whose progress had aroused the admiration and respect of the world in recent years, added to the dimensions of his significance. The renaissance in China was his monument.

78. Chairman Mao had been not only a great national leader but also a great thinker, from whose mind sprang a dynamic like of which the present generation was unlikely to see again. He would be remembered for his tenacity and for the inspiration which he had given in so many aspects of human

endeavour. He would be remembered for his impact on the world as much as for what he had done for China.

79. In extending his delegation's sympathy to the Chinese delegation, he said that the people of Australia would help the Chinese people to preserve and honour Chairman Mao's memory.

80. Mr. LOGAN (United Kingdom) said that the man whom the Conference mourned had been at once a man of vision and a man of action, a man of thoughts and a man of courage. His influence had extended far beyond the boundaries of China. He would undoubtedly be remembered as a great statesman of world renown. He had dedicated his long life to the service of his people, and China's position in the world today was a memorial to his unique achievements. Those achievements had already been recognized in messages from the United Kingdom to the Government and people of China. However, he wished to offer the delegation of China to the present Conference his own delegation's sincere condolences on the death of Chairman Mao Tsetung.

81. Mr. BAYAGBONA (Nigeria) said that the world had lost an eminent leader, whose exemplary life and philosophy had added to conventional political ideas and given new dimensions to the concept of leadership.

82. Chairman Mao had retained the loyalty and confidence of his people to the end. He had also succeeded in building in China a self-reliant society whose industry, integrity, inge-

nuit and achievements would continue to give many, especially from the third world, considerable hope for the future.

83. Representing as it did a developing country, his delegation was particularly able to appreciate Chairman Mao's tremendous achievement in welding together a gigantic nation. However, the Chinese philosophy, as propounded by Chairman Mao and practised by the Chinese Government and people—their kindness and humility, their benevolent and unswerving support for the concept of third world dignity and identity—was an inspiration to everyone.

84. In accordance with the policy and philosophy of the non-aligned movement, Nigeria and many other developing countries had developed fruitful economic and other relations with the People's Republic of China under the leadership of Chairman Mao without disrupting traditional ties of friendship and co-operation. In pursuance of that policy, the Federal Military Government of Nigeria would continue to strengthen the already cordial relations between the Government and people of Nigeria and the Government and people of China.

85. His delegation requested the delegation of the People's Republic of China to convey to the Chinese Government and people, and also to the bereaved family, its sincere condolences.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

74th meeting

Monday, 13 September 1976, at 3.50 p.m.

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

Tribute to the memory of Mao Tsetung, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (concluded)

1. Mr. MONNIER (Switzerland) noted that in the history of peoples and nations, some men occupied a privileged place because of having played an incomparable and unique role in the formation of a nation. That role was due to them by reason of their stature and because they had directly shaped events and, more particularly, had been persons of great vision. On the occasion of the death of Chairman Mao, founder and builder of the People's Republic of China, with which, from the outset, Switzerland had had very friendly relations, the Swiss delegation wished to express to the Chinese delegation and, through it, to the countless people and to the authorities of the People's Republic of China its most sincere condolences as well as those of the Swiss people and the Swiss Government.

2. Mr. MESLOUB (Algeria) said that although the death of Chairman Mao was a cause for grief, he was a person who had left the world at the end of a very full life. In those sad circumstances, the compassion of the Algerian people was directed first of all to the valiant Chinese people whose leader, Chairman Mao, had been eminently capable of discerning their potentialities and galvanizing their energies in order to take them along the road of honour and freedom in what had proved to be a legendary epic. The fight waged by the Chinese people under his enlightened leadership remained an example and a symbol of the creative abilities of a people that had

decided to go out and meet history. After all, the qualities and virtues being extolled were not merely those of one man; they were the qualities and virtues of an entire people which had been implanted in them by the thought of Mao Tsetung. That in itself assured the continuity of the gigantic work undertaken by the Chinese people under the benevolent authority of the great leader who had departed. Beyond the Chinese people, it was the people of the entire world who had found and who continued to find a source of inspiration in the Chinese revolution. How was it possible not to recall the solicitude of the late lamented Chairman Mao for all the various causes of national liberation, especially in the third world. The countries and the peoples of the third world could not forget the understanding, the help and the friendship that had been extended to them by the great people of China and by Chairman Mao himself at the most difficult time of their struggle for freedom. The death of Chairman Mao represented an irreparable loss for all peoples and especially for the down-trodden of the world whose aspirations had always received his understanding and whose path had often been eased by his guidance. Mankind would henceforth be deprived of a person who had stood apart from all others but had yet been close to the people, a person whose great wisdom and proverbial good-heartedness had deeply impressed all those who had been privileged to approach him. However, Chairman Mao's presence was no less tangible than before, for the renewal and enrichment of contemporary thought was due to Mao Tsetung and to his genius. Chairman Mao's thought would bulk large in the accumulated knowledge and wisdom of man. Living as