

Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea

1973-1982

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74th Plenary meeting

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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-

nuity 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 downtrodden 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

it did in the minds of the Chinese people and of all the peoples of the earth, it, too, would continue its Long March. In their great sorrow, the Chinese people and the delegation of the People's Republic of China to the fifth session of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea were assured of finding at their side the Algerian delegation and the Algerian people as they paid a final tribute to the memory of Chairman Mao.

3. Mr. DABB (Papua New Guinea) joined with the preceding speakers to voice his delegation's admiration and respect for Mao Tsetung and to express its condolences to the Chinese delegation. It was not possible to have listened to the eloquent tributes to the memory of Chairman Mao which had been spoken at the present meeting without being made conscious, once more, of his personal greatness, his awesome stature as a leader, and the reverence with which he had been regarded and with which his memory would be cherished by the Chinese people. A further witness to that greatness was the immense influence he had exercised on the history of his time in helping to shape the world which existed today. Again, that greatness was shown by the magnetism of the thought and teaching of a man for whom the good of the people as a whole took precedence over personal desires. The pain being experienced today by the Chinese people because of the loss of their leader was a measure of his greatness. The delegation of Papua New Guinea requested the Chinese delegation to the fifth session of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea to convey its deepest sympathy to the Government and people of China.

4. Mr. MUNIM (Bangladesh) joined the previous speakers in paying a tribute to Chairman Mao, a giant among men and a towering personality who had changed the course of human history and in whose death humanity had sustained an irreparable loss. The great Chinese people and all the people of the world had been fortunate indeed that Chairman Mao had lived to be a guiding star to the world, for, as the founder of the Chinese Communist Party and a leader who had championed his national cause against domination and hegemony, he had fought to realize his own ideals and to defend the oppressed not only in China but throughout the world. A personality of the stature of Chairman Mao seldom appeared on the horizon of the world. But he had appeared and had left with his mission fulfilled. His name, fame and teachings would not only live but would be a source of inspiration for mankind eternally. It was the hope of the people of Bangladesh that he would have the peace which throughout his life he had sought to bring to the world.

5. Mr. GOKHALE (India), deeply affected by the death of Chairman Mao, expressed to the Chinese Government and people the most sincere condolences of the Government and the people of India for the irreparable loss which they had just suffered.

6. Mr. TERZI (Palestine Liberation Organization) said that the delegation of the Palestine Liberation Organization had been saddened by the death of a great leader who had left an indelible mark on the course of the history of the world during the last 50 years. Mao Tsetung, who had ranked in the vanguard of the progressive, peace-loving forces that had dealt a decisive blow to the forces of fascism 31 years ago, would go down in the annals of history as a leader not only of the great Chinese people but also of all mankind. Chairman Mao had persevered in the Long March not only to improve the lot of the people of China but also of humanity at large. He had reckoned first and foremost on the understanding and support of the Chinese people, who had rallied to the support of the principles and aims that he had maintained. Chairman Mao was a giant, a humanitarian giant, in history. It was with pride and grief that he recalled the visit made by the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization in 1965 to China at the invitation of Chairman Mao for the purpose of discussing with him the aims of another revolution, the Pal-

estinian Revolution. With extraordinary insight, Chairman Mao had appraised the significance of the Palestinian revolution as a vanguard in the national liberation struggles against foreign occupation, racism and imperialism. It was not surprising that Chairman Mao had recognized the Palestinian revolution at the moment when the Palestinian people had formed the Palestine Liberation Organization to represent them. The Members of the United Nations had on innumerable occasions witnessed the uncompromising stand which the representative of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations, under the able leadership of Chairman Mao, had taken in combating racism and imperialism, and also the support given by China to the cause of national liberation in different parts of the world. He asked the representative of the People's Republic of China to the fifth session of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea to convey to the people of China the sincere condolences of the Palestinian people.

7. Mr. RATTRAY (Jamaica) said that he also wished to present his condolences to the Chinese people on the passing of a figure as illustrious as Chairman Mao. It had been said that great men never died but only faded away. But the truth was that the ideals of freedom which they had inspired in the hearts of the dominated and oppressed peoples were eternal values. They were transmitted from generation to generation and gradually became the ideals of all peoples. Chairman Mao was not dead, for his footprints would remain on the sands of time, and freedom-loving peoples would find an inexhaustible source of inspiration in what he had done. With the passing of one of its great sons and leaders, the Chinese people had today suffered an incalculable loss. It was none the less a source of comfort that mankind would continue to benefit from the legacy left by that great son of China. He offered the condolences of the Government and people of Jamaica to the members of the Chinese delegation, to the Chinese Government and people and to Chairman Mao's family who had just been so cruelly afflicted.

8. Mr. SCOTLAND (Guyana) wished to pay tribute to the memory of Chairman Mao, a great leader and an illustrious teacher. Chairman Mao, in his life of dedication to his people, in his determination to free China from oppression and foreign domination, in his teachings and his vision, had given themes of inspiration to many countries which had broken the bonds of colonialism and were building a new path of social and economic development for their peoples. The tenet of self-reliance as practised by the people of China under Chairman Mao carries a particular message as an ethic of development for developing countries everywhere. However, Chairman Mao had not only been a source of inspiration to people; the bonds of friendship that had been established between the People's Republic of China and many countries, and the active assistance and participation of China in the development efforts of many of them, would go down in the annals of history no less than would the legacy of the great man whose memory was now being honoured. As a leader and teacher, as a thinker and doer, as a statesman in the service of China and of all oppressed peoples everywhere, Mao Tsetung and his work; his thoughts and his philosophy would continue to set an example for mankind and would continue to inspire peoples everywhere for generations to come. He wished to extend to the Chinese delegation and, through it, to the Government and people of China, the most sincere condolences of the Guyanese delegation.

9. Mr. UPADHYAY (Nepal) said that Chairman Mao had passed away leaving the international community in sorrow and dismay. Mao Tsetung had been a great man, a philosopher and a visionary, whose faith in the ultimate destiny of the downtrodden and the have-nots, and of mankind as a whole, had made him a man of thought as well as a man of action. Under his leadership a semi-feudal and semi-colonial people, without the means of enjoying human dignity, had been

transformed into a confident, self-sufficient and progressive nation. He had passed away, like any mortal, but the influence of his action and thought remained to inspire the people whom he had loved and trusted so much. His faith in the genius of the Chinese people had been so great that it had become instrumental to the achievements under his leadership and had deeply influenced the course of contemporary history. The world had lost a great man and leader and the Nepalese, for their part, had lost a great friend and a well-wisher. The Nepalese people mourned with the Chinese people and expressed their profound sorrow.

10. Mr. BARNES (Liberia) wished to seize the opportunity to express, on behalf of the Liberian delegation, deep sympathy and condolences to the Chinese people. Chairman Mao had been a great man, whose leadership had brought development and progress to the Chinese nation. Some men were born great but Mao Tsetung, who during his lifetime had demonstrated the kind of leadership that had brought greatness to his people, had achieved greatness. The Liberian delegation shared the grief of the Chinese Government and people and wished to convey to them the profound sympathy and regret of the people and Government of Liberia for that irreparable loss.

11. Mr. VALENCIA-RODRIGUEZ (Ecuador) said that the Ecuadorian delegation had learnt with sorrow of the death of Chairman Mao, the supreme leader of China. The consternation caused to the Chinese people by his passing was shared by all peoples of the world who were mindful of his vast achievements in the People's Republic of China. His political vision, his indefatigable energy, his faith in the principles governing the life of the Chinese people, his dedication to humanistic ideals and his political will made Mao Tsetung one of the most outstanding personalities of the century. In many third world countries his death was felt as keenly as in China. The Ecuadorian delegation wished to convey its deepest sympathy to the family of Chairman Mao and to the Chinese delegation and, through it, to the Government and people of China.

12. Mr. SIDDIQ (Afghanistan) said that his delegation shared the grief of the Chinese people over the loss of Chairman Mao, who had indeed been a great leader of his nation. Mao Tsetung had restored the unity of China and helped it to regain its rightful place in the family of nations. He had given his people a sense of pride and purpose, based on equity and self-reliance. He had been a historic figure of the twentieth century, who had dedicated his life to his people and his nation. His efforts had been directed to seeking better international understanding and peace throughout the world. His ideas and his actions had inspired many people. On behalf of the delegation of Afghanistan he wished to convey his sincere condolences to the delegation of the People's Republic of China and requested it to convey deepest sympathy to the friendly and neighboring Government and people, as well as to the family of the late Chairman Mao.

13. Mr. NJENGA (Kenya) said that the delegation of Kenya had learnt with the most profound shock of the death of one of the most truly great statesmen of all time. The greatness of Mao Tsetung lay not only in his revolutionary past, which had fired the imagination of the people of China and led it to rise up and throw off the chains of oppression, and not only in the fact that he had created the great modern nation of China, but in the fact that he stood for the ideals of justice, liberty, peace and equality, for which he had struggled. The peoples of the entire third world had looked to China and to Chairman Mao for inspiration in the struggle for equality and peace. Chairman Mao was dead, but the ideal he had represented would live on, not only in the Chinese people, but in all those throughout the world who were struggling for social justice and against exploitation and oppression. The Kenyan delegation requested the Chinese delegation kindly to convey its most sincere condolences to the family of Chairman Mao and to the Chinese Government and people.

14. Mr. ZEGERS (Chile) said that the Chilean Government and

people, who were deeply shocked at the death of Chairman Mao, associated themselves with China in its loss.

15. The Chinese people had lost a great statesman, a historic figure and one of those unique men who had made history. The developing world had lost in him a loyal and steady supporter of its interests. It was therefore fitting that the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, to whose deliberations China had contributed extensively, particularly in the matter of some key problems under consideration, should pay a tribute to Chairman Mao. The friendly delegation of China could be assured of Chile's sympathy in its loss.

16. Mr. ARAMBURU MENCHACA (Peru) said that the Peruvian delegation most sincerely associated itself with the tribute paid in the Committee to the memory of Chairman Mao. It also expressed its heartfelt condolences to the distinguished delegation of the People's Republic of China and trusted that it would convey them to the people and Government it represented so worthily. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Peru had said of Chairman Mao: "Regardless of circumstances and differences of opinion, Chairman Mao has always been a great intellectual influence, and his towering personality has had an immense historical impact on the world. His death is a loss not only for China but for the whole world."

17. Mao Tsetung had long held a place in history among those who had shaped the modern world in which he had played a prominent role, recognized by all and emphasized by previous speakers. Chairman Mao had been one of the outstanding men of the present age and would remain so in the eyes of posterity—for his intellectual stature, since he had been a thinker, philosopher and poet, and for his gifts as a statesman and his exceptional qualities as a political leader. In addition to expressing the sympathy of the Peruvian delegation he wished to express his personal condolences to the head and all the members of the delegation of the People's Republic of China. In homage to Mao Tsetung he quoted the words of a Peruvian poet, inspired over 150 years ago by another outstanding historical figure: "Your renown will grow with the years as the shadows grow when sun goes down."

18. Mr. TÜNCEL (Turkey) said that his delegation to the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea had learned with sincere grief of the death of Chairman Mao. Mao Tsetung represented the glorious image of a national leader who had succeeded in liberating the Chinese people and China from centuries of subjugation. He would be remembered as a man who, all his life, had sought nothing but the good of his people and defended the cause of peace in the world. His striking personality would be remembered as that of one of the most outstanding statesmen of his age.

19. On that memorable occasion the Turkish delegation expressed friendly sentiments and most sincere sympathy to the delegation of the People's Republic of China.

20. Mr. MHLANGA (Zambia) wished, on behalf of his delegation, to express deep sorrow over the death of Chairman Mao and to convey sincere condolences to all the members of the friendly delegation of the People's Republic of China.

21. The news of the passing of that great leader had been received with a profound sense of grief by the President, Party, Government and people of the Republic of Zambia.

22. He wished to quote from the message of condolences sent by President Kaunda to Hua Kou-feng, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China, on that sad occasion:

"It is with profound sense of shock and sorrow that I have learnt of the death of your great leader, Chairman Mao Tsetung. Chairman Mao Tsetung symbolizes those qualities that have marked and will continue to mark the outstanding and phenomenal achievements of the People's Republic of China and its contribution to the world as a whole in many fields of human endeavour.

"Mao Tsetung was a great revolutionary leader who became a legend in his own lifetime. His life was a shining example of

dedication and self-sacrifice in the cause of the Chinese people and mankind as a whole. Chairman Mao Tsetung was always a revolutionary. From early age Chairman Mao Tsetung demonstrated qualities of a visionary and revolutionary leader. Even before the founding of the Chinese Communist Party in July 1921, he dedicated his life to the cause of the oppressed people of China against imperialism and domestic reaction. Chairman Mao Tsetung was a worker, philosopher, a great guerrilla leader, teacher and great statesman. In all those and other walks of life he was an uncompromising champion of the cause of the downtrodden.

"His leadership of the progressive forces of China against imperialist aggression and his routing of the puppet Chiang Kai-shek clique ushered in a glorious and unparalleled period of national reconstruction and development of China. Since the proclamation, under his leadership, of the People's Republic of China on 1st October, 1949, the achievements of the Chinese people in all fields have been truly remarkable.

"Twenty-seven years ago, China was a backward, oppressed and dependent country. Today it is a modern, prosperous and self-reliant country. Under the wise and able guidance of Chairman Mao Tsetung, China's economy has grown from strength to strength in the interests of the Chinese people.

"Chairman Mao Tsetung gave the People's Republic of China a new and purposeful sense of national unity and co-operation with the vast majority of the countries and peoples of the world.

"In the field of international relations, new China continues to make a profound contribution to the betterment of the world. The role that China has played and continues to play in championing the cause of freedom and justice is outstanding. Its commitment to the cause of liberation and to the fundamental rights and interests of the developing world is an inspiration to the majority of mankind. China's support for the just cause of the peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America has strengthened revolutionary forces against the forces of imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, fascism and racism.

"Furthermore, China's phenomenal growth into a major world Power has dealt a severe blow to super-Power machinations and adventurism. Whether we are talking in terms of a new international economic order, or in military and ideological terms, the glorious revolutionary example of the People's Republic of China, under the able and selfless leadership of Chairman Mao Tsetung, is a great encouragement to all progressive countries and forces.

"The Party, Government and people of Zambia will always remember the genuine co-operation and assistance that the People's Republic of China has rendered and continues to render to us. A friend in need is a friend indeed.

"Zambia has, since her birth, faced a bewildering variety of problems stemming principally from its unflinching support for the liberation struggle. Chairman Mao Tsetung and his great revolutionary country and people have been a reliable supporter not only of Zambia but of the oppressed brothers and sisters in southern Africa. Under the wise leadership of Chairman Mao Tsetung and the Chinese Communist Party, the friendly people of China have forged a profound bond of friendship and co-operation based on a genuine commitment to the just cause of mankind.

"It is therefore with a profound sense of grief that the people of Zambia join the people of China and the entire world in mourning the death of Chairman Mao Tsetung. We are, however, confident that his single-minded dedication to the cause of the broad masses everywhere will continue to inspire all those who are dedicated to the cause of justice the world over.

"I convey to Your Excellency, to the Party, the Government and the entire people of China, on behalf of the Party, Government and the entire people of the Republic of Zambia, and, indeed, on my own behalf, our deep and sincere condolences."

23. Mr. BEESLEY (Canada) said he wished to express, on behalf of the Canadian delegation and the Canadian Government and people, his most sincere condolences to the delegation, Government and people of the People's Republic of China on the present sad and solemn occasion. China had lost a great leader. The whole world had lost one of its foremost statesmen. Rarely did one person make such an impact during his own lifetime upon so many people. Rarely did a single statesman have so much influence upon events, not only in his own country but also in the world at large. Rarely was a leader in any country so representative of the spirit of his nation. Rarely was any public figure so genuinely beloved by his people. Rarely did one human being make such a prodigious contribution in so many diverse fields of human thought. Rarely did one person combine with such felicity the character of philosopher with that of a man of action. Rarely did one individual epitomize so much the qualities of great leadership while remaining always so much a man of the people. Rarely was so much intellectualism found hand in hand with such simplicity. Rarely were such outstanding qualities of the heart and the mind and the spirit harmonized in the genius of one man.

24. The Prime Minister of Canada in a message to the People's Republic of China had said the previous week: "Although our social and political systems differ, Canadians recognize the path-breaking spirit of community that, under Chairman Mao's guidance, has contributed to the modernization of China. He was a giant of the twentieth century and of world history and the father of the new China."

25. The Canadian delegation requested the Chinese delegation to transmit to its Government and people and to the family of late Chairman Mao the heartfelt condolences of the Canadian Government and people.

26. Mr. JACOVIDES (Cyprus) said that the delegation of Cyprus solemnly added its voice to the general expression of sorrow and to the heartfelt mourning of the people of China for the passing of their great leader, Chairman Mao.

27. His vision for the building of a new China and his great accomplishments in that regard had won for him the respect and admiration of freedom-loving and progressive peoples everywhere in the world. The representative of Cyprus quoted from the message of condolence sent to the Head of the State Council of the People's Republic of China by the President of the Republic of Cyprus, Archbishop Makarios, on behalf of the Government and people of Cyprus: "With his philosophical thought and his revolutionary spirit, Chairman Mao founded and moulded modern China and by his work occupied in history the place of a great leader. Chairman Mao has been a figure of world radiance and his death is a loss not only for the Chinese people but for all mankind as well."

28. It was fit and proper that the Conference, with due solemnity, should express to the Chinese delegation profound condolences for the passing away of their great leader who had deservedly become a legend in his own time.

29. Mr. PERIŠIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that the world had lost a great statesman and fighter for a better life and equitable co-operation, the great son of the Chinese people, Chairman Mao Tsetung.

30. The long and arduous struggle of the Chinese people for liberation and independence and for conditions of life based on justice and equity was symbolized in the personality of Chairman Mao.

31. The President of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia had stated in his message of sympathy to the Chinese people that the death of Mao Tsetung was not only a loss for the Chinese nation but for the whole progressive world.

32. On behalf of the Yugoslav Government and people, he wished to convey to the Government and people of the People's Republic of China his most profound sympathy.

33. Mr. TEMPLETON (New Zealand) said that, in joining with many other delegations who had expressed their condolences on the death of Chairman Mao Tsetung, he could do no better than read an extract from the message sent to the Government of China by the Prime Minister of New Zealand:

“The death of Chairman Mao marks the end of an era in the history of China ... Having personally experienced his dominance of the mind and spirit of modern China, I know the profound effect that his passing will have on his people. I am grateful for the opportunity to have met this legendary figure in his last days. At once a thinker, a man of action and a statesman, Mao Tsetung made an impact on the life of his country equalled by very few leaders in its long history. He devoted his life to righting the wrongs suffered by China and the Chinese people in the past century. And not in vain. He had already left his imprint firmly on the history of China and of the world when, on 1 October 1949, he stood in Tien An Men Square to proclaim the founding of the People’s Republic of China. Many leaders would have regarded such an achievement as the climax of their career. For Mao Tsetung it was a beginning. For another 27 years he continued his labours in the service of the people of China, labours which ceased only with his death.

“Mao Tsetung’s ideas have found a response in many parts of the world besides China. Even those who do not share his views must respect and admire his achievements as the leader of the Chinese people. We join with the people of China in mourning his passing.”

34. On behalf of the New Zealand delegation, he wished to express his deep sympathy to the delegation of the People’s Republic of China on the loss of their great leader, of a great philosopher-statesman, and a father figure beloved of his people.

35. Mr. MWANGAGUHUNGA (Uganda) said that the Ugandan delegation to the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea had learned with profound grief of the death of Chairman Mao on 9 September 1976.

36. It joined the Chinese delegation and the fraternal Chinese people in mourning the demise of a great leader, the father of modern China. His passing was a great loss to China and the world at large. Mao Tsetung had been a true revolutionary, a teacher, an intellectual giant and a philosopher of pre-eminence. He had been the statesman par excellence and a perfect model of natural selection in leadership.

37. The greatest tribute that could be paid to Mao Tsetung was to continue the Long March that he had started. Uganda and the third world would immortalize his memory by continuing to struggle against the evils of injustice, exploitation, racism and discrimination which bedeviled humanity and against which Chairman Mao had fought during his life. He had fought those evils to his last breath, and the peoples of the third world were prepared to do so after him.

38. His delegation requested the Chinese delegation to transmit its heartfelt condolences to the Government and the gallant people of China. It mourned with them the death of their great leader. The Ugandan people was with all Chinese in spirit, wherever they were, in their fields, in their factories, in their homes or before the Gate of Heavenly Peace at Peking.

39. Mr. HUNGUANA (Mozambique) said that Chairman Mao had been a true friend to all peoples engaged in the struggle for liberation from the yoke of colonialism, imperialism and all other forms of oppression. It was in that context that FRELIMO and the Government and people of the People’s Republic of Mozambique had come to know that illustrious leader. His passing was a loss not only to the Chinese people; it was deeply felt by all oppressed peoples that were still fighting against exploitation and oppression.

40. It was a law of nature that all living beings were mortal, but in the view of history true revolutionaries never died.

41. The Mozambican delegation to the fifth session of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea asked the

Chinese delegation to transmit to the family of Chairman Mao, to the Communist Party of China and to the Government and people of China the expression of its deep sympathy on the death of the great Chinese leader. It affirmed that the Mozambican people would continue to struggle, thus following the way shown by the most glorious revolutionary leader the world had ever known.

42. Mr. KANTE (Mali) said that the world had learned with deep sadness of the death of Mao Tsetung, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and of its Military Commission and Honorary Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference. The Malian delegation joined in the warm tributes paid to his memory by the Chairman of the Group of African States, the representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the representative of the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity.

43. All mankind shared in the cruel loss now suffered by the great Chinese people, for Chairman Mao, by his genius and his gigantic achievements, had, more than any other figure of contemporary history, left his imprint not only on his beloved country, the People’s Republic of China, but also on the political evolution of the entire world.

44. An illustrious leader loved and revered by the Communist Party of China, the glorious revolutionary People’s Liberation Army and all the ethnic groups that made up the Chinese nation, Mao Tsetung had also been a great teacher of the international proletariat and of oppressed peoples everywhere in the world. His invaluable contribution to the world’s advance towards greater justice and freedom would make him forever an outstanding figure in the history of mankind. A theoretician, a philosopher, a poet and a strategist, Mao Tsetung had been a proletarian revolutionary leader of international magnitude, both by reason of his thoughts and by reason of a gigantic body of work which had also enriched the arts and literature. He owed his success to his firm loyalty to the people that had produced him and to his limitless confidence in that people’s immeasurable resources. No other leader had ever been so universally known, read and admired as Mao Tsetung. The moving tributes paid to him unanimously, one after another, by statesmen of various ideological schools and various lands, the international press and the peoples of the entire world were an indication of the authority he had so rightly acquired over the years, during the 41 years through which he had, at the cost of indescribable privations and suffering, led the struggle of the Chinese people for freedom and unity.

45. Mao Tsetung was no more, but his imperishable work and teachings would shine through the world eternally like a beacon. They would also, as he had wished, remain as the contribution made to the development of mankind by the Chinese people, that great and magnanimous people with which he had perfectly identified himself and which, as a wise leader and an outstanding strategist, he had unified and led in less than half a century to the pinnacles of glory. The great helmsman had firmly held the tiller until his last breath. His legendary humility and his devotion to the cause of the people would continue to inspire men of today and future generations. That was the finest tribute that could be paid to the memory of that giant among the giants of history, who had devoted his life, with matchless determination and constant commitment, to the cause of justice, freedom and progress in the world. He had been a true friend, a sure and generous friend, to the peoples of Africa, Latin America and Asia.

46. To the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, to the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress, to the State Council of the People’s Republic of China, to the Military Commission of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, to the great Chinese people and its prestigious Party and to the Permanent Mission of China to the United Nations and the Chinese delegation to the

Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, the Permanent Mission of Mali to the United Nations and the Malian delegation extended their most sincere condolences, assuring them of their profound sympathy.

47. Mr. DESSANDE (Chad) said that the Chad delegation to the fifth session of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea joined those delegations which had preceded it in extending to the head and members of the Chinese delegation its heartfelt condolences on the tragic ordeal now being suffered by the Chinese people, friend of the people of Chad.

48. He read out the message addressed by General Félix Malloum Ngakoutou Bey-Ndi, Chairman of the Higher Military Council of the Republic of Chad and Head of State, to Mr. Wu Teh, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the People's National Congress, which read as follows:

"We have learned with deep and intense emotion of the death of Chairman Mao. The great and friendly people of China has lost in him the guide of the revolution and the founder of the nation. That loss will be felt throughout the world. Freedom-loving peoples will always remember that his revolutionary action has helped to ensure peaceful coexistence. The people of Chad joins the great and friendly people of China in its grief. The Higher Military Council, the Provisional Government and I extend our most heartfelt condolences to the Standing Committee of the National Peoples' Congress, to yourself and to the family of the deceased."

49. In addition, he said that the Higher Military Council, the highest organ of the nation of Chad, had declared three days of national mourning. That gesture demonstrated the extent to which the people of Chad shared with the Chinese people the grief it had suffered at the death of Mao Tsetung, that illustrious man who had in his lifetime worked for the unity and greatness of the Chinese people and defended the revolutionary cause of oppressed peoples.

50. He asked the Chinese delegation to transmit to the Government and people of China and to the family of Chairman Mao his most sincere condolences.

51. Mr. TOULOU PAS (Greece) said that the Greek delegation to the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea had been deeply moved at the news of Chairman Mao's death. On behalf of his delegation, he joined in the tribute paid to Chairman Mao's memory and expressed his admiration for that great statesman, who had demonstrated extraordinary courage and perseverance throughout his life and had guided with incomparable talent a people whose history and civilization traced back to time immemorial.

52. The ancient Greeks would have said, with good reason, that Mao Tsetung should be considered as a happy man, for he had had the great happiness of seeing with his own eyes the happy results which his work and efforts had brought to the Chinese people.

53. On the present sad occasion, his delegation extended to the delegation of the People's Republic of China and, through it, to the Chinese Government and people, its most sincere condolences and its sentiments of profound sympathy.

54. Mr. NKULA (Observer for the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania), speaking on behalf of the liberation movements of Africa, said that he wished to convey to the Chinese people his heartfelt condolences on the passing of Chairman Mao. The loss was felt all the more deeply by the liberation movements because they had regarded Mao Tsetung as one of them and his lucid thought had brought them light in their difficult struggle to rid Africa of the last vestiges of foreign domination and exploitation. Because they had always implemented Chairman Mao's correct line in proletarian internationalism, the Chinese people shared in the victories scored by the armed liberation forces of the peoples of Namibia, Zimbabwe and Azania.

55. Not only had Chairman Mao selflessly dedicated his entire life to the historic liberation struggle of the Chinese people but he

had given exemplary guidance in the international proletarian struggle. He had restored the freedom and dignity of China and had led it to the highest place of honour, love and respect among the nations of the world. Revolutionaries throughout the world gained inspiration by quoting from his writings, which they found to be a deadly weapon against the colonialist and imperialist enemies of mankind. His famous statement that countries wanted independence, nations wanted liberation and peoples wanted revolution would remain permanently in their hearts and minds. That statement had been immortalized by the heroic struggles for national liberation in Africa, Asia and Latin America and by the collective struggle of the world's progressive forces for the elimination of the exploitation of man by man.

56. On behalf of the African national liberation movements, he asked the delegation of the People's Republic of China to the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea to convey his deeply felt condolences to the Communist Party of China, the Chinese Government and people, the wife of Chairman Mao, who had been his student and comrade-in-arms, and all the members of his family.

57. Mr. COQUIA (Philippines) conveyed his delegation's condolences to the People's Republic of China on the loss of its great leader, Chairman Mao.

58. Mao Tsetung had been an inspiration to all the nations of Asia. His teachings and his example would remain forever enshrined in the hearts not only of Asians but of all the peoples of the world. Both his personal and his public life had been characterized by simplicity and sincerity, but his noble influence was felt throughout the world.

59. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) said that as long as men preserved the record of glorious deeds, the memory of Mao Tsetung would remain alive.

60. A true leader, Chairman Mao had been the most dedicated servant that the Chinese people had ever known throughout their long history. He would stand as a shining example to all mankind of a life totally devoted to the cause of world peace.

61. Mao Tsetung had laboured so that a whole nation might live in dignity. He had inspired his people with wisdom and enlightened them as a torch dispels the darkness. He had struggled for justice and equality and had made China aware of the humanitarian role it was capable of playing for the benefit of mankind.

62. He offered condolences to the Chinese delegation and the Chinese people and to all peoples, of whatever ethnic origin, which had admired Mao Tsetung and held him in high esteem.

63. Mr. HUANG Hua (China), replying to the tribute paid to the memory of Chairman Mao, said that the entire Chinese people joined in mourning the loss of a beloved leader and teacher. He would convey to the Chinese Government the condolences which the President of the Conference and the representatives of countries on five continents had offered on that sad occasion. On behalf of the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations and the Chinese delegation to the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, he expressed deep appreciation for the expressions of esteem and friendship by the President of the Conference, the special representative of the Secretary-General, and the representatives of countries, regional groups and national liberation movements.

64. Chairman Mao had been the founder and wise leader of the Communist Party of China, the Chinese People's Liberation Army and the People's Republic of China. He had dedicated his energies throughout his life to the liberation of his people and to the emancipation of oppressed nations and peoples throughout the world. He had led the Chinese people's revolution to victory, turning the old semi-colonial and semi-feudal China into a new socialist China. All the victories of the Chinese people had been achieved under the leadership

of Mao Tsetung. They were all victories for his thought, whose radiance would forever illuminate the road of advance of the Chinese people. The lofty image of Mao Tsetung would live forever in the hearts of the people.

65. The praise for Chairman Mao's work just expressed by the representatives of many friendly countries gave further encouragement to the just cause for which the Chinese people had long fought under his leadership. Turning grief into strength, the entire Chinese people was determined to carry on the cause left to it by Mao Tsetung; it would continue to implement his revolutionary line and policies in foreign affairs, to adhere to proletarian internationalism and to strengthen the militant unity between the Chinese people and the people of other countries, particularly those of the third world; it would unite with all forces in the world that could be united and would carry through to the end the struggle against imperialism and colonialism in all their forms. Faithful to the

teachings of Mao Tsetung, China would never seek hegemony and would never become a super-Power. The Chinese people would strive to turn the People's Republic of China into a powerful socialist State and to make an even greater contribution to mankind.

On the proposal of the President, the representatives observed a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of Mao Tsetung, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.

66. The PRESIDENT, speaking on behalf of the Conference, asked the Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations to convey his sincere condolences to the Chinese Government and people and to the family of Chairman Mao.

The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m.

75th meeting

Friday, 17 September 1976, at 11.35 a.m.

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

Reports by the Chairmen of the Committees

1. The PRESIDENT said he hoped that the reports about to be given by the Chairmen of the three Committees would not be controversial. They should be treated as personal assessments by the Chairmen, and if, in the opinion of some delegations, they did not reflect the position which interested parties would have wished to see reflected, they would not prejudice the position of those parties. The reports were not binding on the Conference. He hoped that delegations would accept the reports in that spirit and avoid a protracted discussion of them.
2. Mr. ENGO (United Republic of Cameroon), Chairman of the First Committee, read out his report on the work of the Committee at the fifth session of the Conference as it appeared in document A/CONF.62/L.16, with minor changes.
3. Mr. AGUILAR (Venezuela), Chairman of the Second Committee, read out paragraphs 1 to 32 of his report on the work of the Committee at the fifth session of the Conference as it appeared in document A/CONF.62/L.17, with minor changes.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.