

2. *Condemns* Israel's continued occupation of Arab territories in violation of the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of international law and repeated United Nations resolutions;

3. *Reaffirms* that a just and lasting peace in the Middle East cannot be achieved without Israel's withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied since 1967 and the attainment by the Palestinian people of their inalienable rights, which are the basic prerequisites enabling all countries and peoples in the Middle East to live in peace;

4. *Condemns* all measures taken by Israel in the occupied territories to change the demographic and geographic character and institutional structure of these territories;

5. *Requests once again* all States to desist from supplying Israel with military and other forms of aid or any assistance which would enable it to consolidate its occupation or to exploit the natural resources of the occupied territories;

6. *Requests* the Security Council to take effective measures, within an appropriate time-table, for the implementation of all relevant resolutions of the Council and the General Assembly on the Middle East and Palestine;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to inform the Co-Chairmen of the Peace Conference on the Middle East of the present resolution and to submit a report on the follow-up of its implementation to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session.

*95th plenary meeting  
9 December 1976*

### 31/62. Peace Conference on the Middle East

*The General Assembly,*

*Having discussed* the item entitled "The situation in the Middle East",

*Noting* the report of the Secretary-General on this item<sup>45</sup> and his initiative of 1 April 1976,<sup>46</sup>

*Gravely concerned* at the lack of progress towards the achievement of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East,

*Convinced* that any relaxation in the search for a comprehensive settlement covering all aspects of the Middle East problem to achieve a just peace in the area constitutes a grave threat to the prospects of peace in the Middle East as well as a threat to international peace and security,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To resume contacts with all the parties to the conflict and the Co-Chairmen of the Peace Conference on the Middle East, in accordance with his initiative of 1 April 1976, in preparation for the early convening of the Peace Conference on the Middle East;

(b) To submit a report to the Security Council on the results of his contacts and on the situation in the Middle East not later than 1 March 1977;

<sup>45</sup> A/31/270-S/12210. For the printed text, see *Official Records of the Security Council, Thirty-first Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1976*.

<sup>46</sup> A/31/270-S/12210, para. 8. For the printed text, see *Official Records of the Security Council, Thirty-first Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1976*.

2. *Calls* for the early convening of the Peace Conference on the Middle East, under the auspices of the United Nations and the co-chairmanship of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America, not later than the end of March 1977;

3. *Requests* the Security Council to convene subsequent to the submission by the Secretary-General of the report referred to in paragraph 1 (b) above, in order to consider the situation in the area in the light of that report and to promote the process towards the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the area;

4. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to inform the Co-Chairmen of the Peace Conference on the Middle East of the present resolution.

*95th plenary meeting  
9 December 1976*

### 31/63. Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea<sup>47</sup>

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 3067 (XXVIII) of 16 November 1973, 3334 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974 and 3483 (XXX) of 12 December 1975,

*Noting* the letter dated 20 September 1976 from the President of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea to the President of the General Assembly<sup>48</sup> regarding the decisions reached at the fifth session of the Conference, held in New York from 2 August to 17 September 1976,

*Having considered* the decision of the Conference, as conveyed in the letter of its President, that its sixth session should be convened in New York on 23 May 1977 for a period of seven weeks, with a possible extension to eight weeks should the Conference so decide,

*Bearing in mind* the request of the Conference, referred to in the letter from its President, that the Secretary-General should provide the necessary facilities for private consultations between sessions among Governments and delegations,

*Taking into account* the recommendation made by the Conference that the General Assembly should study measures to ensure stability and continuity for the secretariat personnel recruited for the Conference,

1. *Approves* the convening of the sixth session of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea in New York for the period from 23 May to 8 July 1977, with a possible extension to 15 July should the Conference so decide;

2. *Reiterates* its decision at its thirtieth session<sup>49</sup> to accord priority to the Conference in relation to other United Nations activities, except those of organs established by the Charter of the United Nations;

3. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to make available, as appropriate, the necessary facilities for private consultations between sessions among Governments and delegations;

4. *Further authorizes* the Secretary-General to continue to make the necessary arrangements originally provided under paragraph 9 of General Assembly

<sup>47</sup> See also sect. X.B.6 below, decision 31/407.

<sup>48</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Annexes, agenda item 30, document A/31/225*.

<sup>49</sup> Resolution 3483 (XXX), para. 2.

resolution 3067 (XXVIII) for the efficient and continuous servicing of the Conference in 1977 and of subsequent activities as may be decided upon by the Conference, as well as to take appropriate measures to ensure stability and continuity for the secretariat personnel recruited for the Conference;

5. *Recalls*, in this connexion, that it noted in paragraph 4 of its resolution 3334 (XXIX) the decision of the Conference to accept the invitation of the Government of Venezuela to meet at Caracas at an appropriate date for the purpose of signing the Final Act and related instruments adopted by the Conference and authorized the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements to that end.

*96th plenary meeting  
10 December 1975*

31/104. Admission of the Independent State of Western Samoa to membership in the United Nations

*The General Assembly,*

*Having received* the recommendation of the Security Council of 1 December 1976 that the Independent State of Western Samoa should be admitted to membership in the United Nations,<sup>69</sup>

*Having considered* the application for membership of the Independent State of Western Samoa,<sup>70</sup>

*Decides* to admit the Independent State of Western Samoa to membership in the United Nations.

*100th plenary meeting  
15 December 1976*

31/142. One hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the Amphictyonic Congress of Panama

*The General Assembly,*

*Having decided* to hold a special commemorative plenary meeting to pay a tribute to Simón Bolívar, the Liberator, on the occasion of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the Amphictyonic Congress of Panama, which met on 22 June 1826.

*Considering* that the main objective of that Congress was to constitute an assembly of confederated countries which should establish the legal foundations for the relations between the American Republics and all the nations of the world, and should serve as "a council during periods of great conflicts, to be appealed to in the event of common danger, and to be a faithful interpreter of public treaties when difficulties arise, in brief, to conciliate all our differences",<sup>72</sup> concepts which form the basis of the international law of the American countries and are thus the direct predecessors of the Covenant of the League of Nations and the Charter of the United Nations,

<sup>69</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Annexes*, agenda item 26, document A/31/369.

<sup>70</sup> A/31/364-S/12245. For the printed text, see *Official Records of the Security Council, Thirty-first Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1976*.

<sup>72</sup> Simón Bolívar, Lima, 7 December 1824. For the text, see *Selected Writings of Bolívar*, vol. II, Vicente Lecuna, comp., Harold A. Bierck, Jr., ed. (New York, The Colonial Press Inc., 1951), p. 457.

*Bearing in mind* that Bolívar envisaged a Latin American region of free and brotherly countries united by common ideals, a dream which makes him the precursor of the integration of that region,

*Recognizing* that the Treaty of Perpetual Union, League and Confederation, signed in Panama on 15 July 1826, reflects a universalist spirit which is currently embodied by the United Nations, in that it reaffirms the sovereignty and independence of States and their intention "to secure to themselves from this time forward the enjoyment of unalterable peace, and to promote in this behalf better harmony and good understanding as well between the countries, citizens and subjects, respectively, as with the other Powers with which they should maintain or enter into friendly relations",<sup>73</sup>

*Recalling* that Simón Bolívar referred on several occasions to the need for a possible opening of a canal in Panama, which "will shorten distances throughout the world, strengthen commercial ties"<sup>74</sup> between the continents and promote the exchange of projects "from the four corners of the globe",<sup>74</sup>

1. *Pays a tribute* to Simón Bolívar, the Liberator, as a promoter of Latin American integration and as a builder of constructive plans for international organization on a continental and world-wide scale and, in this connexion, decides to place a commemorative plaque in the United Nations Headquarters building as a permanent tribute to his memory;

2. *Recognizes* that the Amphictyonic Congress of Panama represents the most outstanding and audacious unionist experiment at the international level in the nineteenth century, with oecumenical features which anticipate and coincide with the objectives of the United Nations system;

3. *Expresses the hope* that the ideal of Bolívar will inspire the establishment of a more just international order of respect for law, devoted to the maintenance of peace, the preservation of democratic principles, the promotion of economic and social progress, and the freedom of all peoples;

4. *Formulates the wish* for a successful outcome of the negotiations for the conclusion of a new treaty on the Panama Canal, which will eliminate the causes of conflict between the Republic of Panama and the United States of America, in accordance with the Declaration of Principles, signed by the parties concerned on 7 February 1974, where it is stated that the Panamanian territory of which the Panama Canal is a part shall be returned promptly to the jurisdiction of the Republic of Panama and that the Republic of Panama "will assume total responsibility for the operation of the Canal upon the termination of the treaty",<sup>75</sup>

<sup>73</sup> Article 2 of the Treaty of Perpetual Union, League and Confederation, Panama, 15 July 1826. For the text, see *International Conferences of American States, 1839-1928*, James Brown, ed. (New York, Oxford University Press, 1931), p. xxv.

<sup>74</sup> Simón Bolívar. "Reply of a South American to a gentleman of this Island [Jamaica]", Kingston, 6 September 1815. For the text, see *Selected Writings of Bolívar*, vol. I, Vicente Lecuna, comp., Harold A. Bierck, Jr., ed. (New York, The Colonial Press Inc., 1951), p. 119.

<sup>75</sup> Eight-point agreement signed in Panama City on 7 February 1974 by Mr. Juan Antonio Tack, Minister for External Relations of the Republic of Panama, and by Mr. Henry Kissinger, Secretary of State of the United States of America. For the text, see *United States Department of State Bulletin*, vol. LXV, No. 1809, 25 February 1974, pp. 184 and 185.