ARTICLE 3

TEXT OF ARTICLE 3

The original Members of the United Nations shall be the states which, having participated in the United Nations Conference on International Organization at San Francisco, or having previously signed the Declaration by United Nations of January 1, 1942, sign the present Charter and ratify it in accordance with Article 110.

NOTE

1. The provisions of Article 3 do not contemplate any action by organs of the United Nations and no questions concerning the application or interpretation of this Article arose in the practice of United Nations organs during the period under review.

2. The following development may be noted, however, in connexion with the original membership of the United Nations. As a result of a plebiscite held on 21 September 1958, Egypt and Syria, original Members of the United Nations, had merged into a single State, the United Arab Republic. At the sixteenth session, on 8 October 1961, the President of the General Assembly received a cable from the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic which read, inter alia:

"It may be recalled that the Syrian Republic was an original Member of the United Nations under Article 3 of the Charter and continued its membership in the form of joint association with Egypt under the name of the United Arab Republic. In resuming her formal [former] status as an independent State the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has the honour to request that the United Nations take note of the resumed membership in the United Nations of the Syrian Arab Republic. By separate communication I am submitting the credentials of the delegation of Syria to the sixteenth session of the General Assembly."²

At the 1035th meeting, the President of the General Assembly drew the attention of the Members of the Assembly to the above-mentioned cable and made the following announcement:

"In this cable, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic requests that since Syria has now resumed its former status as an independent State, within the same territorial boundaries as before 1958, the United Nations should take note of the resumed membership in the Organization of the Syrian Arab Republic.

"The cable also points out that the Syrian Republic was an original Member of the United Nations under Article 3 of the Charter and continued its membership in the form of joint association with Egypt under the name of the United Arab Republic.

"I have consulted a large number of delegations on this matter, and the general view appears to be that in the particular circumstances of this case Syria, as an original Member of the United Nations, may be authorized to be represented in the General Assembly, as it has expressly requested. Judging from my very extensive consultations there appears to be no objection to that course from any delegation.

"If, therefore, I receive no objection before the opening of this afternoon's plenary meeting, I shall ask the Secretariat to make the necessary arrangements to allow the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic to take its place in the General Assembly as a Member of the United Nations."³

At the 1036th meeting, the President stated:

"...since the declaration I made at the beginning of the meeting this morning, I have received no objection from any delegation or from any State Member of our Organization.

"Accordingly, the necessary measures have been taken, and the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic has taken its seat in the Assembly as a Member of the United Nations, with all the obligations and rights accompanying that status."⁴

³ G A (XVI), Plen., 1035th mtg., paras. 3—6.
⁴ Ibid., 1036th mtg., paras. 48 and 49.