

Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland.

*Against:* None.

*Abstaining:* Rwanda, Togo, Upper Volta, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Dahomey, France, Gabon, Haiti, Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Mauritania, Niger.

*The draft resolution was adopted by 89 votes to none, with 14 abstentions.*

198. The PRESIDENT: I invite the Acting Secretary-General to make a statement.

199. The ACTING SECRETARY-GENERAL: By adopting the resolution sponsored by Indonesia and the Netherlands, the General Assembly has brought into force the Agreement between these two States concerning West New Guinea—that is, West Irian. At the same time the Assembly has placed on the Secretary-General a very heavy responsibility indeed. I accept this responsibility and shall endeavour, to the best of my ability, to carry out the tasks entrusted to me under the Agreement.

200. I feel that this Agreement sets an epoch-making precedent. Under it, for the first time in its history, the United Nations will have temporary executive authority—established by and under the jurisdiction of the Secretary-General—over a vast territory.

201. The Agreement is unique in another respect: although the United Nations has a vital role to play in implementing the Agreement, the general membership of the Organization will not be required to meet additional financial burdens, as the entire cost of the United Nations operation will be borne by Indonesia and the Netherlands in equal proportions.

202. This novel settlement may well be a step in the gradual evolution of the United Nations as an increasingly effective instrument for carrying out policies agreed upon between Member Governments for the peaceful resolution of their differences, in line with the Charter. On this basis, and at the request of the two Governments, I have had to authorize certain steps in connexion with the implementation of the Agreement, in anticipation of its approval by the Assembly.

203. The Agreement itself was made possible because of the spirit of accommodation between the two Governments and their willingness to settle this long-standing dispute which had poisoned the relations between them. I am glad that, with the settlement of this dispute, diplomatic relations are to be resumed, and I hope that the future relations between the two Governments will be marked by the same spirit of friendship, understanding and cordiality that made the Agreement itself possible.

204. Some kind words have been said about my role in bringing about this Agreement. I am grateful for these expressions of appreciation. I should, however, like to point out that a major burden of responsibility was borne, ably and willingly, by Mr. Ellsworth Bunker, who acted on my behalf during the preliminary negotiations. I have already paid public tribute to his patience, integrity and diplomatic skill, which contributed so significantly to the successful conclusion of this Agreement.

205. The representative of the Netherlands has just drawn special attention to the various articles of the

Agreement which provide the people of the territory with the opportunity to exercise freedom of choice. I am confident that the Government of Indonesia will carry out these undertakings, not only in the letter and spirit of the Agreement itself, but also in the spirit of the Charter.

206. I have already referred to the heavy responsibility which is now placed on the shoulders of the Secretary-General. I know I can count on the cooperation of my devoted colleagues in the Secretariat who have shown in the past that they can always rise to the occasion. We shall all count upon the full cooperation of both Governments, without which, of course, our task cannot be satisfactorily and successfully carried out.

207. I should like to inform the Assembly that I am arranging for copies of all instruments and documents in connexion with this Agreement and the resolution of the General Assembly thereon which has just been adopted to be transmitted to the Security Council for its information.

208. The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of Australia in explanation of his vote.

209. Sir Garfield BARWICK (Australia): Australia has cast its vote in favour of the resolution just adopted by the General Assembly. Australia, though not a party principal to the dispute which the Agreement settles, has been concerned both with the existence and the cause of that dispute, and it has interests which will be closely affected by that Agreement. Australia welcomes the fact that the dispute was resolved without war and that the claims of the inhabitants of West New Guinea to be afforded self-determination have been recognized and provided for.

210. When the General Assembly last considered this dispute—that is, at its sixteenth session—the island of New Guinea was divided in administration, the western end under the Netherlands and the eastern end under Australia. In the exercise of authority recognized by the Trusteeship Agreement, Australia had brought both Eastern territories—Papua, a Non-Self-Governing Territory; and New Guinea, a Trust Territory—into an administrative union. Though the position of an administering Power under Chapter XI of the Charter differs from that of a Trustee under Chapter XII, I do not pause to examine the difference, for Australia has long devoted itself to the pursuit of the same objective in relation to both these Territories—namely, the preparation of their people for, and the grant to them, of self-determination—the real and effective opportunity of choosing for themselves both their form of government and their international affiliations. The Netherlands was pursuing the same objective in relation to the people under its control.

211. Australia is no new-found friend of the principle of self-determination. Those who were present during the formulation of the Charter at San Francisco will remember Australia's prominence in the insertion and formulation of Chapters XI and XII. Our people are sincerely concerned with the welfare and the future of the Papuan people. We have throughout considered it to be part of the self-determination to be given these people that they should, if possible, have the opportunity to decide for themselves, in due course, whether or not they shall be united in one independent nation with the members of their own race who inhabit the western end of the island. We have never attempted to decide this question for them, either for or against,