

INTRODUCTIONS TO MOMENT OF SILENCE
BY PAST G.A. PRESIDENTS:

*and background of
Intl Day of Peace*

INTRODUCTION

*(1987)
This year will be the
6th year of celebrating
"The Intl Day of Peace"*

At its 36th session, in 1981, the United Nations General Assembly, recalling that the promotion of peace, both at the international and the national level, is among the main purposes of the United Nations, in conformity with its Charter, decided that it would be appropriate "to devote a specific time to concentrate the efforts of the United Nations and its Member States, as well as of the whole of mankind, to promoting the ideals of peace and to giving positive evidence of their commitment to peace in all viable ways".

The Assembly therefore declared, in a resolution adopted on 30 November 1981, that the third Tuesday in September, the opening day of its regular annual session, should be officially dedicated and observed as the International Day of Peace and should be devoted "to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples". It invited all Member States, organs and organizations of the United Nations system, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, peoples and individuals "to commemorate in an appropriate manner the International Day of Peace, especially through all means of education", and to co-operate with the United Nations in the observance of the Day.

The Assembly recalled that—as set forth in the Charter of UNESCO—"since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defence of peace must be constructed" and that "peace must therefore be founded, if it is not to fail, upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind".

The Assembly's resolution was initiated by the representative of Costa Rica, who declared that the International Day of Peace "will serve as a reminder to all peoples that our Organization, with all its limitations, is a living instrument in the service of peace and should serve all of us here within the Organization as a constantly pealing bell reminding us that our permanent commitment, above all interests or differences of any kind, is to peace. May this peace day indeed be a day of peace".

The first International Day of Peace was observed at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 21 September 1982, the opening day of the 37th session of the General Assembly. At the start of the session, delegates stood for the traditional minute of silence in observance of the Day.

Messages for the International Day of Peace were issued by the Secretary-General, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar; the President of the Security Council, Masahiro Nisibori (Japan); and the President of the General Assembly, Imre Hollai (Hungary). A message from 69 non-governmental organizations, issued on the occasion of the International Day of Peace, was sent to the President of the Assembly. The texts of these messages are reproduced on the following pages.

The International Day of Peace was also observed in many countries around the world and by the organizations of the United Nations system. At a special ceremony at Unesco House in Paris, the UNESCO Prize for Peace Education was awarded to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. In Vienna, headquarters of the International Atomic Energy Agency, an exhibit was mounted depicting 25 years of IAEA activities for the peaceful applications of nuclear energy.



Tuesday, 21 September 1982,
at 3.25 p.m.

NEW YORK

President: Mr. Imre HOLLAI (Hungary).

AGENDA ITEM 1

**Opening of the session by the Chairman
of the delegation of Iraq**

1. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: I declare open the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

AGENDA ITEM 2

Minute of silent prayer or meditation

2. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: As we observe a minute of silence in accordance with rule 62 of the rules of procedure, may we also on this occasion observe the International Day of Peace, proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 36/67 of 30 November 1981, to be devoted to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples. In doing so, however, I must recall, as I pointed out yesterday when I closed the thirty-sixth session, that it is self-evident that the world is not at peace—far from it. Conflicts persist in all parts of the globe. But perhaps uppermost in our minds at this moment is the horrible spectre of the hundreds of men, women and children slaughtered in the terrible massacres at the Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut. I feel sure, as we rise to observe the traditional minute of silent prayer or meditation, that on behalf of all of you I am conveying the sense of deep outrage felt by the entire international community and transmit to the families of the innocent victims our profound sense of sorrow and dismay.

3. I now invite representatives to stand and observe one minute of silent prayer or meditation.

The representatives observed a minute of silence.

AGENDA ITEM 3

Credentials of representatives to the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly:

- (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee

4. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: Rule 28 of the rules of procedure provides that the General Assembly shall, at the beginning of each session on the proposal of the President, appoint a Credentials Committee consisting of nine members.

5. Accordingly, it is proposed that, for the thirty-seventh session, the Credentials Committee should

consist of the following Member States: Bahamas, China, the Dominican Republic, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, Seychelles, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America. May I take it that the countries I have mentioned are hereby appointed members of the Credentials Committee?

It was so decided (decision 37/301).

AGENDA ITEM 4

Election of the President of the General Assembly

6. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: I now invite the members of the General Assembly to proceed to the election of the President of the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

7. May I recall that, in accordance with paragraph 1 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 33/138, the President shall be elected from an Eastern European State this year. I have been informed by the Chairman of the group of Eastern European States that his group has endorsed the candidacy of Mr. Imre Hollai of Hungary for the presidency of the General Assembly.

8. Taking into account the provisions of paragraph 16 of annex VI to the rules of procedure, I therefore declare Mr. Imre Hollai of Hungary elected President of the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly by acclamation.

Mr. Imre Hollai (Hungary) was elected by acclamation President of the General Assembly (decision 37/302).

9. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: May I be the first to extend my sincerest congratulations to Mr. Imre Hollai on his election and I invite him to assume the presidency.

Mr. Hollai took the Chair.

Address by Mr. Imre Hollai, President of the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly

10. The PRESIDENT: May I be permitted to say first of all how deeply moved I am by the confidence you have placed in me by electing me to the presidency of the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly. I offer my sincere thanks to the group of Eastern European States for their unanimous stand in favour of my candidacy and I express my thanks to all the delegations that supported my election to this high and honourable post.

11. And now, in the name of the General Assembly and in my own name, I pay a tribute to my predecessor, Mr. Ismat Kittani, who during the past year

The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

ITEM 1 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

OPENING OF THE THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION BY THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT, CHAIRMAN
OF THE DELEGATION OF HUNGARY

The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: I declare open the thirty-eighth session
of the General Assembly.

ITEM 2 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

MINUTE OF SILENT PRAYER OR MEDITATION

The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: Before calling on representatives to observe
a minute of silent prayer or meditation in accordance with rule 62 of the rules
of procedure, I propose that we observe the International Day of Peace, on this
third Tuesday of September, as proclaimed by the General Assembly in its
resolution 36/67 of 30 November 1981, to be devoted to commemorating and
strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples.

Peace remains the primary objective of this Organization. But we have to
face the unpleasant fact that peace continues to be an objective that we are
seeking rather than an accomplishment to be preserved.

For this reason there is no more timely and pressing matter before us,
as several armed conflicts keep reminding us, than the eradication of warlike
policies and actions and the maintenance of international peace and security.
Our peoples expect us to rededicate ourselves to the constant search for peace
among nations and peoples.

I now invite representatives to stand and observe one minute of silent
prayer or meditation.

The representatives, standing, observed a minute's silence.

3rd year
Shucca

The meeting was called to order at 3.40 p.m.

ITEM 1 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

OPENING OF THE THIRTY-NINTH SESSION BY THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT, CHAIRMAN OF THE DELEGATION OF PANAMA

The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): I declare open the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

ITEM 2 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

MINUTE OF SILENT PRAYER OR MEDITATION

The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): Before calling on representatives to observe a minute of silent prayer or meditation in accordance with rule 62 of the rules of procedure, I propose that we observe the International Day of Peace on this third Tuesday of September, as proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 36/67, of 30 November 1981, to be devoted to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples.

Peace is the primary objective of the United Nations. However, it remains an elusive objective rather than an accomplishment to be preserved.

As the threat of nuclear war and several armed conflicts keep reminding us, the eradication of warlike actions and the maintenance of international peace and security become each day the most timely and pressing of all our concerns. The peoples of the world rightly expect us to rededicate ourselves to the constant search for peace among nations and peoples envisaged in the Charter of the United Nations.

I now invite representatives to stand and observe one minute of silent prayer or meditation.

The members of the General Assembly observed a minute of silent prayer or meditation.

ITEM 116 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT OF THE EXPENSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): Before turning to the next item on our agenda, I should like, in keeping with the established practice, to invite the attention of the General Assembly to document A/39/498,

4th year (cont.)

The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

ITEM 1 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

OPENING OF THE FORTIETH SESSION BY THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT, CHAIRMAN OF THE DELEGATION OF ZAMBIA

The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: I declare open the fortieth session of the General Assembly.

ITEM 2 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

MINUTE OF SILENT PRAYER OR MEDITATION

The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: Before calling on representatives to observe a minute of silent prayer or meditation in accordance with rule 62 of the rules of procedure, I propose that as we do so we also observe the International Day of Peace, on this third Tuesday of September, as proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 36/67, of 30 November 1981, to be devoted to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples.

Peace is the primary objective of the United Nations. However, it remains an elusive objective rather than an accomplishment to be preserved.

As the threat of a nuclear war and several armed conflicts keep reminding us, the eradication of warlike actions and the maintenance of international peace and security become each day the most timely and pressing of all our concerns. The peoples of the world rightly expect us to rededicate ourselves to the constant search for peace among nations and peoples envisaged in the Charter of the United Nations. The observance of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations and the proclamation of 1986 as the International Year of Peace will contribute to this end.

I now invite representatives to stand and observe one minute of silent prayer or meditation.

The members of the General Assembly observed a minute of silent prayer or meditation.

5th year
(cont.)

The meeting was called to order at 11.05 a.m.

ITEM 1 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

OPENING OF THE FORTY-FIRST SESSION BY THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT, CHAIRMAN OF THE DELEGATION OF SPAIN

The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): I declare open the forty-first session of the General Assembly.

ITEM 2 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

MINUTE OF SILENT PRAYER OR MEDITATION

The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): Before calling on representatives to observe a minute of silent prayer or meditation in accordance with rule 62 of the rules of procedure, I propose that as we do so we also observe the International Day of Peace, on this third Tuesday of September, as proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 36/67, of 30 November 1981, to be devoted to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples.

This year the International Day of Peace holds particular significance as people throughout the world join together in marking the International Year of Peace. During this year the peoples of the world have demonstrated their growing concern for, and commitment to, peace, and the United Nations has continued to serve, in accordance with its Charter, as a centre for harmonizing efforts for peace. Today more people than ever before are joining us in reflecting for a moment on the meaning of peace in the world of today.

I now invite representatives to stand and observe one minute of silent prayer or meditation.

The members of the General Assembly observed a minute of silent prayer or meditation.