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Chairman: Mr. Jiří NOSEK (Czechoslovakia).

Tribute to the memory of Mr. Mahmoud Azmi

1. The CHAIRMAN paid a tribute to the late Mr. Mahmoud Azmi, who had been a Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations. Mr. Azmi had played a great part in the work of the United Nations and had devoted his life to the promotion of human rights. He had been an active member of the Commission on Human Rights and its Chairman since April 1953. He had worked on the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press and had been its Chairman. His sudden death on 3 November 1954 had been a great loss to the United Nations. On behalf of the Third Committee he wished to express the deepest sympathy with Mr. Azmi's family and the Egyptian delegation. He called upon the Committee to stand and observe a minute's silence.

The Committee observed a minute's silence in memory of Mr. Mahmoud Azmi.

2. Mrs. ELLIOT (United Kingdom) said that Mr. Azmi's name was particularly associated with the cause of human rights, and, especially, with his chairmanship of the Commission on Human Rights for the past two years, during its work on the draft covenants. Those familiar with his work as Chairman knew how much the work on the covenants owed to his skill, moderation and good will. The loss to the international community was to be mourned, but comfort could be derived from the solid achievement for which Mr. Azmi had been responsible.

3. Mr. HOOD (Australia) said that Mr. Azmi had always displayed warm humanity and sincerity and had always shown consideration for the opinion of others. It was sad that Mr. Azmi would not be with the Committee to see the fruition of the labours he had directed so well. He had received that morning a cable from the Australian representative on the Human Rights Commission, Mr. F. E. Whitlam, asking that his name be associated with the Australian delegation's expression of condolence.

4. Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic) thought that the sudden death of Mr. Azmi had removed one of the staunchest bulwarks of human rights in the twentieth century. His integrity, his convictions and his profound knowledge of the problems of concern to the United Nations combined to make him irreplaceable.

5. Mr. RODRIGUEZ FABREGAT (Uruguay) felt it was sad that the debate in the Third Committee, which had been opened by Mr. Azmi, would have to continue without his physical presence; but only without his physical presence, for his spirit of good will, comprehension and sincerity would remain to guide the Committee until it found a final expression for the protection of human rights.

6. Mr. FOMIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the USSR delegation wished to offer its most sincere condolences to Mr. Azmi's family and to the Egyptian delegation. Mr. Azmi had been one of those international personalities who had displayed statesmanship in various fields. As Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights, Mr. Azmi had been largely responsible for the fact that it had fulfilled its task, and had set an example of impartiality and lack of bias.

7. Mr. TUNCEL (Turkey) said that Mr. Azmi had been in the forefront of all the work on human rights, freedom of information and the self-determination of peoples and nations. His ardour had been equalled by his prudence; he had been a moderate and wise revolutionary. He had always taken the views of his opponents into account and had done his best to convert them to his own views. Accordingly, he had enjoyed the respect of all.

8. Princess SULTAN (Pakistan) said that her delegation, as fellow Moslems, had been deeply shocked by Mr. Azmi's death. The delegation and she herself felt that they had sustained a personal loss. She wished to express her delegation's sincerest condolences and to associate it with the tributes paid to Mr. Azmi by previous speakers and the Chairman.

9. Mrs. TSALDARIS (Greece) deeply regretted the fact that Mr. Azmi had died at a time when the draft covenants were before the Committee. His contribution to that work would have been invaluable.

10. Mr. KOS (Yugoslavia) stressed that Mr. Azmi had had the ability to compromise without losing sight of the main objective. He had been a fighter in just causes. Yugoslavia had lost a great friend; through collaboration such as Mr. Kos had enjoyed with Mr. Azmi in the United Nations, Governments and peoples reached better mutual understanding.

11. Mr. DUNLOP (New Zealand) said that Mr. Azmi's exceptional personality, kindness, understanding and sense of humour had been an essential part of the atmosphere of the Committee. Contact with him had been an education in itself, not only in matters of substance but also in diplomacy.

12. Mr. MATTHEW (India) believed that Mr. Azmi's name would have a most honoured place in the history of human rights. His memory would be an inspiration to present and future United Nations representatives.

13. Mr. GONZALES (Philippines) said that Mr. Azmi's intelligence and untiring patience had enabled the Commission on Human Rights to elaborate the two draft covenants on human rights. The best tribute that the Committee could pay to him would be to express its determination to reach an early and satisfactory agreement on the draft covenants.

14. Mr. JUVIGNY (France) considered Mr. Azmi both a resolute warrior and a man of intellectual and moral integrity. In him the United Nations had lost not only a man of the highest qualities but a friend.

15. Mrs. CISELET (Belgium) associated the Belgian delegation with the tribute paid by the Chairman and many other representatives. The Commission on Human Rights would particularly mourn its loss.

16. Mr. COATON (Union of South Africa) said that even the relatively short time he had spent in the Third Committee had been sufficient to enable him to appreciate the high qualities and the sincerity of purpose that radiated from Mr. Azmi.

17. Mr. MENESES PALLARES (Ecuador) thought that Mr. Azmi's chairmanship of the Commission on Human Rights had marked one of the Commission's most fruitful sessions. The best tribute that could be paid to him would be to continue his work in the Committee.

18. Mrs. KRUTIKOVA (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that on behalf of her country she wished to express her deep regret at Mr. Azmi's untimely death. He had been an outstanding worker in social affairs, especially with regard to human rights.

19. Mr. PAZHWAQ (Afghanistan) believed that Mr. Azmi had belonged not only to Egypt and to the Arab world, but to the whole United Nations. The best tribute that could be paid to his memory would be to follow the principles for which he had lived.

20. Mr. GALVEZ (Argentina) wished to associate himself with the expressions of regret and sympathy already made and to pay a tribute to Mr. Azmi's extraordinary qualities.

21. Mrs. MARZUKI (Indonesia) said that Mr. Azmi had always been known as a great champion of human rights. The Indonesian delegation had always supported the principles he had tried to further.

22. Mrs. HARMAN (Israel) wished to add her voice to the tributes which had been paid. Mr. Azmi's untimely passing had been a great loss to the Committee. She had been privileged to praise his work as Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights in the warmest terms earlier in the week. Her delegation appreciated him as an opponent whose sense of fair play and integrity they had always respected.

23. Mr. ALTMAN (Poland) wished to express his condolences to Mr. Azmi's family and to the Egyptian delegation on the passing of Mr. Azmi, which had been a serious and painful loss for the United Nations, the Third Committee and the Commission on Human Rights.

24. Mr. NUSEZ (Costa Rica) thought that, although Mr. Azmi was no longer present physically, his spirit lived, not only in the normal sense of immortality but also in the atmosphere of the United Nations, especially in the Third Committee, which so well knew his learning, prophetic vision and apostolic dedication. The Committee could most effectively ex-

press its tribute by uniting to complete his work on human rights.

25. Mr. FAROUHAR (Iran) said that Mr. Azmi would be present in spirit at the completion of his task.

26. Mr. MENDOZA FLEURY (Venezuela) wished to associate himself with the unanimous sympathy expressed by the Committee to Mr. Azmi's family and to the Egyptian Government and people.

27. Mr. LUCIO (Mexico) said that unfortunately he had not had much direct contact with Mr. Azmi, but his brilliant introduction of the draft covenants had indicated great qualities and an impressive personality. The best tribute that could be paid to his memory would be to put the draft covenants on human rights into practice.

28. Mrs. QUAN (Guatemala) believed that in bringing the work on the draft covenants to a successful conclusion, the Committee would remember Mr. Azmi's words.

29. Miss AGUILAR (Peru) associated her delegation with the condolences expressed by previous speakers. Mr. Azmi had been a spiritual father who had worked untiringly for better understanding among the peoples.

30. Mr. PEREZ DE ARCE (Chile) expressed his delegation's condolences to the Egyptian Government and people. He had known Mr. Azmi as a man of great sincerity and goodness.

31. Mrs. MONTGOMERY (Canada) said that, despite her short association with Mr. Azmi in the Third Committee, she had learned to hold him in high regard as a great personality and a champion of human rights.

32. U DA HTAY (Burma) recalled that the Burmese delegation had served on the Commission on Human Rights under Mr. Azmi's chairmanship and had had an opportunity of appreciating his capability and his great contribution to the work of the United Nations. His death was a great loss not only to the United Nations, but to all mankind.

33. Mr. SEVILLA SACASA (Nicaragua) felt that Mr. Azmi had honoured the members of the Committee with his friendship, while his work in the United Nations had done honour to his Government.

34. Mr. BEAUFORT (Netherlands) said that he himself had had occasion to refer to Mr. Azmi as the greatest expert on human rights. Mr. Azmi's greatness, however, had lain not so much in his expert knowledge as in his personality, convictions, sincerity and wisdom.

35. Mr. RETTEL (Luxembourg) associated himself with previous speakers in expressing his delegation's condolences to the people, delegation and Government of Egypt.

36. Mr. KING (Liberia) felt that, as a relative newcomer to the Committee he had been in a position particularly to appreciate Mr. Azmi's willingness to impart knowledge and his modesty, politeness and affability. On behalf of the Liberian delegation, he wished to pay a high tribute to a great fellow African.

37. Mrs. US (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) expressed her delegation's condolences to the Egyptian delegation on the loss of its Chairman. In view of Mr. Azmi's devotion to the cause of human rights, the Committee's best tribute to his memory would be to bring to a successful conclusion its work

on the covenants, the implementation of which he had so fervently desired.

38. Miss MASAS (Cuba) said that the Cuban delegation would always retain vivid memories of Mr. Azmi's brilliant personality, his valuable work and his dedication to the cause of human rights.

39. Ato Addimou TESEMMMA (Ethiopia) said that Mr. Azmi's tragic death had been a great shock to the Ethiopian delegation. Mr. Azmi's passing was a great loss to the United Nations and an even greater loss to Egypt.

40. Mr. CARBONELL (Colombia) joined with other delegations in their condolences to the Egyptian delegation and in the tributes that had been paid to Mr. Azmi.

41. Mr. VALLADARES (Honduras) thought that no better homage could be paid to Mr. Azmi than to bring the Committee's work on the covenants to a successful conclusion.

42. Mr. DE BARROS (Brazil) expressed his delegation's deep regret at the death of Mr. Azmi, whose admirable work as Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights and clear statements in the Committee had served as illustrations of the loss that his passing would represent to the United Nations.

43. Mrs. LORD (United States of America) said that her delegation paid a tribute to Mr. Azmi not only as one of the greatest figures in the United Nations, but as a great world leader. She had regarded him as a personal friend and had deeply appreciated his advice. The Committee should continue its work in the spirit which had been his; his wise guidance would inspire it to carry on its difficult task.

44. She proposed that the Committee should pay homage to the memory of Mr. Azmi by adjourning the meeting when all the members who wished to speak had done so.

45. Mr. GEORGES-PICOT (Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Departments of Economic Affairs and Social Affairs) associated himself and all his colleagues who had worked with Mr. Azmi in various organs of the United Nations with the expressions of deep regret that had been voiced by many representatives. The memory of Mr. Azmi's pleasant personality and devoted work would long remain with the United Nations.

46. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) said that, although the United Nations had suffered the loss of a great leader, it should be borne in mind that the works of great men never died, but left their stamp on mankind. It was hard for him adequately to express his feelings about the loss of a beloved friend and colleague. Nevertheless, it was his duty as representative of his Government and as spokesman for the delegations of the other Arab States to try to appraise Mr. Azmi's life work.

47. The worth of a man's life was measured not only by his contribution to his family, his country and the whole world, but by the manner in which that contribution was made. Mr. Azmi's work throughout his life had been distinguished by sincerity, singleness of purpose and, above all, sympathy. He had been a warrior in the field of human rights and had devoted his life to the cause of peace and justice.

48. In Egypt he had been above party. When the country had been a monarchy, his advice had been sought, and when Egypt had become a republic, he had been among the first to be chosen to redraft the Egyptian Constitution and to perform other important tasks. The Arab world knew him as a great Arabic scholar and as a champion of freedom of the Press and of the rights of the common man.

49. The example of Mr. Azmi's life would abide with the United Nations and would encourage the Committee to persist in the task which lay before it.

50. The Egyptian representative to the Committee, Mr. Abdel Ghani, had been very close to Mr. Azmi and felt his loss so keenly that he had been unable to participate in the meeting. He had therefore asked the Saudi Arabian delegation to convey to the Committee the Egyptian delegation's thanks for the generous expressions of sympathy that had been offered.

51. Mr. GONZALES (Philippines), supported by Mrs. TSALDARIS (Greece), formally proposed that a committee of five should be set up to draft a resolution of condolence to be transmitted to Mr. Azmi's family and to the Egyptian Government. He suggested that the Chairman should elect the members of the committee.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.