

After further public and private appeals to him and consultations between U Thant and various members of the organization, particularly Security Council members, a closed meeting of the Security Council was held on December 2, at the conclusion of which U Thant issued a statement acceding to the appeal of the Security Council that he accept a second term. On that day, the Security Council transmitted to the General Assembly a resolution recommending the appointment of U Thant "for another term of office as Secretary-General of the United Nations", and that afternoon the General Assembly, in a secret ballot, elected U Thant by 120 votes in favour and none against, with one invalid ballot, to another term of office ending on December 31, 1971.

In a statement of acceptance, the Secretary-General reaffirmed his oath of office and referred with appreciation to the many insistent requests he had received to reconsider his decision of September 1. He also referred again to the basic issues to which he had drawn attention in his statement of September 1, and said that, while, in some respects, the twenty-first session had made some real progress, his "concern for the lack of advance in international co-operation" remained. In particular, he mentioned the urgent necessity of undertaking new efforts for peace in Vietnam, and said that he would "seize every occasion to recall that this war must be ended", and that he would continue to regard it as his duty to make every effort on a personal basis to promote a solution that would bring peace and justice to the people of Vietnam.

South West Africa

On July 18, 1966, the International Court of Justice¹ decided that Ethiopia and Liberia, as individual states formerly members of the League of Nations, had no legal right or interest in claims concerning the provisions of the mandate for South West Africa entrusted to South Africa. The African and Asian states were critical of the Court's refusal, on a technicality, to take a position on the merits of the case, and demanded urgent political action by the General Assembly. They formally requested that South West Africa be considered as a matter of priority. This request was approved by the General Committee, which recommended that the General Assembly should discuss the item in plenary meetings concurrently with the general debate.

Fifty-four Afro-Asian states introduced a resolution providing that the United Nations should take over the mandate for South West Africa and assume direct responsibility for its administration. The resolution proposed

¹ See Page 73.