which are genuinely anxious to find a generally agreed definition of self-determination and also appropriate measures to implement it, once defined. Our aim is that all that is feasible in this field should be done with as little delay as possible. Because we are determined to live up to our obligations we are not prepared, however, to subscribe to broad and imprecise statements relating to hypothetical situations. We are willing to accept solutions which will be effective and which will positively contribute to the cause of freedom in the specific situations which have to be dealt with in the very concrete world in which we live and in which this organization has to operate.

While we believe that the United Nations can and should help to solve this problem, we do not delude ourselves that our organization will have the final word. We do not forget that the organization is based on the principle of "the sovereign equality of all its members" and that in matters of such fundamental importance as "the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples and nations" there can be no really effective action without the consent of all the parties concerned. We do not look upon "self-determination" as a new idea because, as we see it, many countries, including our own, owe their existence to the practical application over a period of time of this very idea. That is why we can have no objection to its application in the future -- under generally approved safeguards.

Mr. Chairman, I hope that I have made it clear that our purpose is not to delay or to oppose constructive action, but rather to help build firmer foundations for developing friendly relations among nations, as envisaged in Article 1 (2) of the Charter.

I have thought it desirable to speak in rather general terms at this time. I would like, however, to reserve the right of my Delegation to intervene again when the Committee reaches the stage of considering the various proposals that have been made for further study of this problem in the United Nations.

S/C