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E. Miss Angie E. Brooks (President of the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly: correspondence, statements, addresses.)

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Office of Public Information  
United Nations, N.Y.

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Press Release GA/4042  
17 September 1969

TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS CONFERENCE BY MISS ANGIE BROOKS, PRESIDENT  
OF TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY,  
HELD AT HEADQUARTERS ON 17 SEPTEMBER 1969

Mr. HAMID (Assistant Secretary-General): Over the years, it has become a tradition that one of the first activities of the newly-elected President of the General Assembly is to meet with the United Nations corps of correspondents. Her Excellency, Miss Angie Brooks, who was elected yesterday as the President of the twenty-fourth General Assembly, has graciously consented to continue this tradition. Indeed, she had hoped to meet with you yesterday afternoon, but, as you know, the proceedings of the opening day were a little behind schedule and it seemed best to postpone the press conference to this afternoon.

Since Her Excellency has been associated in various capacities with the United Nations for a number of years, she does not need any introduction to you. Indeed, I know that she counts many of you as old friends. It is therefore an honour and a pleasure to present to you Her Excellency Miss Angie Brooks, the President of the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

The PRESIDENT: I am delighted to be here. I hope I can be of some service in trying to answer, as best as I possibly can, your searching questions.

Mr. LITTLEJOHNS (President of the United Nations Correspondents Association): Madam President, it is a great pleasure to greet you on behalf of the United Nations correspondents corps, to congratulate you most warmly on your election to the General Assembly's most prestigious office, and express the fervent hope of all of us that you will have a happy and successful Presidency that will advance the cause of peace.

May I take this opportunity also, Madam, to extend to you the cordial invitation of the United Nations Correspondents Association to our annual salute to the President, which will take place this year on Friday, 21 November. We shall, of course, follow up this oral invitation with written communications to you and the Secretary-General.

Madam President, your opening statement yesterday provided Member delegations with much food for thought, in particular, your remarks about the "gradual decline of the United Nations in the eyes of public opinion" and about "the mythology of achievement".

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I should like to put this question to you: Do you consider that the Assembly's termination of South Africa's mandate in South West Africa, a decision in which your country, Liberia, had more than a passing interest, perhaps falls within the category of resolutions that are unlikely to be implemented?

The PRESIDENT: You have asked me for an honest opinion. I will first ask you not to indulge in questions that would cause me to give an answer that will take sides, because, as you know, the President of the General Assembly must be as impartial as humanly possible.

I think the answer to that question seems almost evident. This is not something new. I think the attitude that has been assumed by the South African Government portrays that it does not intend to implement the provisions of the resolution. I do not think this is a secret.

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QUESTION: In view of the fact that the big Powers have reached an impasse on the question of the Middle East, and also in view of the fact that the big Powers have special interests in various parts of the world, do you believe that the small Powers here at the United Nations should assume a bigger role in looking forward to coming to some kind of conclusion on all of these crises around the globe?

The PRESIDENT: When it comes to the question of the Middle East, without prejudging the solution to this problem, I would say — and I think you will agree — that the greater portion rests with the parties directly concerned.

QUESTION: Without encouraging artificial divisions, what do you believe will be the most contested issues before this session of the General Assembly?

The PRESIDENT: I think that is a question that I cannot now give an answer to.

QUESTION: If you had to dream dreams about this Assembly, what would you consider to be the minimum contributions that this Assembly should make? I say "minimum" because, in spite of your speech, I do not think we are going to get a maximum turning-point here at this stage.

The PRESIDENT: I should like to answer that question by saying that representatives from the highest echelons of the great Powers are expected to come to the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly. It is my hope that those representatives of the great Powers will give some positive ideas as to how the great Powers can unite in trying to assist in bringing about solutions to the problems that plague us here at the United Nations. That is my sincere hope.

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I hope, too, that, as I said in my speech yesterday, there will be a soul-searching attitude here at this session, and that we will try to ascertain whether we are really doing our best, and that we as representatives will try to bring some influence to bear upon our Governments so that they might involve themselves in the job of trying to re-dedicate themselves to the application of the principles of the Charter.

QUESTION: A year ago, on this very occasion, at the first press conference held by the late and lamented President Arenales, Dr. Arenales said that he would like to see the United Nations issue an appeal to the contending parties in the Middle East crisis to help, as he said, cool the passions and the emotions, looking forward to a possible settlement of their grave conflicts. A short time later, Dr. Arenales was kind enough to assure me that he would issue that kind of an appeal, through me. Indeed, we had an appointment for that purpose, on the very day he was tragically taken to the hospital for surgery; and we know what followed.

I wonder whether you would give consideration to that kind of appeal from the President of the General Assembly this year.

The PRESIDENT: I do not think it would be effective for a President to give his or her approach to the problems with which he or she has to work behind the scenes. I will do my very best to do what I can by way of trying to see how I can reconcile differences -- not only as concerns the Middle East question, but as regards other questions which, as you know, all of the United Nations Members consider rather seriously, but which we have not yet been able to settle.

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QUESTION: Madam President, there are a great many items this year on the agenda of the General Assembly. Do you think it will be possible to finish the consideration of these items by the proposed date, which is 17 December?

The PRESIDENT: That is what we anticipate. I think that if we proceed to the consideration of those items and avoid too many procedural debates, we might be able successfully to conclude by that date.

QUESTION: Madam President, do you believe that the creation of criteria by which small Governments would be kept out of the United Nations is a good thing or a bad thing, in the light of your eloquence yesterday in speaking of the rights and responsibilities of countries in the United Nations?

The PRESIDENT: If you ask whether I believe in what the Charter says, universality of membership, yes I do.

QUESTION: Madam President, my question has to do with the role of the African nations in the process of decolonization, with resolution 1514 (XV), with the work of the Committee of 24, and with the celebration next year of the tenth anniversary of resolution 1514 (XV).

Considering that the African nations have been a powerful stronghold against colonialism, mainly in the Committee of 24, the Fourth Committee and the General Assembly, and that the African nations had a great deal to do with the wording and approval of resolution 1514 (XV), which includes, in operative paragraph 5, three types of colonial territories: (a) Trust Territories, (b) Non-Self-Governing Territories, and (c) "other Territories which have not yet attained independence"; considering also that the Committee of 24 has been unable, in its eight years of existence, to add one single territory to the "Territories which have not yet attained independence", a list that will have to include, among several, the Spanish-American nation, Puerto Rico, and the African nation, the Comoro Islands; and, finally, considering that the United Nations intends to celebrate in 1970 the tenth anniversary of resolution 1514 (XV)

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when the Committee of 24 has not yet done its duty regarding the quoted list of territories -- do you think that the African nations, or perhaps the African or Asian nations together, should request the inscription of a new item in the present session of the General Assembly, an item which could have the following or a similar title: "The elaboration of the third list of colonial territories, 'Territories which have not yet attained independence' mentioned in operative paragraph 5 of resolution 1514 (XV)"?

The PRESIDENT: Your colleagues laughed because it would seem as though you have had some time really to sit down and plan your question, whereas I have just this moment in which to formulate my answer. The question is so long I do not know whether I can remember all of it. But I should like to ask whether the Territories which you have named are classified as Non-Self-Governing Territories, and also whether they are on the agenda of the Committee of 24. The next point is that I vividly remember the question of the territory of Puerto Rico, as it was at that time, and what action was taken by the General Assembly. As I understand it, the people of Puerto Rico themselves have a right to decide on whether or not the status which they have should be changed. If that is so, I do not think that the members of the Committee of 24 or the United Nations can do anything without the people themselves. Therefore, I think you would have to refer that question to the people of Puerto Rico.

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QUESTION: Do you feel that the seeming détente, or partial détente, between the super-Powers has made the case for the smaller nations more difficult, or do you think that it has merely put them on guard to fight a little harder for their own interests?

The PRESIDENT: I think that I should like to choose the second one. I believe that it has put them on guard. But, in my speech, I tried to express — although this, of course, did not relate exactly to the question which you raised — something about the proper exercise of the vote of the smaller Powers. I believe that we have a Group of Seventy-Seven. I think that the more this happens, the more the smaller Powers will begin to search deeply to find common ground and common interests between them and to try to unite for that purpose.

QUESTION: Do you think it is right that the United Nations should not be involved in the Nigerian civil war?

The PRESIDENT: It is not a question of what I would think is right; it is that the United Nations has certain procedures which must be followed before a question can be discussed or resolutions adopted on a particular subject. Until this has happened, I do not think that it would mean anything as far as your own thoughts are concerned with respect to the handling of the question by the United Nations.

QUESTION: I should like to ask a question on a matter which has disturbed the world; and that is, a war which has been going on for several years with thousands being slaughtered on both sides. An attempt was made a few years ago to bring the issue to the United Nations. According to the Charter, the purpose of the United Nations is to prevent wars. Do you see the possibility in the near future that the smaller Powers may in some way play a role in bringing the matter back to the United Nations? I refer to Viet-Nam.

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The PRESIDENT: We find in the United Nations -- and I think this is not new to you -- that where the great Powers are concerned, the smaller Powers are reluctant to become involved. I think that this is no hidden fact. But the fact is this: that the big Powers themselves have a responsibility and can bring more pressure on other great Powers than can the smaller Powers. It would seem to me that if you yourself were representing a small nation, and the big Powers which seemed to have a conflict of interest refused to bring it before the United Nations, you would not perhaps be willing to do so either. But, besides this fact, we know that there is Power politics which has become an interplay behind the scenes, and even if the smaller Powers felt that it was necessary to do something, I do not think that they would be in a position to do so. And I believe that there is nothing the United Nations can do as long as this question is not on its agenda.

QUESTION: I wonder if, from what you know of the Preparatory Committee for the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the United Nations, there is any prospect that there may be some proposals which might provide an opportunity next year for new departures towards some steps which might be taken.

The PRESIDENT: I must admit that at this stage I cannot tell.

QUESTION: What kind of role do you foresee for yourself as President of the General Assembly in order to change the attitude of some of the delegations, an attitude which you criticized yesterday?

Secondly, do you think that, if we had more women representatives, we would have a more realistic attitude, since your attitude seems to be more realistic?

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The PRESIDENT: I am not here to be partial between the sexes. I am here as President of the General Assembly. But I believe that you, perhaps, as a journalist would be able to say that women apparently have a more serious attitude concerning the conditions that plague the world. I believe that, besides the fact that they are on the international scene, this is because they are mothers, they are homemakers and they cannot bear to see their children go to war to destroy and be destroyed, when the children are not responsible for and had no part in the making of that war. So this gives them a more serious outlook. If the men would give an opportunity to the women to be heard and would consider wisely some of the things that they are saying, perhaps the world would be in a better condition.

QUESTION: Do you feel that the cause of advancing Middle East peace has been retarded by Israel's refusal to admit to the occupied territories the Special Committee set up by the General Assembly last year to probe the condition of the Arab occupants of those territories?

The PRESIDENT: Sir, I beg of you, this is not for the President of the General Assembly to say -- because if she says it, that would be showing that she has taken sides on the question. I have to be impartial.

QUESTION: One of our colleagues just brought up your position as a woman -- which is something we all recognize, of course. Immediately after your election yesterday, a lady coming out of the Assembly who happens to know me said: "This is a great victory for the world-wide feminist movement." Do you agree with that evaluation, not merely as a Liberian, not merely as the President of the Assembly, but as a woman who is a part of the increasing world-wide movement towards feminist recognition?

The PRESIDENT: I am not a feminist as such. I believe that women should be as capable and willing to work as men, but I believe also that, when they have proven themselves, these principles of equality of rights should not only be

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written on paper, but should be executed, and I think that the fact that in the twenty-four sessions of the General Assembly only two women have become President of the General Assembly perhaps led the lady in question to make that statement.

QUESTION: The preamble to my question was long, and it seems to me that you did not answer the essence of the question. It was not Puerto Rico but the possibility and perhaps the advisability of the Afro-Asian group introducing a new item to the General Assembly -- to elaborate the third list which is contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV). According to the report of the Committee of 24, practically every year they try to add even a single Territory to that list and they are not able to, of course due to certain pressures from certain countries or from a certain country. But, if the Assembly were to discuss that item, that list could perhaps be elaborated. Would you like to comment on this?

The PRESIDENT: It would seem from your question that you expect me to anticipate what sovereign States would do in directing their representatives at the United Nations, what actions they should take. I think this is beyond the President of the General Assembly.

Mr. LITTLEJOHNS: Madam President, again our congratulations on your election, and we wish you all success.

The meeting rose at 3.40 p.m.

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Press Release GA/4216  
15 September 1970

STATEMENT BY MISS ANGIE BROOKS, TEMPORARY PRESIDENT  
AND CHAIRMAN OF DELEGATION OF LIBERIA

It is my pleasant duty to declare open the twenty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly. This is the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Organization established "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war". We therefore meet at a moment when we must not only take stock of and evaluate the past, but also plan with foresight and daring for the future. It is our duty to seek to dispel those increasing doubts which have arisen about the effectiveness of our Organization, and to restore that element of hope and trust which existed when the United Nations was founded.

In my inaugural statement as President of the twenty-fourth session of this Assembly, I dwelt at some length on some of the internal weaknesses of this Organization; the parochialism and the lack of a sense of reality with which business is oftentime conducted.

In the real world, then as today, we are confronted with violence and armed conflicts on almost every continent. The tragic situation in Viet-Nam still continues. The Middle East crisis which a few weeks ago gave some glimmer of hope would now seem to have regressed back into its uncompromising stand.

Power politics and/or political expediences continue to frustrate and impede, rather than a genuine outright effort to solve, once and for all, the questions of Korea and the representation of China at the United Nations; this principle seems to apply also in some other parts of the world where there is a desire by its people to be reunited.

I am deeply concerned that the need for the United Nations to establish a permanent peace-keeping force at the service of justice and not of arbitrary politicians is not being given proper consideration by the United Nations, through its authorization and financing. A permanent peace-keeping force is not

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the total answer to the question of peace-keeping -- in view of the power struggle which plagues the world -- but it is true that a peace-keeping force could separate warring Powers, make negotiated settlements more likely, and reduce the chance that a local conflict will develop a global war.

Again, a new kind of threat to international peace and security is emerging by:

a) The hijacking of international aircraft, endangering the lives of innocent passengers and crew, who at times are also held as hostages, as well as the destruction of property and/or the aircraft;

b) Diplomats, while serving their countries, are sometimes kidnapped at their posts and killed; these are serious problems to which the United Nations must give careful consideration. Both nationally and internationally there is need to be established measures and meaningful support to avert such criminal acts, as they are a menace to international relations, create barriers to international understanding and thereby pose a threat to international peace and security.

Action in the field of disarmament is relatively slow; the gong has been sounded by Secretary-General U Thant, as to the urgency for Members of the United Nations, and I may add the world in general, to subordinate their ancient quarrels and launch a global partnership to curb the arms race.

In Africa, the anachronistic State of South Africa continues in all its repressive glory despite the numerous resolutions of the United Nations condemning its practices as a violation of the principles of the Charter and of the Declaration of Human Rights. The efforts of the United Nations in support of the right of the people of Namibia to self-determination and independence under the provisions of the Charter and resolution 1514 (XV) are thwarted through the repressive laws and rigid implementation thereof by South Africa, which is a signatory Member of the Charter. In Rhodesia, the illegal repressive regime continues, against the interest of the majority of the African population; the Portuguese Territories of Angola, Mozambique, Guinea (Bissau) are still in the grip of colonialism -- all despite the United Nations Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

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In addition one cannot rule out the inescapable fact that the greatest obstacle to the realization of the principles of the Charter lies in the fact that power politics continues to operate both overtly and covertly in international relations. The concept of power politics, whether as the instrument of nationalism or of ideological extremism, is the natural enemy of international order as envisaged in the Charter. Patriotism, national pride or ideological conviction can and must take new and more creative forms than the old concepts of political domination or material power. This is a challenge to statesmanship and political genius in all regions of the world.

These and other similar situations constitute a setback to international order and one is bound to wonder, as is sometimes voiced, if the United Nations in its present form has outgrown its usefulness.

Nevertheless, there are certain areas where the United Nations can boast of some measure of success. In the regions of health and education, the United Nations, through its specialized agencies, has done a great deal of constructive work. But I should like to dwell a little on international co-operation for development.

Over the last 20 years, the transfer of resources from the developed to the developing countries has been unprecedented in history. Economic growth in many of the developing countries has, therefore, in many cases proceeded even at faster rates than the industrialized countries ever enjoyed at a similar stage in their own history.

All this sounds very good. But when we remember the low level of development after the departure of the colonial Powers, we will realize that even with these development rates, the standard of life for many in the developing countries has not been sufficiently affected.

As we sit here today in our gracious surroundings, in order to inject a better sense of reality we should keep reminding ourselves that more than two thirds of mankind still lives in conditions of abject poverty, of disease and social backwardness. These conditions do not conduce to international amity. Economic disparities are as great a threat to peace as ideological differences.

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Despite this, we find, unfortunately, that international support for development has continued to flag since the early 60s, and the widening gap between the developed and the developing countries continues to be a central issue of our time. Some of the donor countries have become disenchanted with development aid, partly because of unrealistic expectations of immediate development by the recipient countries; partly because in many cases, it does not seem politically advantageous anymore; partly because of the increasing seriousness of their own internal domestic inequalities, and urban and environmental problems.

Some developing countries, too, are themselves showing signs of frustration and impatience with their development programmes. Economic development is seen as a continuation of the political struggle for independence, and easy and instant prosperity was expected. Unfortunately, this cannot be. Meaningful, broad-based economic development is a slow and often painful process.

Without going too deep into all the problems of development, I would urge the rich countries not to weary in their aid programmes: if not for moralistic reasons, then for enlightened and constructive self-interest. The fullest possible utilization of the resources of the world, human and physical, will benefit both the rich and the poor countries with the consequent increase in international trade.

It is in the area of trade that their most meaningful and self-sustaining economic growth can be achieved. The stimulation of exports is vital to the developing countries. Exports transform their resources into foreign exchange, and the greater the foreign exchange earnings, the less the need for aid. It is here that the developed countries could really make their most useful adjustments, given the will to do so.

The commodity problems of price instability and adverse price trends of the primary products of the developing countries are well known. Yet at the same time, they are forced to pay higher prices for imported manufactured and capital goods. In the light of this I would urge, as the second UNCTAD Conference has done, the industrial countries to lower the barriers of trade, such as high and discriminatory import quotas and regulations of all kinds on products of special interest to the developing countries.

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In the past, we have relied too much on words. For the future we must aim for what is possible, and see that it is done. Our Charter provides for all that is presently possible, in a world of independent and sovereign States, but we must put it into fuller effect. We must implement its security provisions. We must pay more attention to our duty to seek a peaceful settlement of our international disputes. We must dedicate more time, effort and resources to overcoming poverty, disease, discrimination and illiteracy. We must solve, through international co-operation, the challenges of the world of the 1970s: the end to wars, strife and the armaments race, the threats of over-population and pollution, the need for orderly regimes for the new resources science makes available to us beneath the seas and in outer space.

In the modern world, no nation can be an island unto itself. The need for the United Nations, where we can meet and seek to resolve our common problems, is dictated by the realities of present day life. We must face those realities squarely. We must seek to replace the national interest by the international interest. The challenges before us are therefore enormous as we meet today for this twenty-fifth General Assembly.

The theme of this twenty-fifth anniversary is "Peace, justice and progress". We know that peace and justice are two commodities in rather short supply today. They are two principles we constantly praise in words but often deny in deeds. But peace and justice are two commodities with many components; they are also inextricably bound to each other. To move forward to their realization requires, more than anything else, a will on the part of States to accept increasingly some form of third party resolution of their disputes. They must accept to give real substance to their obligations under Article 33 of the United Nations Charter.

Peace and justice are essential to our continued survival. Even if the record has been uneven, and there are grounds for some disappointment, I still believe that the United Nations is essential to peace and justice. Can you imagine a world without a general international organization of the scope of the United Nations in which international peace and justice would flourish? To that my answer is a definitive "No".

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In this venture for peace, justice and progress I know that the youths -- the future leaders of tomorrow -- have a contribution to make. I ask that this opportunity be afforded to them by their national States and on the international level.

Fellow delegates, as I take my leave of this podium, I wish you well in your task. I am sure that you will extend to my successor the courtesy, consideration and wise counsel you afforded me last year. We must make this session a landmark in man's age-old desire and striving for peace, justice and progress.

Mr. Secretary-General, I thank you for your kindness, your counsel and assistance during my tenure of office. My thanks go also to your staff for its co-operation.

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FROM: DE: Wm E. Paulle

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: If you wish to attend the International Flower Show, please contact us while transportation space is available, and we will be glad to make arrangements.

FOR RELEASE

MAX ROSEY ASSOCIATES  
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ITS "THE ANGLE", NEW HYBRID ANTHURIUM, NAMED AFTER HER EXCELLENCY MISS ANGIE BROOKS  
Painted Tongue-Schismatoglottis Picta, Honors President Of UN General Assembly

Allentown, Pa.---One of the world's outstanding women, Her Excellency Angie Brooks, president of the United Nations General Assembly, will have a brilliantly new hybridized anthurium flower ( a painted tongue tropical flower species) named after her, it was announced by Everett Conklin, internationally-known flower designer and director of the ninth annual Hess's International Flower Show.

The new hybrid will be called "The Angie" and Her Excellency Miss Brooks will cut a garland of the new "Angie" with a golden scissors on Monday morning, May 18th, officially opening the International Flower Show at Hess's department store in Allentown, Pa. 250,000 visitors are expected at the week-long show.

Miss Brooks has accepted the invitation of Philip I. Berman, Allentown civic leader and chairman of the board of Hess's, Inc., sponsors of the community inspired International Flower Show, to come to Allentown to be guest of honor at the first day of the Show and to officially open the show by cutting the garland of "Angie" anthuriums, marking the first appearance of the new hybrid anywhere. She will arrive in Allentown on Sunday, May 17 and appear at the International Flower Show for a welcoming breakfast and opening ceremonies.

" The 'Angie' will only be exceeded in fragrance and charm by the lady herself," said Mr. Conklin in announcing the new hybrid named after Miss Brooks.

The show will run for six days through Saturday, May 23rd and each day it devotes special tribute to the 25th Anniversary Year of the United Nations, by honoring permanent representatives of missions from various countries of the UN who will be present at luncheons at the flower show at Hess's and tour the exhibits in honor of their Day at the flower show.

Allentown will become a "Little United Nations" the week of May 18th . The show is open free to the public. Tourists off the highways, students from nearby universities and colleges, housewives, business executives and local municipal government officials, in addition to shoppers, come to view the more than 250,000 fresh-cut blooms, flowers, shrubs, trees and rare fruits from all over the world in the artistic settings, as well as to pay their respects to the UN dignitaries whom they rarely get to see in close-up personal touch.

## U.N. Assembly Leader Is Married in Monrovia



United Nations

### Miss Angie Brooks

Special to The New York Times

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y.

April 27—Miss Angie Brooks of Liberia, president of the 24th General Assembly, was married today to Isaac Randolph, an educator. She kept a long-standing promise to "let her friends at United Nations know" right away.

The ebullient 42-year old diplomat sent word to friends this morning that the ceremony had taken place in Monrovia, Liberia.

During the Assembly last fall, she introduced Mr. Randolph to Secretary General Thant.

Miss Brooks was married during her teens and divorced. She has two grown sons and 47 children she has "adooped" to help with their educations.

Miss Brooks began her United Nations career in 1954 as Liberian delegate and specialist on trusteeship matters.

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MISS ANGLE BROOKS

C/O FOREIGN OFFICE

MONROVIA (LIBERIA VIA FRENCH CABLE)-

PLEASE ACCEPT MY HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS ON THIS VERY AUSPICIOUS  
OCCASION. MY COLLEAGUES JOIN ME IN OFFERING YOU AND RANDOLPH  
OUR BEST WISHES-

W THANT SECRETARY-GENERAL UNITEDNATIONS+

27 April 1970 Secretary-Gen.

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MISS ANGIE BROOKS  
C/O FOREIGN OFFICE  
MONROVIA (LIBERIA)

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

PLEASE ACCEPT MY HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS ON THIS VERY AUSPICIOUS  
OCCASION. MY COLLEAGUES JOIN ME IN OFFERING YOU AND RANDOLPH  
OUR BEST WISHES

U THANT  
SECRETARY-GENERAL  
UNITED NATIONS



Cable to

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Miss Angie Brooks

40 Foreign office

Monrovia, Liberia.

Please accept my heartiest  
congratulations on this very  
auspicious occasion. My colleagues  
join me in offering you and  
Randolph our best wishes.

U Thant

  
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secretary general u thant un headquarters

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promised to tell you when have decided to be wedded to

randolph monday evening april 17 1970 (smile)

angie brooks

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**PAPER ATTACKS UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY CHAIRMAN**

Paris AFP in English 1124 GMT 9 Apr 70 C (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

[Text] Algiers, Apr 9 (AFP)--The official Algerian daily EL MOUJAKD today attacked United Nations General Assembly Chairman Mrs Angie Brooks of Liberia for her "blindness" in making statements of "Israel's desire for peace" at the "very moment when dozens of Egyptian children were dying in an Israeli bombing raid."

The government paper added "Mrs Brooks' statement will remain as an example of blindness--if not indecency. Perhaps she will also be invited to visit South Africa."

Referring to the Israeli raid, the paper said "Israel is aiming to spread terror in the neighboring Arab countries because it is unable to end the resistance of the Palestinian people."

29 March 1970

Press Comment on Tim Brooks visit to ISRAEL

Commenting on Angie Brooks' visit to Israel, AL-AHRAM says: Is it right for Angie Brooks, the UN General Assembly president, to accept an invitation to visit Israel without incurring serious blame, when Israel continues to violate UN resolutions and commit provocation, aggression, and expansion; when UN fact-finding commissions find Israel guilty of the crimes of oppression and terrorism in the occupied territories; and when Israel is daily demonstrating unprecedented disregard for all international laws?

When she was elected UN General Assembly president, Angie Brooks ceased to be just the Liberian assistant foreign minister. She assumed an important political position which commits her to respect the international organization she represents.

Angie Brooks, who comes from a continent which has suffered more than any other continent from racism and racial discrimination, should have shown some regard for her African nationality, if not for the qualities of neutrality and objectivity, and should avoid areas of heated disputes.

Angie Brooks' behavior affects not only her person but also the position she occupies, which is a serious matter now in view of the very complex and grave situation in the Middle East--a situation which calls for careful observance of good conduct by UN officials.

However, the announcement by the UN spokesman that Brooks is no longer president of the UN General Assembly lessens the effect of this grave mistake.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1722 GMT on 28 March reports that the Foreign Ministry in Cairo has instructed the permanent UAR delegate to the United Nations to protest Angie Brooks' visit, which strengthens Israeli aggression and is regarded as support for Israel's challenge of the General Assembly and Security Council resolutions.]

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CAUTION: ADVANCE TEXT

To be used in connexion with  
the observance of the International Day  
for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination  
21 March 1970

Press Release GA/4176

HR/447

16 March 1970

TEXT OF MESSAGE BY PRESIDENT OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY, MISS ANGIE BROOKS,  
ON OCCASION OF INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Today, ten years ago, the world was shocked by the news of the massacre of Sharpeville. Sixty-nine Africans were killed, including eight women and ten children, and out of the 180 people who were wounded, thirty-one were women and nineteen were children. The South African police fired on an unarmed African group and fired even after the people began to flee; all that happened in forty seconds, during which time 705 rounds were fired from revolvers and sten guns. The massacre was horrible.

Sharpeville was a tragedy which showed most plainly that the ideology of apartheid is a way of death and not of life. The most frightful of spectacles was experienced; it disclosed the strength of "civilisation" without mercy; but, at the same time, this drama was the turning point for the United Nations in its consideration of South Africa's apartheid policies. It is from that date that the United Nations overrode South Africa's arguments that its apartheid policies were matters of domestic jurisdiction and held that the racism involved was a development which related to international peace and security.

Today, to commemorate the tragedy of Sharpeville, we the International community observe for the fourth consecutive year the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination which was proclaimed by the General Assembly resolution 2142 of 26 October 1966. Ten years have elapsed since the Sharpeville massacre and the South African Government has not heeded the call of the United Nations to abandon its policy of apartheid; on the contrary, it has enacted increasingly repressive and arbitrary laws and has turned the Republic of South Africa into a hideous police State which denies to the majority of the South African population all human rights and fundamental freedoms on the basis of philosophy of racial supremacy.

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Racial discrimination has been neither an unknown nor even an uncommon phenomenon in the history of the human race. However, today, discrimination on the grounds of race or the colour of skin is either formally disowned or legally discouraged, with the exception of the Republic of South Africa. There, the doctrines of race supremacy have been elevated to the status of constitutional dogma; there, the practical infliction of these theories by the minority of whites has been raised to a fine and cruel legislative art against the Africans. Apartheid is slavery of the twentieth century. Nothing has changed from ancient times; only ancient slavery was transported to new surroundings. Apartheid and the philosophy underlining it is a crime against humanity, as the General Assembly of the United Nations clearly and by an overwhelming majority has declared.

The Lusaka manifesto declared that apartheid adopted by the South African Government and supported to a greater or lesser extent by almost all of its white citizens is based on a rejection of man's humanity. "A position of privilege or the experience of oppression in the African society depends on the one thing which it is beyond the power of any man to change. It depends upon a man's colour, his parentage and his ancestry. If you are black you cannot escape this categorization; nor can you escape it if you are white. If you are a black millionaire and a brilliant political scientist, you are still subject to the pass laws and still excluded from political activity. If you are white, even protests against the system and an attempt to reject segregation will only lead you to the segregation, and the comparative comfort of a white goal. Beliefs, abilities and behaviour are all irrelevant to a man's status; everything depends upon race. Manhood is irrelevant. The whole system of government and society in South Africa is based on the denial of human equality."

It is sad to experience now, in the twentieth century, the export of other countries of the poison of racism, the poison of the denial of human equality, officially and formally manufactured by the authorities of South Africa as "apartheid". This poison has worked its way in the areas neighbouring South Africa, such as Southern Rhodesia.

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The international community is fighting a powerful adversary, but by observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, we will show to the world clearly that we all recognize the injustice and danger of the situation in South Africa caused by the continued application of the policies of apartheid and that we are determined to work for the elimination of those policies.

I would like to stress that the General Assembly, by its resolution 2506 of 22 November 1969, reiterated its condemnation of its policies of apartheid practised by the Government of South Africa which it considered as a crime against humanity; it reaffirmed its recognition of the legitimacy of the struggle of the oppressed people of South Africa for the exercise of their inalienable right of self-determination and thus to obtain majority rule based on universal suffrage.

Although I must express my distress that the South African Government has not yet responded to the repeated appeals of the United Nations organs to abandon its hideous policies of apartheid and to seek a just and lasting solution through consultations among all people of South Africa, irrespective of race, colour or creed, and is adamant in its illegal behaviour, I wish to reiterate my earnest hope that progress under the United Nations auspices will be made in the near future towards meaningful and effective measures to persuade the Government of South Africa that its policy of slavery, that its policy of apartheid, has no place in the twentieth century. I do hope that the Government of South Africa will abandon its policy of racial discrimination and will satisfy the yearning of the majority of its people for equality and justice. The full and effective implementation of the recommendations of different organs of the United Nations on apartheid will only accelerate the ultimate goal of full equality of all in southern Africa, for which the world of today is fighting.

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Press Release GA/4164  
17 December 1969

TEXT OF ADDRESS BY ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT, MISS ANGIE BROOKS,  
ON 17 DECEMBER 1969

I. Introduction

Some thirteen weeks ago, the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly opened in this Hall. Since then we have considered one hundred and seven agenda items and have come to the final stage of our work. It is not my intention to delay you from a well-deserved rest and vacation, but I trust you will bear with me just a few minutes longer before I strike the gavel for the close of this session.

When I spoke at the opening meeting of this session, I expressed my gratitude and pride for the honour paid to my country and to me by my election to the Presidency. I also spoke of my feeling of responsibility and my fear. That fear was soon dispelled by the unfailing courtesy and consideration which every one of you has displayed towards me since the very beginning. I can now openly extend my unreserved and wholehearted thanks to all delegations, to all the Chairmen of the Main Committees, and to the members of the Assembly for constant assistance and support in the discharge of my responsibilities. I hope that I have measured up to those responsibilities, and that you will let me leave this podium with the feeling that, whatever mistakes I may have made, they were but human; that I have tried to be honest, impartial, and to carry out my responsibilities to the best of my ability.

To refer once more to my statement at the opening of this session, I struck a rather sombre note in reviewing the status of the United Nations and its work, and I stressed the need for our Organization to translate ideals into action. Today I shall permit myself a little more optimism. The session which

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is now ending has been largely without polemics. It has been somewhat a sober one. This is all to the good. We have not finally resolved the long-standing political problems before us, but we have made some progress. If much remains to be done, new avenues to be explored, new attitudes and ideas to be found, we have given the direction to future assemblies. In the months which intervene between now and the twenty-fifth anniversary which the United Nations celebrates next year, we must dedicate ourselves to seeking out those new avenues, attitudes and ideas, so that we may translate them into action in the sessions which lie ahead.

## II. The work of the twenty-fourth session

### A. Plenary

Let me now turn to the work of this session. As this is a plenary meeting, it would be redundant for me to recall the items we have taken up directly in plenary. Nevertheless, you will permit me, as an African, to mention my satisfaction at the endorsement directly in the plenary of the Lusaka Manifesto, which charts the ideal and ideas for a new course in southern Africa. Perhaps the achievement of those ideals and ideas will take a long time, but mankind's aspirations have always triumphed in the long run over seemingly overwhelming forces. These aspirations will eventually prevail in southern Africa.

This plenary depends, for most of the resolutions it adopts, on the recommendations of its Main Committees. It is therefore to the work of the Committees that I must turn now in assessing the value of this session.

### B. The First Committee

Four of the eight items allocated to the First Committee concerned disarmament. The others covered Korea, outer space, the sea-bed and ocean floor and the strengthening of international security.

The progressive development and universal acceptance of international law is crucial in our search for peace with justice. This is true not only of traditional areas of the law, but even more importantly, of those other areas which the wonders of modern technology are now opening to us. It is essential

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that the sea-bed and outer space be developed in an orderly fashion for the benefit of all. A regime conceived and drafted under the aegis of the United Nations is emerging for outer space. To carry this regime forward, it is to be hoped that we shall very shortly see concluded, perhaps at our next session, the agreement on liability for damage caused by objects launched into outer space -- a subject on which the great majority of States feel that a treaty is now urgent.

For the sea-bed we are still in the initial phase, and there are undoubtedly powerful clashes of ideas and interests. But our work here must go on, and a realistic and beneficial regime developed from which all nations can profit. The sea-bed must be a treasure chest, not a Pandora's box which will let loose yet further conflict and distress. Success will only reward our endeavours if some international regime can be evolved which provides for the reasonable interests of everyone. In a world of sovereign States, the enforcement of the law cannot come from the use of force, but from the acceptance by States that the law is reasonable, just and in the common interest.

As regards disarmament, may I first take note of the meetings being held in Helsinki between the two super-Powers on the question of strategic arms limitation. I hope that they will arrive at a solution which will bring lasting peace to the world. Nevertheless it seems to me that the question of disarmament and of the strategic arms limitation should be dealt with in the framework of the United Nations.

Concerning the work of the First Committee in this field, perhaps I should mention the particularly significant declaration that the 1970's will be a Disarmament Decade; the calling for suspension of nuclear weapons tests in all environments; the declaration concerning the scope of generally recognized rules of international law as embodied in the Geneva Protocol of 1925 and the related resolution calling for, among other things, the accession to or ratification of the Protocol and requesting the Committee on Disarmament to consider urgently a convention for the elimination of chemical and bacteriological weapons; the appeal to the Soviet Union and the United States to agree on a moratorium on further testing and deployment of new offensive and defensive

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strategic nuclear weapons systems; and, lastly, the resolution on the elaboration of a draft treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction on the sea-bed and the ocean floor. That the Committee, after prolonged consultations, was able to arrive at a consensus on this question -- on which considerable difference of opinion existed -- is one of the considerable achievements of the session.

Thus this progress appears to me to be of particular significance in that it has laid the foundations for realistic future agreements on matters of peace, security and international cooperation.

C. The Special Political Committee

In the case of apartheid, the Special Political Committee, for the first time, accepted the idea of promoting assistance to, and holding consultations with, representatives of the national movement of the oppressed people of South Africa.

The problems of refugees give me deep concern. May I take this opportunity to stress again the need for support of refugees through voluntary contributions from Member States. In saying this I recognize also that it is in Africa and Asia where the problems of refugees continue to grow.

On the question of peace-keeping, I would call upon the permanent members of the Security Council to resolve their political differences and make more effective peace-keeping operations wherever needed.

D. The Second Committee

It is gratifying that the Second Committee's recommendations this year included new dimensions in such fields as education and tourism.

The Assembly has adopted a resolution on the establishment of an international university, proposed by the Secretary-General. This resolution, I hope, has sown the seed for the founding of such a university. It is interesting to note that the debate held in the Committee concerned the type of university to be set up, rather than whether there should be one.

In the field of tourism, the Assembly has been able to adopt a resolution providing for the establishment of an intergovernmental tourism organization.

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Last year the Assembly decided to convene a Conference on the Human Environment in 1972. Qualified representatives to be nominated by the Preparatory Committee will assist in organizing and preparing the Conference.

If I may, I should like to refer to the statement of the representative of the United States, Mrs. Black, on human environment, who mentioned, inter alia, "Obviously we cannot turn off the faucet of human progress. Our common challenge is to improve the management of our human environment. The proper use of science is not to conquer nature, but to live with it."

We are on the verge of launching an international strategy for development for the 1970s, and at next year's session of the General Assembly we hope to proclaim that strategy for the next Decade. I have purposely referred to this question last because I want to end this section on economic matters with an urgent note of appeal. All our efforts must be marshalled in the next few months towards reaching agreement at the highest possible level for providing the Preparatory Committee for the next Development Decade with the necessary tools so that it, in turn, can make recommendations to the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly which reflect an agreed, concerted effort to improve the lot of all mankind. What should be emphasized is the complementary nature of, not the conflict between, the needs of the developed and the developing nations. International aid and the expansion of international trade are not just humanitarian endeavours, they are essential to peace and to prosperity for everyone of us. "Peace, Justice and Prosperity", the slogan of our twenty-fifth anniversary, must be kept in mind by Member States, by this Assembly, and all other relevant United Nations organs, as we stand on the threshold of the Second Development Decade. When that Decade finishes, I hope that we can honestly say that the world is a better place in which to live.

E. The Third Committee

Among the matters dealt with by the Third Committee, I would like in particular to draw attention to the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, the adoption of which, in my view, constitutes one of the most important achievements of this twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly. This is a truly significant step in pursuance of the objective of promoting social progress and better standards of life and larger freedom as set out in the

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United Nations Charter. The Declaration takes on particular significance because it is the first international instrument which provides clear guidelines not only for social policies but also for the integration of economic and social action for the improvement of the social environment and the well-being of the individual. The Declaration may rank one day in importance with the Declarations on Human Rights and on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. These other Declarations have had considerable impact on the history of our times, and I hope that, in the years ahead, the Declaration on Social Progress and Development will likewise influence all those who guide our destinies in our search for better standards of life in larger freedom.

Among its other notable achievements, the Third Committee approved resolutions on the education of youth in the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and on the problems and needs of youth and its participation in national development.

F. The Fourth Committee

As regards the work of the Fourth Committee, I think that it can be fairly assumed that its work this year has been in the spirit of the Charter, more conciliatory and more realistic. On certain problems which had occupied the attention of the Assembly for a number of years and which often led to vitriolic debates, we have seen this year, as a result of the urgings of the Assembly, a new trend towards conciliation. Dialogues between the States concerned aiming at the final settlement of these problems are already afoot. I refer in particular to the questions of Gibraltar, the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), French Somaliland and Fiji. On all of these problems, the Fourth Committee has adopted consensus taking note of recent developments concerning these Territories while at the same time requesting the Special Committee of 24 to keep developments in these Territories under continuous review. This happy development was unfortunately not the case with the Territories of southern Africa. In Rhodesia, in the Portuguese Territories and in Namibia, the Fourth Committee had to face the same hard realities and the unflinching opposition of the colonial Powers in this region to the spirit of the Charter as well as to the myriads of resolutions

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that have been adopted over the years, calling on them to desist from courses which they have adopted in violation of the principles of the Charter, of the Declaration on Human Rights as well as the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. A number of recommendations were submitted by the Fourth Committee to the Assembly, in particular with respect to intensified efforts to be made by the Security Council with a view to the full and effective implementation of these principles to which I have just referred.

It is also pertinent to allude in this connexion to the action taken by the Fourth Committee concerning the activities of foreign economic and other interests which are impeding the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Southern Rhodesia, Namibia and Territories under Portuguese domination and in all other Territories under colonial domination and efforts to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa. The Fourth Committee, as in the past, has condemned these interests and called for the immediate cessation of these activities in order to remove yet another obstacle to the fulfilment of the goal set out in the Declaration for these Territories.

Another matter to which the Fourth Committee gave close attention was the question of small Territories, particularly those strewn over the Caribbean area and the Pacific region. The Fourth Committee has in this connexion called once again upon the administering Powers to co-operate with the United Nations in the dispatch of visiting missions so as to enable the Special Committee of 24 to discharge its functions with respect to these Territories.

One final point which also deserves mention in this general evaluation of the work accomplished by the Fourth Committee this year relates to the recommendations which were adopted with respect to the role to be played by the specialized agencies and other international organizations concerned in increasing their assistance to refugees from colonial territories as well as to national liberation movements.

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G. The Fifth Committee

In the midst of all the political, economic, social and legal questions with which we have to deal, we sometimes forget the hard work of the Fifth Committee which deals with all our many administrative and financial questions. This year the Committee reviewed and approved a budget of \$165,420,000 for 1970. Of particular significance, both to delegations and to the Secretariat, was its approval of the Secretary-General's proposals for new construction and alterations at United Nations Headquarters in New York for a total United Nations commitment of no more than \$25 million, although the total cost of the project is estimated at more than \$73 million. The balance, it is anticipated, will be provided by the host State, the City of New York and private sources. The Fifth Committee also approved United Nations participation in providing financing for part of the \$5 million development fund for the United Nations International School to the extent of \$2 million over 4 years, beginning in 1971. Of interest, in particular, to the Secretariat are the changes in the regulations of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund recommended by the Fifth Committee, which will increase benefits already being paid as well as affect future benefits.

The Fifth Committee also recommended to us this year a far reaching resolution on publications and documentation of the United Nations, which should help to reduce the volume and size of publications and documentation and thus prevent delegations, the Secretariat and the interested public from drowning in what has been an ever widening sea of documents.

H. The Sixth Committee

This year the Sixth Committee has made a further significant contribution to the progressive development of international law and its codification with the adoption, on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee, of the Convention on Special Missions, comprising fifty-five articles and an optional protocol on the compulsory settlement of disputes. This, together with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic and Consular Relations, completes the progressive development and codification of the more traditional forms of diplomatic and

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consular relations. As the Convention on Special Missions was adopted almost unanimously it can confidently be hoped that it will enjoy the same wide acceptance as its two related Conventions. By including the question of Special Missions in the agenda of its twenty-third and twenty-fourth sessions, the Assembly undertook for the first time the adoption of a convention for the progressive development and codification of international law on the basis of a draft prepared by the International Law Commission. The successful conclusion of this undertaking opens the door to a greater utilization of the Sixth Committee for the future preparation of codification conventions.

The Sixth Committee also considered a question of topical importance: the forcible diversion of civil aircraft in flight, on which it was able to present to us a resolution enjoying a very great measure of support. I hope that this resolution will help in the efforts to bring the reprehensible acts of hijacking to an end.

The Sixth Committee also submitted to us resolutions seeking to complete very shortly the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States and the Definition of Aggression. I very much hope the the first of these, in particular, will be completed for adoption as a significant element of the twenty-fifth anniversary celebrations.

Unfortunately, because of the time element, the item: Need to consider suggestions regarding the review of the Charter of the United Nations, was not seriously considered by the Assembly. For while the Charter was remarkably forward-looking when it was adopted at the end of the Second World War and its purposes and principles still stand, the growth and development of the United Nations since that time -- a quarter of the century ago -- demands a careful study and upgrading of both the Charter and the Rules of Procedure to meet the needs of an enlarged membership and new situations which now prevail.

### III. Concluding Remarks

Time has not permitted me to mention all that we have done, but I hope that I have been able to recall some of the more interesting developments of the session.

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As we leave today, we cannot feel that we have finally solved either the armed conflicts in Africa, Asia and the Middle East or the remaining problems of colonialism, or that universal and complete disarmament has been achieved, or apartheid and other forms of suppression of human rights abolished. Against these evils our achievement may appear to be very slight indeed. Modest though they may be, we have nevertheless taken some steps which promise that the world of tomorrow may be a little better than the world of today. If our satisfaction is thus only small, let it drive us to greater efforts in the future, and let us dedicate ourselves to a really significant anniversary session next year from which mankind may benefit.

Again I must say that I cannot close my heart to innocent victims in different parts of the world.

I am deeply concerned also -- as I am sure all of you are -- about the tragic situation in Nigeria. It is the women and children who are suffering most, particularly in the Biafran controlled area of Nigeria, but also in some of the other areas affected by the fighting. It is our impression that the situation of these children is deteriorating and for many the damage is now irreversible, even among the survivors.

My country is one of those working through the Organization of African Unity for an early political settlement. All of us here must hope for success in that endeavour, and on that basis I would therefore make a sincere appeal to the Parties directly concerned to effect an immediate cease-fire. This appeal is also made to the Parties directly involved in the conflicts in South-East Asia and the Middle East.

Meanwhile, there is an immediate need for food, especially protein, and medicines for the civil population on both sides of the fighting. Relief supplies have been given generously, but, at present, sufficient amounts cannot be delivered. We need immediate ways to preserve the health of women and children. One of these would be a cease-fire for humanitarian purposes, even for a limited period, to allow the delivery of food and medicines. I am confident this could be accomplished with adequate safeguards.

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Finally, I wish you all a very happy holiday, and, as I take leave of you, I thank you, each and every one, for your kindness, courtesy, consideration and wise counsel. The experience of the last few months will be one of the most treasured in my life. My parting words must be those of the deepest gratitude to the Secretary-General, his Under-Secretaries-General and all those members of the Secretariat -- seen and unseen -- who have assisted me unfailingly and unstintingly throughout the session. Thank you again.

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

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I declare the twenty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly closed.

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Press Release GA/4164/Corr.1  
17 December 1969

TEXT OF ADDRESS BY ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT, MISS ANGIE BROOKS,  
ON 17 DECEMBER 1969

CORRECTION

In Press Release GA/4164 of 17 December, the second last sentence in the third paragraph on page 5 should read:

"'Peace, Justice and Progress,' the slogan of our twenty-fifth anniversary, must be kept in mind by Member States, by this Assembly, and all other relevant United Nations organs, as we stand on the threshold of the Second Development Decade."

Also on page 6, the fifth sentence in the third paragraph should read:

"On all of these problems, the Fourth Committee has adopted consensuses taking note of recent developments concerning these Territories, while at the same time requesting the Special Committee of 24 to keep developments in these Territories under continuous review."

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Press Release GA/4164/Add.1  
17 December 1969

TEXT OF ADDRESS BY ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT, MISS ANGIE BROOKS,  
ON 17 DECEMBER 1969

ADDENDUM

On page 2 of the text, issued earlier today, the following should be added at the end of the first paragraph under the heading "B. The First Committee":

This latter item, taken up on the initiative of the Soviet Union, gave rise to a most constructive debate and to a resolution adopted by acclamation which will give due prominence to recommendations on the strengthening of international security at our anniversary session.

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Press Release GA/4149

ERD/77

10 December 1969

ADDRESS BY ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT, MISS ANGIE BROOKS,  
AT HUMAN RIGHTS DAY CONCERT AT HEADQUARTERS, 10 DECEMBER

Today as we gather here to celebrate twenty-one years of the adoption of the Declaration of Human Rights, we do so realizing that human rights are our most precious heritage -- justice and freedom and dignity are rooted in many centuries of common history. They go beyond governments and organizations, and reach all of mankind.

The Declaration constitutes the needed protest against thousands of years of oppression and exploitation of man by States, groups or other men. It is an international ratification of what has already been more or less expressed in the customs or Constitutions of many countries of the world.

We recognize the adoption by the United Nations of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples which has become a cornerstone of the Organization; we recognize also that in about a decade and-a-half, the goal of independence has been achieved in an impressive number of countries. However, we admit that, too many, particularly in large parts of Africa, are still subject to colonial domination.

Twenty-one years, and yet, there are countries, Members of the United Nations, and territories which have not yet achieved independence, where discrimination is still practised. There are countries and territories where the abominable practice of apartheid is still exercised, despite the fact that the United Nations has repeatedly expressed grave concern and condemned such a policy and inhuman practice.

Twenty-one years, and still a Member State perpetuates the inhuman practice of apartheid through harsh laws which deprive most of the people of their elementary human rights -- in 1969, individuals are still degraded by the sickness of racism.

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We are appalled that against emphatic condemnation by mankind everywhere, of a unilateral declaration of independence of an illegal minority regime, and a denouncement of the new constitution adopted in flagrant violation of elementary human rights, an anti-democratic and racist instrument, this regime vigorously carries out steps to perpetuate thereby, the domination by a minority people over a majority people in their homeland.

Today people the world over express their concern that there are populations of the world which become victims of war being carried on in localized form in practically every continent of the globe.

They are concerned by the tragic conflicts taking place, which undermine the economic and social development of peoples and the failure of nations to reach a peaceful, equitable and lasting settlement; they are concerned that in the age of the astronauts and man walking on the moon, here on earth men lack shelter and clothing, are illiterate, die of hunger and starvation and disease.

Soon we will commence a new milestone in the history of the United Nations. I would call upon its Members to meet the challenge in implementing the international norms of human rights and freedoms, and create conditions under which basic rights and fundamental freedoms will be safe-guarded and respected.

For, as the Secretary-General has so rightly stated "in ... a very real sense, the promotion and protection of human rights form the very essence, and provide the deepest meaning and motivation of the United Nations as an international and inter-governmental Organization. For in the last analysis, a recognition of the dignity and worth of the human person, in the words of the Charter, is a symbol of all the other activities and purposes entrusted to and pursued by the world Organization: peace, the security of future generations from the scourge of war and the promotion of social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom. The establishment of human rights provides the foundation upon which rests the political structure of human freedom; the achievement of human freedom generates the will as well as the capacity for economic and social progress; the attainment of economic and social progress provides the basis for true peace".

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The United Nations must now translate ideals into action; it must meet the hope of mankind for a world free from transgressions of human rights and fundamental freedom, but this is not the task of the United Nations alone; it is also the task of the Governments, Members of the United Nations, as well as of all its peoples. We cannot accept things as they are; we must improve upon them. Let us continue to work together for the triumph of human values.

In welcoming you here, tonight's program brings us messages of varied lands and civilizations. It reminds us that the artist has all times and all existence for his theme. Fed by the world, art knows no barrier of race, religion or language. It takes shape under the influence of the whole human environment. The artist borrows the materials of his thoughts and beliefs from those with whom he lives. He would be poorer than a beast if it were not for the traditions that fashioned his mind.

We have heard a wonderful interpretation of Liszt and Albeniz music by the French pianist Evelyn Crochet. The Mexican actress Maria Douglas deeply moved us with her "Voice in the desert". Shortly we will see Vyjayanthimala, a famous Indian classical dancer.

Art is the most universal, the freest form of communication. It includes all phases of our experiences.

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*Cheque sent to Miss K. Peters.*

CVN/CC

cc: Mr. Narasimhan  
Mr. Lemieux ✓

*Miss K. Peters*

10 December 1969

Dear Madame President,

I have read with great interest the letter from the Mayor's Committee for United Nations Week and Day, Montclair, New Jersey, dated December 7, 1969. I have arranged for the cheque for \$100.00 to be passed on to the Controller's Office. You may wish to acknowledge receipt of this amount from the Chairman of the Mayor's Committee with appreciation.

Perhaps you will permit me to say that in my opinion it would not be appropriate for the President to announce this contribution in the General Assembly. However, there may be other occasions when you may be addressing the public and when it would be appropriate for you to make a reference to this gift.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

U Thant

Her Excellency  
Miss Angie Brooks  
President of the General Assembly  
United Nations  
New York, N.Y. 10017



*Original  
returned to  
Miss A. Brooks*

## MAYOR'S COMMITTEE for UNITED NATIONS WEEK and DAY

MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY, 07042

15 Stonehenge Rd.  
Upper Montclair, N.J. 07043  
December 7, 1969

Hon. Angie Brooks  
President, The General Assembly  
United Nations  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Madam President,

Many thanks for the kind courtesies extended to us by you and your staff on Montclair's UN Day Family's visit to the United Nations recently. The Alexander family and Mrs. Goldsmith join me in heartfelt thanks.

We shall always treasure our visit with you and recall how generous you were in giving us of your time, and explaining to us the goals and the purposes which the United Nations was created to serve. We know that your efforts will speed the day when the lot of all mankind will be peace and justice and prosperity.

You were also most kind to pose for a photo with our UN Day Family and I am happy to enclose a copy which I thought you may like to have.

Our Montclair Mayor's Committee for UN Day is pleased to enclose a check for one hundred dollars to the United Nations. We know that the UN for various reasons is operating at a deficit, unlike our committee to which our citizens give full support. We, therefore, have a surplus which we would like to share with the UN in helping to defray its deficit, or use in anyway it deems desirable.

If you feel it appropriate, you may wish to announce our small contribution to the Assembly as an expression of our feeling of our faith in the United Nations and hope that all its member nations will give it their full support and subordinate their ancient quarrels to make it a better instrument of man's needs so that mankind will survive, prosper and live peacefully in this world. We hope that your efforts toward this end will be crowned with success.

Again with thanks and best wishes for a happy holiday season and peaceful New Year.

Sincerely,  
*Harry Goldsmith*  
Harry Goldsmith, Chairman

P.S. We are most interested in the Youth Program being considered for the 25th Anniversary of the UN and would be pleased if we would be kept informed of developments and be able to help.

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United Nations, N.Y.

(FOR USE OF INFORMATION MEDIA -- NOT AN OFFICIAL RECORD)

Note No. 3588  
8 December 1969

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS

The President of the General Assembly, Miss Angie Brooks (Liberia), will receive Brazil's highest award today, 8 December. The award, the Order Nacional do Cruzeiro do Sue, has been bestowed on Miss Brooks in recognition of her accomplishments by President Emilio Garrastazu Medici of Brazil.

Joao Augusto de Araujo Castro, Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations, will present the award to Miss Brooks in her office on the thirty-eighth floor at 2:45 p.m.

It is the first time that this award has been given to a President of the General Assembly during a session.

\* \* \* \* \*

NUMBER

Dec. 8 1969 <sup>55-1875</sup>/<sub>212</sub> 5<sup>00</sup>

PAY TO THE ORDER OF

The United Nations \$100

One hundred & 00/100 DOLLARS



MONTCLAIR NATIONAL BANK AND TRUST COMPANY MONTCLAIR, N. J.

The Mayor's Comm. for U.N. Week + Day in Montclair N.J.

Walter D. Albion (Signature)

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SECURE CHECK PRINTERS CO.

## 2 WOMEN'S GROUPS HONOR ANGIE BROOKS

Two organizations representing more than 3,000 women yesterday honored the president of the United Nations General Assembly, Miss Angie E. Brooks, with tributes paid exclusively by men.

State Attorney General Louis J. Lefkowitz brought greetings from Governor Rockefeller and offered a job to Miss Brooks, who was once Attorney General of her nation, Liberia.

"If ever your present post gets too active or not active enough, there is a place on my staff for you," he said.

Chief S. O. Adebo, Nigeria's permanent representative to the United Nations, paid tribute to Miss Brooks, the second woman in 24 years to head the General Assembly, by telling a luncheon audience that the "influence of women is way out of proportion to their numbers" at the United Nations.

Miss Brooks, a past president of the International Federation of Women Lawyers, one of the sponsoring groups, said that "women have come a long way" but "not half far enough."

Co-sponsoring the tribute at the Waldorf-Astoria Starlight Roof was the Pan American Women's Association.

Other speakers at the luncheon included Abdur Rahman Pazhwak, representative to the United Nations from Afghanistan, and Roger Baldwin, past president of the International League of the Rights of Man.

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CAUTION: ADVANCE TEXT  
Not for use before 8 p.m. EST  
Saturday, 6 December

Press Release GA/4143  
5 December 1969

ADDRESS BY ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT, MISS ANGLE BROOKS, TO INTERNATIONAL  
FEDERATION OF WOMEN LAWYERS AT WALDORF-ASTORIA HOTEL, NEW YORK, 6 DECEMBER

Almost every day we read of a lowering of the barrier in favour of women. This past week the Council on Foreign Relations, whose discussions have often affected the foreign policy of the United States since its founding in 1921, decided to admit women to its ranks for the first time.

We know of other movements -- some extreme -- to raise the prestige of women -- one even suggests syndicalising the "mere housewife", for even in this country, where so much has been done to make the housewives' tasks more easy, it is considered that she puts in nearly 100 hours a week of work, which is 2 1/2 as much as the work week for most businesses and industries today.

We know the importance of women politically -- almost no place on earth today will consider ignoring her potential within any political movement. Indeed, women who make up more than 50 per cent of the world have this in common with youth which also numbers more than 50 per cent of the world's population, and any political movement desiring strength will have both a woman and youth auxiliary. We are also aware that the potential for being the greatest moulder of public opinion are the wives and mothers of the world -- they are great educators, and women's financial power is widely acknowledged in that they spend, at least in the industrialized countries, nearly 90 per cent of the money. Nevertheless, woman has remained in a subordinate position, and this sometimes because she herself has felt that this is her place. What is the United Nations doing about the condition of women throughout the world?

I would like to focus our attention on that body which has been dealing with the question since 1946 -- the Commission on the Status of Women.

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This Commission was established in 1946 and held its first meeting that year. It is composed of Member States of the United Nations and is considered a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council. Its original membership was 15, later expanded to 18 and enlarged to 21 in 1961. It now numbers about 23 States, according to those who are able to attend the meetings. Its primary mandate is to prepare recommendations and reports on promoting the rights of women in all fields. In its early days it concentrated its efforts in the field of equal pay for equal work, equal opportunity in education, and lifting the limitation of women's franchise and the eligibility to hold public office. Early differences in discussions were between those who felt that attention should be concentrated on existing discriminations against women in the political, economic and educational fields and those who considered that the body should confine itself to adopting effective resolutions, leaving aside pronouncements until all Member States had replied to a questionnaire on the subject circulated by the Secretary-General.

Political rights are particularly important to women because only through their participation in legislative, executive and judicial organizations of government can women obtain equality in other fields. When the Charter was signed women had obtained political rights in about half of the sovereign countries of the world. By 1966 more than 100 countries had granted them full political rights, and those sovereign States of the world where women did not have the right to vote and were not eligible to hold public office numbered only nine. In five countries women's rights to vote and/or their eligibility to hold public office were subject to certain limitations not imposed on men. The overwhelming majority of new nations which have emerged in recent years have embodied in their constitutions or in legislative provisions political rights to men and women on equal terms.

The Commission on the Status of Women has taken several measures to ensure prompt equal political rights, and of these the most important is the setting forth of a Convention on the Political Rights of Women adopted by the General Assembly in 1952. This was the first instance in international law aimed at granting and protecting women's rights on a world-wide basis. It ensured

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that in those countries which are parties to the Convention women should have the right to vote, to be eligible for election, hold public office and exercise all public functions on equal terms with men. The Convention was opened for signature in March 1953 and entered into force in July 1954. By the beginning of 1969, 64 countries had ratified or acceded to the Convention.

The Commission on the Status of Women has been deeply concerned with the question of the access of women to education. In this field it has co-operated with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Labour Office to promote the access of girls and women to education at all levels, to the teaching profession, to vocational guidance and technical and professional training. It has advocated free and compulsory education for all and has specified measures to eliminate illiteracy among women and develop programmes for adult education for women. The Commission has always expressed interest in those programmes of UNESCO which are of special importance to women such as the foreign projects aimed at increasing the access of girls and women to education in developing countries.

The question of equal pay for equal work has figured prominently in the work of the Commission on the Status of Women. It has collaborated with the International Labour Office on a Convention and Recommendation adopted in 1951 on equal remuneration for work of equal value for men and women workers. The Commission through the Economic and Social Council has repeatedly urged the acceptance by Governments of the principle of equal pay and has encouraged non-governmental organizations to influence public opinion on this subject.

The Commission and the Economic and Social Council have been concerned with vocational and technical training opportunities, vocation guidance, age of retirement and conditions of employment for women and have urged Governments to avail themselves of services provided by Technical Assistance programmes in this field.

Another question of importance to the Commission has been the access of women to training and employment in the principal professional and technical fields. A report by the Secretary-General on the availability of opportunities for women jurists, architects and engineers was considered by the Commission in 1959 and another report on selected co-operation in the principal professional and

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technical fields was discussed by the Commission in 1961. A resolution adopted in the same year called upon Member States to pay special attention to problems regarding the employment of women, to take all possible steps to promote, for women who desire work, the opportunity to obtain employment in accordance with their qualifications and abilities to take the necessary measures to eliminate restrictions on the right of women to work, including those who are married or about to be married. Special aspects of the employment of women, including handicrafts and cottage industries, part time work, work for older women and the situation of working women with family responsibilities have been considered by the Commission and the Economic and Social Council on the basis of reports prepared by the International Labour Office and the Secretary-General.

In the field of tax legislation applicable to women, the Economic and Social Council has supported the position taken by the Commission that legislation should provide for equal treatment of men and women in regard to taxation of earned income and that Governments should ensure that married persons do not pay tax at a higher rate than that applied to single persons.

The status of women and the laws dealing with family and property rights have been extensively studied by the Commission. It has recommended that Governments ensure the qualities and rights and duties of spouses in conformity with the provisions of the Declaration of Human Rights. It has also recommended equality between parents in the exercise of rights and duties concerning children, the right of a married woman to have a domicile separate from that of her husband and the right of a married woman to engage in work without the authority of her husband. It has provided for statutory matrimonial regimes affording women equal rights to retain separate or common property during marriage and equal sharing of property at the dissolution of marriage, and for the equality of rights between men and women in the event of the dissolution of marriage, annulment or judicial separation.

Certain ancient laws and customs relating to marriage and the family have been termed by the Commission as impediments to the attainment of women's basic rights as contemplated in the Charter and in the Declaration of Human Rights. In 1954 the General Assembly urged all States, including those administering trust

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and non-self-governing territories, to take measures to abolish such customs, ancient laws and practices as child marriage and the maintenance of bride price and to guarantee widows' custody of their children and the freedom to re-marry, to ensure the right of freely choosing a spouse and to establish civil registries for marriages and divorces.

The Commission has studied the question of marriage, especially from the point of view of requiring the free consent of both parties to establish a minimum age to marry. In 1962 it prepared texts for a draft convention, and a draft recommendation on these subjects, which was subsequently adopted by the General Assembly, opened for signatures. The convention provides that no marriage shall be entered into without the full and free consent of both parties and prescribes the minimum age. This convention came into force in 1964. By February 1969 it had been ratified by 18 States. The recommendation on the consent to marriage was adopted by the General Assembly in 1965 and in substance essentially followed the convention with the important difference that a minimum age to marry was set at 15, below which no person might legally enter into marriage.

Since its beginning the Commission on the Status of Women has been concerned with the problem of the nationality of married women. Its efforts in this field have resulted in the preparation of a convention on the nationality of married women which was adopted by the General Assembly in 1957 and opened for signature in the same year. The Convention came into force on 11 August 1958. Under it, marriage to an alien does not automatically affect the nationality of the wife. However, special privileged naturalization procedures are provided for the wife who wishes to take the nationality of her husband. By February 1969, 41 States had become parties to the Convention.

Regarding both the considerable achievement made since its inception and the distance which still remains to be covered before women could contribute fully to the life of their country, the General Assembly in 1963 unanimously adopted a resolution whereby it invited the Commission on the Status of Women to prepare a draft declaration on the elimination of discrimination against women. The Commission worked on the preparation of its draft at two sessions, one in Teheran in 1965 and one in Geneva in 1966, and submitted it in the latter year. The draft declaration contains substantive provisions dealing with the political

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rights of women, nationality, civil and penal law, education and economic rights and opportunities. At the twenty-second session of the General Assembly the declaration was unanimously adopted. An item on the status of women has not appeared on the agenda since the adoption of the Declaration and it is unlikely to be placed in the near future since the Commission on the Status of Women has made no move to initiate a new draft convention. It is felt that existing obstacles would render such an effort premature. The Commission has earlier in 1969 reiterated a previous request for the Secretary-General to report on Government compliance in order to encourage awareness and respect for the Declaration.

An important further advance of women in recent years has been the adoption of a resolution by the General Assembly in 1962 calling for the study of the possibility of providing new resources for the establishment of long-term programmes connected with the status of women, especially in developing countries. Both the Secretariat and non-governmental organizations have been requested to review existing resources for such a programme of technical co-operation.

Just a word on non-governmental organizations...

As you know, the International Federation of Women Lawyers as a non-governmental organization may be consulted by the Economic and Social Council on matters with which they are concerned and which fall within the competence of the Council. The Council recognizes that these organizations should have the opportunity to express their views and that they often possess special experience on technical knowledge which will be of great value to the Council in its work. Non-governmental organizations may designate representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Council and its bodies, and they may submit written statements relevant to the work of the Council and its bodies for circulation as United Nations documents. All three categories of consultative non-governmental organizations may consult with the United Nations Secretariat on matters of mutual concern.

Finally it should be noted that since 1957 four seminars have been organized on topics of interest to women in public life: in Bangkok in 1957, in Bogota in 1959, in Addis Ababa in 1960 and in Ulan Bator in 1965; and four seminars of interest to women in family law: in Bucharest in 1961, in Tokyo in 1962, Bogota in 1963 and Lomé in 1964.

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As I have already stated, and echoing a popular commercial advertisement, "we have come a very long way, but I am sure you will agree that it has not been half far enough". The eminent Nobel prize winning biologist at Harvard University, Dr. George Wald, has asked if ultimately the day might come when a person must have two allegiances, one to his or her own country and one to humanity everywhere. Let us look forward to that day as we continue to try to alleviate this age old discrimination.

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CAUTION: ADVANCE TEXT  
For use in connexion with the  
observance of Human Rights Day  
Wednesday, 10 December 1969

Press Release GA/4140  
HRD/76  
4 December 1969

TEXT OF MESSAGE BY PRESIDENT OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY, MISS ANGIE BROOKS,  
ON OCCASION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Human rights are our most precious heritage -- justice and freedom and dignity are rooted in many centuries of common history. They go beyond governments and organizations, and reach all of mankind.

Since the Proclamation twenty-one years ago of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations consistently set standards in all walks of life for the defense of these rights through a series of legal instruments.

The Declaration constitutes the needed protest against thousands of years of oppression and exploitation of man by States, groups or other men. It is an international ratification of what has already been more or less expressed in the customs or Constitutions of many countries of the world.

Although the Declaration affirms the inalienable human rights in the private, civil, political, economic, social and cultural fields in every country, unfortunately not all the countries of the world have applied these rights in their lands.

There are countries, Members of the United Nations, and territories which have not yet achieved their independence, where discrimination is still practised. There are countries and territories where the abominable practice of apartheid is still exercised, despite the fact that the United Nations has repeatedly expressed grave concern at what the General Assembly has described as "the aggravation of the explosive situation in the Republic of South Africa as a result of the continued implementation of the policies of apartheid by the Government of South Africa".

Today, people the world over are concerned and express their concern for the innocent victims of racial discrimination and apartheid, for those who are poor, for those who are hungry, for those who are uneducated. They rebel

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against the fact that in 1969 still many territories are under colonial rule and that many individuals are still degraded by the sickness of racism in some of those territories and independent countries, as well as in a territory which by an illegal act has unilaterally declared itself independent.

Our final objective is to ensure the dignity of all human beings, and for this the Organization must keep abreast of world-wide developments; it will not ignore new problems as they arise because of its preoccupation with long-standing issues.

The Organization proposes in the coming year to focus its attention on the formulation of practical steps for the alleviation of suffering of peoples affected by armed conflicts. These efforts might lead to stricter application of existing international humanitarian conventions which have been widely ratified, to the elaboration of additional instruments which would take into account the ominous developments of modern methods of warfare, and to the formulation of other practical steps which might alleviate the suffering of those persons -- prisoners, the wounded, non-combatants or combatant -- who are the innocent victims of military operations.

The Organization proposes further to deal with the effects of recent developments in science and technology -- particularly in the fields of electronics, biology and medicine -- on the respect for human rights and the dignity of the individual, particularly as regards his right to privacy and his physical and moral integrity.

Finally, the Organization will concentrate on youth -- its education and its greater involvement in United Nations ideals. At this session, the General Assembly has already adopted a resolution on Youth, its education in respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, its problems and needs and its participation in national development, and the Assembly of Youth will be convened at United Nations Headquarters in New York. This Assembly will not be convened by Governments, but by youth and its organizations and all those interested will have an opportunity to participate.

Recently, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination entered into force and brought with it a set of standards for the enforcement machinery.

I believe that this corresponds to the desire of world opinion.

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Let us not forget that the Declaration is one of the world's greatest proclamations; it is a unique international instrument; it serves not only to promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms throughout the world, but also to further peace and justice. The full realization of human rights, peace and justice are inseparable and one cannot be achieved without the other.

The United Nations must now translate ideals into action; it must meet the hope of mankind for a world free from transgressions of human rights and fundamental freedom, but this is not the task of the United Nations alone; it is also the task of the governments, members of the United Nations, as well as of all its Peoples. We cannot accept things as they are; we must improve upon them. Let us continue to work together for the triumph of human values.

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Note No. 3584  
1 December 1969

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS

Some 65 African art objects belonging to the President of the General Assembly, Miss Angie Brooks (Liberia), will be on public display at Headquarters from today, 1 December until 16 December.

The collection is the first of its kind to be shown at Headquarters. Most of the objects are from Liberia, but others are from Malawi, Ivory Coast, Mali, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Morocco, Togo, Cameroon and Rwanda. They include handicraft pieces, ancient masks, beadwork, toys, jewellery and hand-woven cloth.

The objects are part of a private collection which Miss Brooks started several years ago.

The Secretary-General will accompany Miss Brooks at the formal opening of the exhibition at 3 p.m. today.

The collection will be on display in the exhibition area on the first floor of the General Assembly building, west and south of Conference Room 4.

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Press Release GA/4130  
20 November 1969

TEXT OF MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
TO CHIEF UNITED STATES DELEGATE AT HELSINKI TALKS

Following is the text of a cable sent on 19 November by the President of the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly, Miss Angie Brooks, to the Chief Delegate of the United States, Gerard C. Smith, at the talks on disarmament in Helsinki, Finland:

I am convinced that the meeting at Helsinki constitutes one of the most important steps ever taken by the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in order to solve the question of disarmament which affects the life of every one on earth and which has been the subject of discussion of the United Nations from its inception. I am pleased that the meeting is taking place and have the honour to wish you from the bottom of my heart every success in finding a speedy solution to this important problem.

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Press Release GA/4129  
20 November 1969

TEXT OF MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
TO CHIEF SOVIET DELEGATE AT HELSINKI TALKS

Following is the text of a cable sent on 19 November by the President of the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly, Miss Angie Brooks, to the Chief Delegate of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Vladimir S. Semyonov, at the talks on disarmament in Helsinki, Finland:

I am convinced that the meeting at Helsinki constitutes one of the most important steps ever taken by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America in order to solve the question of disarmament which affects the life of every one on earth and which has been the subject of discussion of the United Nations from its inception. I am pleased that the meeting is taking place and have the honour to wish you from the bottom of my heart every success in finding a speedy solution to this important problem.

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CAUTION: ADVANCE TEXT  
Not for use before 7:30 p.m. EST  
Wednesday, 19 November

Press Release GA/4125  
19 November, 1969

STATEMENT BY ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT, MISS ANGIE BROOKS, AT FRANKLIN NATIONAL BANK  
RECEPTION, NEW YORK CITY, FOR INAUGURATION OF SECOND DEVELOPMENT DECADE

Governor Rockefeller, Mr. Gleason, Mr. and Mrs. Hein, Ladies and Gentlemen:

May I say first of all that I am deeply moved by the beautiful gift you have offered me and this impressive reception. It is a mark of the recognition you are giving to the many women who, like me, are seizing the opportunity to prove their worth in Africa and the world.

Because the trend in history was to bypass the continent of Africa and its people in economic, social and educational development for so many centuries, we are now behind and have particular need for a steady pace of growth and development.

Our primary economic basis, i.e., agriculture, is traditional and we have little industry, but our tardiness offers a challenge in today's world.

A few years ago, my country was primarily an exporter of rubber. Now iron ore takes the lead and tomorrow, with your help, it may be steel. Our untapped resources offer an opportunity to those who have the know-how and a taste for new ventures.

The first United Nations Development Decade now coming to an end has offered Africa a more secure foundation on which to build through the essential statistics compiled. We are training our manpower and we are installing our infrastructure. Having broken the walls that isolated us from the rest of the world, we are now ready to do business. Through the United Nations we have gathered a wealth of studies, including feasibility studies to induce investors and this applies to other developing regions as well.

For too long the benefits of technology have been limited to a few. Now financiers are realizing that the approach of yesteryears is not only short-sighted, but also unprofitable. In addition to Governments, peoples from all walks of life in both the developed and developing countries need to be involved in this great undertaking -- the Second United Nations Development Decade.

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I am happy the Franklin National Bank is marking the inauguration of the Second Development Decade in such a pleasant way.

In order to make the Second Development Decade a resounding success, it is necessary to mobilize public opinion and to enlist the support of people everywhere. In this respect, the banking groups (such as those present at this gathering) can play a very important role. As leaders of the business and financial activity, the bankers can help to inject a strong wind of change in public thinking -- to make people aware of the requirements of developing countries and to assist in meeting those requirements.

In fact, the banking groups in the developing nations have at their command financial resources which, if made available in part to developing countries, could contribute materially to their economic and social progress. Bankers can have a profound influence in making private capital oriented towards international development and, especially, to help channel it towards productive outlets in the developing world.

Needless to say, the bankers also play a very important role in keeping the wheels of trade moving. Their expertise accumulated over years of practical work can therefore help developing countries a great deal in fashioning appropriate export and import trade links.

The expanding financial institutions in developing countries often require substantial technical assistance in a number of operational aspects. Banks in developed countries can provide tangible assistance in this respect by seconding experienced personnel for agreed periods of time to financial institutions of developing countries. The concept of a voluntary corps for development need not to be confined to the youth alone. To make the next Decade a success, there is much room -- and much need -- for business and financial executives to make their talents available for the challenging task before us.

I am happy that the Franklin National Bank is marking the inauguration of the Second Development Decade in such a pleasant way. I hope your interest in one of the most crucial issues of our time will spread to many banking institutions throughout the world.

Let us raise our glasses to a resounding success of the Second Development Decade.

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(FOR USE OF INFORMATION MEDIA -- NOT AN OFFICIAL RECORD)

Press Release GA/4100  
30 October 1969

ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY, MISS ANGIE E. BROOKS,  
TO ALBION COLLEGE, ALBION, MICHIGAN, 30 OCTOBER 1969

Youth

Among the principal aims set forth by the Charter of the United Nations are peace, a decent standard of life, the enjoyment of human rights, and privileges due to every single individual. In my inaugural address to the General Assembly on 16 September I stated that youth had "risen up in all corners of the world to demand...these benefits and accuse its elders of insufficient prowess in discharging their duties towards humanity. In many cases...youth has perhaps not been sufficiently articulate or positive in its demands, at times unnecessarily and thoughtlessly violent, but it has stated in various forms and in various circumstances and environments...what it does not want."

Since assuming the Presidency of the United Nations General Assembly it has become even more clear to me why the youthful revolution is having such an impact throughout the world. On the occasion of the twenty-fourth anniversary of the United Nations, the Secretary-General pointed out that by the Organization's twenty-fifth birthday, the world population will have reached 3,600 million people; of these, approximately 2 billion will be under 25 years old. This statistic, combined with another -- namely, that two-thirds of the world's population is living off one-sixth of its income -- is indeed sobering!

But he said that we at the United Nations want to hear the voice of youth and to close the so-called generation gap. In his own words: "Let the voice and the passion of youth be part of our work for peace. Let those of us who are older strive to understand youth's concerns and priorities. Let us make new plans in the light of an eloquent new reality."

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freedoms, and it has also invited the attention of Governments to their responsibility for maintaining a policy consistent with the principles of respect for peace and justice and for the elimination of colonialism, racism, apartheid and similar policies, thus safeguarding, among other things, the faith of youth in these values.

The General Assembly has also recommended to Governments that especially during the Second United Nations Development Decade, the 1970s, youth and youth organizations should be given an opportunity to participate in the preparation and implementation of national development plans and in programmes of international co-operation.

Professor George Wald of Harvard University expressed the position of youth versus the rest of mankind on 4 March of this year when he said:

"Unless we can be surer than we are now that this generation has a future, nothing else matters. It is not good enough to give it tender loving care, to supply it with breakfast foods, to buy it expensive educations. Those things don't mean anything unless this generation has a future. And we are not so sure that it does. I don't think that there are problems of youth, or student problems. All the real problems I know about are grown-up problems.

"Nuclear weapons offer us nothing but a balance of terror, and a balance of terror is still terror. We have to get rid of those atomic weapons, here and everywhere. We cannot live with them. I think we've reached a point of great decision, not just for our nation, not only for all humanity, but for life upon the earth...

"Our business is with life, not death. Our challenge is to give what account we can of what becomes life in the solar system."

I have spoken elsewhere of the gradual decline in the effectiveness of the United Nations and the need to infuse in its work a new and greater -- indeed, a youthful -- dynamism. I have called upon representatives at the world body to probe their souls and search their minds deeply to find out whether they have given and are giving the best and the most of themselves. Let me then urge every individual here, whether he or she intends to enter an international career, to do the same in order that we may rectify our mistakes and in whatever way possible put the United Nations machinery to such use as it was destined to serve: peace, prosperity and "the dignity and worth of the human person".

Thank you.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Secretary General

For your info. Please, pass to  
M. Lencieux

ISB/WG

Christauroff

24 September 1969

*21/10/69*

Dear Mr. Chairman,

It has been the practice virtually since the establishment of the Organization for the President of the General Assembly to hold weekly working luncheons. At these luncheons, attended by the Chairman of the Main Committees, the Secretary-General and his representatives on those Committees as well as the Secretaries of the Committees, informal discussions are held on the co-ordination and progress of the work of the Main Committees of the General Assembly, and on problems of mutual interest.

The first of these luncheons will be held on Wednesday, 8 October, at 1:15 p.m. in the Delegates Private Dining Room No.5. This will be followed by other luncheons on successive Wednesdays for the duration of the General Assembly, except for the week of 18 to 24 October, when the luncheon will be held on Thursday, 23 October. A schedule of the luncheons  
..... is attached.

I am happy to invite you to the luncheons and very much hope that you will be able to be present at them throughout the session. If you are unable to attend a particular luncheon, I would be most grateful if you could arrange, through the Secretary of the Committee, for the Vice-Chairman or Rapporteur to represent your Committee.

I remain, dear Mr. Chairman,  
Yours sincerely,

Angie E. Brooks

Mr. David Silveira da Neta, Jr.  
Minister Plenipotentiary and Chairman of the Fifth Committee  
Permanent Mission of Brazil to the  
United Nations  
605 Third Avenue, 16th floor  
New York, N.Y. 10016

✓

SCHEDULE OF WORKING LUNCHEONS

GIVEN BY THE PRESIDENT OF

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(Delegates Private Dining Room

No. 5 at 1:15 p.m.)

Wednesday, 8 October

15 October

Thursday, 23 October

Wednesday, 29 October

5 November

12 November

19 November

26 November

3 December

10 December

17 December (last)

UN I T E D   N A T I O N S

Press Services  
Office of Public Information  
United Nations, N.Y.

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Press Release GA/4048  
19 September 1969

ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ANNUAL DINNER  
GIVEN BY 'UN WE BELIEVE' AT WALDORF-ASTORIA HOTEL

Following is the text of an address to be delivered by the President of the General Assembly, Miss Angie Brooks (Liberia), at an annual dinner given tonight by "UN We Believe" at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York:

In my opening statement in the General Assembly last Tuesday, I spoke of a gradual decline in the affairs of the United Nations. World problems are sidetracked, ignored, whether advisably or by default. How then can we infuse in our work a greater dynamism?

At first, the answer to this challenge would seem to be up to the Governments represented in the Organization. The United Nations is made of Member States. Yet each question debated here at the United Nations tends to be seen in a different light when considered in the capital of the Member country. Because of the sheer distances that separate such capitals from United Nations Headquarters, a question may lose its interest. Or it may be absorbed into the local political scene.

Sidetracking or ignoring a problem solves nothing. Unfortunately this attitude is not limited to the international field. It is only too often found in the national field. In developing Africa, we encounter it all the time within our national borders. For a decade now we have fought to mobilize our resources to close the gap that separates us from wealthier States. We have adopted development plans. We have created Ministries for Planning. Yet, on the whole, I think we have failed. One of the most eloquent Ministers of Planning in our continent, the regretted Tom M'boya, often spoke of this failure and said that it was essential to involve the governments more closely. Too many of our marvellous development plans, he used to say, are shelved and quickly forgotten as soon as they are adopted.

(more)



I believe government involvement will not come about fully unless people themselves get more involved. To mention peoples in this context should not surprise anyone. After all, the Charter itself begins with the words "We, the peoples of the United Nations".

Whether in the economic, social or political field, we will not obtain the necessary strength unless the peoples of the United Nations follow more closely the work of the Organization, unless they take it at heart and -- yes -- bring pressure on their Governments. This is why organizations like yours are of particular importance. We in the United Nations need your support. It is with your help that we will achieve the necessary rededication of our Governments to the aims of the Charter. In this common enterprise, let us remember that we may not falter, for, as it has rightly been said, the United Nations still remains the best hope of the world.

\* \* \* \* \*

# Madame President of the Assembly

Angie Elizabeth Brooks

By KATHLEEN TELTSCH  
Special to The New York Times

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Sept. 16—The President of the 24th General Assembly, Miss Angie Elizabeth Brooks of Liberia, makes no pretense of hiding her pleasure in capturing the prestige-laden position.

"Not bad for a woman," was her laughing rejoinder to a well-wisher.

**Woman in the News** The air of artless candor is typical of the Angie Brooks style. In a diplomatic forum that goes in for speeches full of nuances, Miss Brooks favors plain talk. Others may cherish the traditional proprieties, but in her 15 years here she has shown no great attachment to starchy protocol.

In the midst of a heated wrangle on trusteeship matters, the ebullient Miss Brooks, ignoring the fraying tempers around her, announced cheerfully to the startled members that she wanted them to know that she had been appointed Assistant Secretary of State by Liberia.

On another occasion she blithely announced to a committee that she would be pleased to be elected chairman. The usual practice is for a delegation to hint that it has a candidate and then to sound out others discreetly for support.

## Know What She Wants

"She knows what she wants and goes after it," said a diplomat friend who has followed her career. He pondered for a moment to find a phrase to describe her and then tried a weak "irrepressible?"

Miss Brooks, who just turned 41, seems to move with new confidence. She has taken to wearing African garb for public appearances. The draped skirt, or lappa, is flattering to her amply proportioned form. The matching scarf she twists into a turban makes her seem even taller than she is.

Years ago she alternated African dress with Western clothes, and a colleague swore that he knew that she planned a major speech when she sailed in wearing a cart-wheel hat.

As "Madame President" for the next 13 weeks, she must follow an exhausting schedule of meetings, speeches and compulsory appearances at receptions. She says that long and hard hours became a habit in her student days, when she worked to help pay her way through Shaw University, a Negro college in Raleigh, N.C.

## She Washed and Scrubbed

"I washed dishes, scrubbed clothes and cooked—I'm not ashamed to say it," she recalls. She also held two jobs, working in the library and as a nurse's aid, while studying for a law degree at the University of Wisconsin.

She remembers the dismay of the college dean when he learned that she had gone without food for three days because money ran out. "But we never guessed—you always were so cheerful," the dean remarked.

She prides herself on keeping her good humor and temper—even under vexing circumstances.



The New York Times

"She knows what she wants and goes after it"

from the Liberian Ambassador. The cafeteria was later desegregated, and she likes to think she helped.

Miss Brooks says that only one thing makes her furious: an untruth. Diplomats may have to be evasive at times, she says with a shrug, but a lie—she shakes her head in an emphatic negative.

In a reflective mood, she said in an interview that she hoped her term as President would see a rededication to the principles of the United Nations Charter and a more concerted effort by the smaller powers to use their influence on behalf of peace. She agrees that this would mean putting aside national interests and rivalries, but she feels strongly that together the small powers could sway the big ones.

## Victory Was No Easy One

Coming as she does from the oldest republic in Africa, she regards approvingly the political developments that have brought 38 new African states into the United Nations. The new states have done well, she says, in reply to critics, and she speaks from direct experience.

Her first United Nations assignment, in 1953, was as Liberia's delegate to the Assembly Committee on Trusteeship, which dealt with the thorny issues involved in speeding colonies toward independence and statehood. Later she was a member, and in 1966 the president, of the Trusteeship Council.

The second woman to win the Assembly presidency—the first, Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit of India, served in 1953—Miss Brooks is the third representative from Africa to hold the post.

Her election today—she was unchallenged—may have seemed an easy victory to the casual onlooker, but she says time and toil went into it.

By geographic turn the presidency was slated to go

on Aug. 24, 1928, was reared by foster parents because her father, an African Methodist Episcopal Zion minister, was too poor to keep nine children at home. In turn, she has acted as substitute mother over the years for 47 children, raising them and helping them through school.

The new Assembly President chooses to use her maiden name although she was married for a time in her early years. She has two grown sons in Liberia.

There are constant letters from the 19 young people she still cares for as her adopted children, and she worries how she will find time to reply in the weeks ahead. Perhaps she will write to the eldest in each family group so her letters can be handed around.

lected president. The first  
was Mrs. Vijayalakshmi  
Pandit of India.

Amid wild applause from her colleagues, Miss Brooks, dressed in her native garb and a wrap-around high turban, marched to podium and after a polite bow to Secretary General Thant, gave the diplomatic a talking to.

The job of the delegations, she said, "is to reconcile clashes and enhance agreements," and to achieve that officials must be in touch not only with governments they represent "but also with those who represent interests other than those of our governments."

"Our weakness seems to lie in the fact that we all too often view world affairs somewhat parochially, as if they are being played out at the headquarters on the East River of New York.

"We have sometimes failed to realize that neither oratory nor agreements between delegations nor even resolutions or recommendations have had much impact on the course of affairs in the world at large. The sense of satisfaction upon the adoption of a resolution, pleasing the purposes of one delegation or of a homogeneous group of delegations, has helped to perpetuate the mythology of achievement

so that many of us go from one agenda item to another," she declared.

At another point she asked the delegates "to probe our souls and search deep into our minds to ascertain whether or not in fact we have given and are giving the U.N. cause the best and the most of ourselves.

"Surely we owe the people of the world, who have invested their trust and their hope, all our skills and talents. Let us not betray their confidence by laying too much emphasis on peripheral issues rather than basic needs," she urged.

The delegates openly voiced approval of her statements though quite a few seemed to wince at some of her remarks.

President Nixon will address the Assembly tomorrow morning. He may then meet privately with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko. Secretary of State William P. Rogers will hold a series of private sessions with Mr. Gromyko and with almost all of the 633 foreign ministers who will journey to New York for the Assembly.

President Nixon will have nearly four hours available for private meetings with foreign diplomats tomorrow.

The White House said the foreign delegates and representatives who will call on him during his stay at the Waldorf Astoria had not been firmly decided yet.

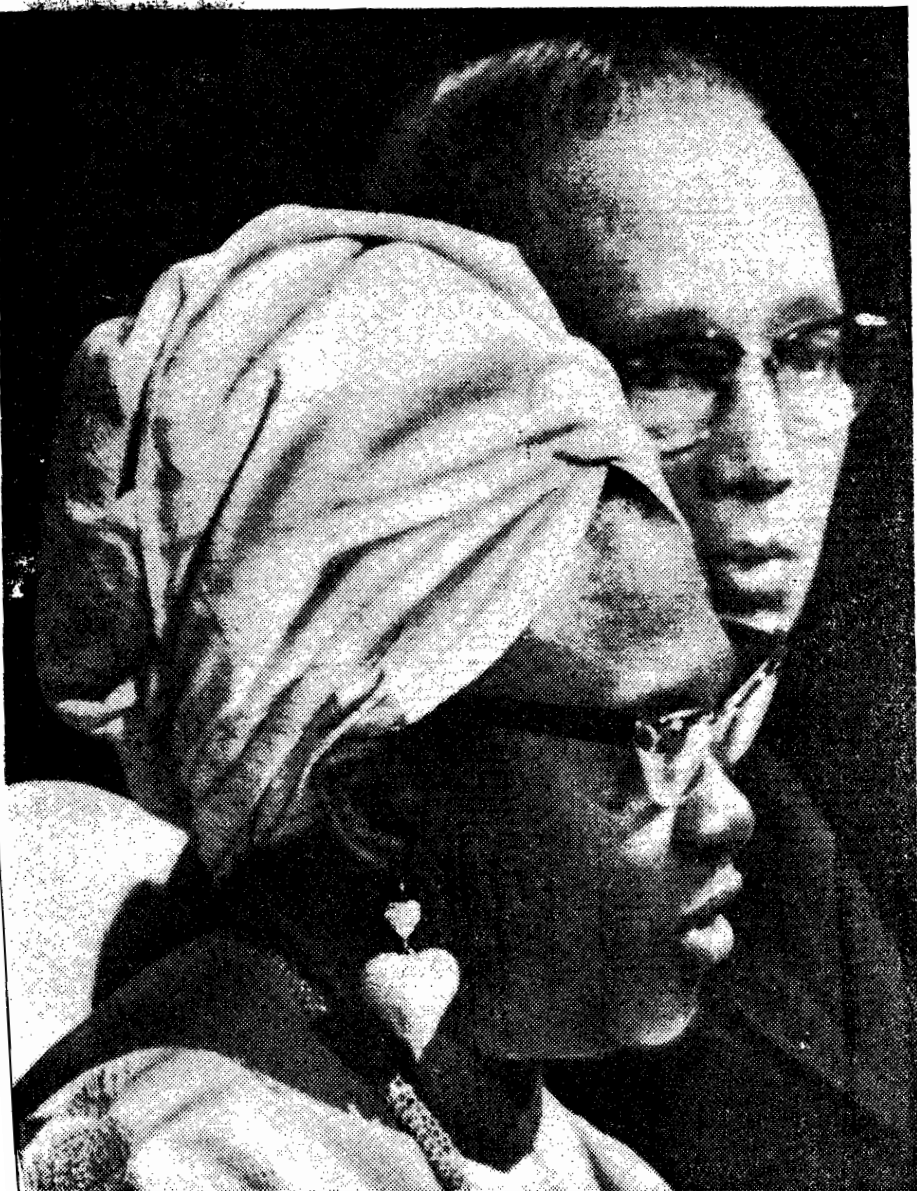
# U.N. Gets A President —She Gives A Scolding

By **DARIUS JHABVALA**  
Globe U.N. Bureau

UNITED NATIONS N.Y.  
— The 24th United Nations General Assembly began its regular session yesterday with an unexpected tongue lashing from its newly elected president, Angie Elizabeth Brooks of Liberia.

The 41-year-old veteran diplomat exhorted the assemblage of delegates to shed parochialism and delusions that the United Nations is to be the hope of the future.

Minutes before she delivered her address to the Assembly, whose seats were occupied by scores of foreign ministers and seasoned diplomats from all over the world, Miss Brooks was the unanimous choice for the presidency.



SECOND WOMAN PRESIDENT of the United Nations General Assembly is Angie Brooks of Liberia, presiding over the opening of the 24th annual session with Secretary General U-Thant. (UPI)

# For the UNs Angie Brooks, a New Stream of Duties

By MARY ENGELS

When the General Assembly of the United Nations convenes next week, presiding over it will be the first lady president since Mme. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit in 1953; Angie Brooks of Liberia, West Africa.

"I'm proud for my continent, my country and my sex," was the way she summed up her feelings as she greeted us in the Delegate's Lounge of the UN.

Miss Brooks is quite a woman. At one point in her life, she was acting president of her country, chairman of the UN Trusteeship Committee, and Assistant Secretary of State in Liberia.

## Woman

### In the News

Angie was brought up by a foster family in Monrovia, because her father, an African Methodist Episcopal Zion minister in the back country, was too poor to raise all nine of his children at home.

"My foster mother taught me sewing and I make a good deal of my own clothes when I have the time. I like neat dressing; colors that blend with one's complexion and clothes that are neatly made and neatly fitted. I never judge a dress by its cost, only by how well it looks on the wearer."

As a little girl she was taught to "always do what I was told as best I could and do things very well."

### Higher and Higher

"I wanted to achieve the highest that was offered. When I started school, the highest was eighth grade. Then it was high school, then college. The highest job for women in my country, in those days, was to be the chief clerk in the State Department. Our President, William Tubman, fought to get women the right to vote and the right for job opportunity. He's been in office for 26 years now and you can see why."

Angie began her career as a stenotypist in the Justice Department. "I was very much concerned about how the laws developed and I thought I would study law so that someday I would be able to draft legislation myself."

She obtained her Bachelor of Laws and an M.S. in international relations at the University of Wisconsin. She went on to advanced study at the University College Law School in London.



Angie Brooks—an inspiring motto.

"I practiced law in the Justice Department in Liberia and tried to inspire more women to study law. Too many of our sex had been discouraged by men, especially when they were pleading trial cases in a court of law. Today, there are 25 women lawyers in the department. That's quite an achievement."

### Dislikes Lies

An attack of hay fever brought her to the UN.

"I was in Wisconsin taking care of my allergy when a vacancy occurred in the Liberian delegation. I was told to fill it. That was in 1954 and I've been here ever since."

An early riser ("I'm not hard to wake") Angie's

day begins at 5:30 and is a round robin of meetings, lunches, dinners. "I've been away since January and I have to brush up on my research to learn what's been going on."

As president of the General Assembly, she will have to conduct all the meetings and try to reconcile any differences behind the scenes. She'll also attend all the important functions.

One thing she feels strongly about is people who tell untruths. "In the field of diplomacy, if it is not expedient to say the truth, a diplomat should never reply in a way that detracts from prestige or from the cause he represents. As long as I've been here, I have tried as much as possible, to speak my honest convictions and whenever it is not possible, I've kept quiet."

Her favorite things: "I love nature. I have a rubber farm some 15 miles from the capital of Liberia and I love to walk among the gardens, grass and flowers. Roses are my favorite and I always keep a single one on my desk. During the day, I will often look at it and take inspiration from it."

Angie also loves children. She has been, at one point, foster parent to 45 children. "Now there are 19. I'm only glad I can give them the opportunity to advance," she modestly states.

She dreams of someday building a school "to mold the minds of the young both intellectually and spiritually."

### Advice for Teachers

"Liberia was founded as a Christian nation and it must be able to cope with all phases of development in the world today. What is needed is the awareness of being able to treat your fellow man as you wish him to treat you."

She supervises a high school there, the Lott Carey Baptist Mission School, which is sponsored by the Lott Carey Mission in this country.

"I try to guide the teachers by telling them not to object to the young when they inquire. The youngsters have the right to ask. Listen to them. Then follow and guide."

When Angie left her home last week to return to the States, her mother bid her farewell with these words: "God bless you, God keep you and God go with you."

"It was a solemn moment for me."

Angie's motto in life is worth remembering:

"When I have actually lived the principle that my life is a light on the pathway of those who follow, it is then and only then, that my goal will have been reached."

TO: Secretary-General  
 A:

FOR ACTION		POUR SUITE A DONNER
FOR APPROVAL		POUR APPROBATION
FOR SIGNATURE		POUR SIGNATURE
PREPARE DRAFT		PROJET A REDIGER
FOR COMMENTS		POUR OBSERVATIONS
MAY WE CONFER?		POURRIONS-NOUS EN PARLER?
YOUR ATTENTION		VOTRE ATTENTION
AS DISCUSSED		COMME CONVENU
AS REQUESTED		SUITE A VOTRE DEMANDE
NOTE AND FILE		NOTER ET CLASSER
NOTE AND RETURN		NOTER ET RETOURNER
FOR INFORMATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	POUR INFORMATION

*Thanks.  
 JD  
 29/3/69*

Date:  
 27 March 1969  
 CR. 13 (11-64)

FROM:  
 DE: *[Signature]*

DBV/rm

cc: Secretary-General ✓  
Mr. Narasimhan  
Chief Adebo  
Ambassador Nathan Barnes  
Mr. Djermakoye  
Mr. Ryder/Mr. Sterman  
Mr. Van Name  
Mr. Timbrell

27 March 1969  
BY AIRMAIL

Dear Miss Brooks,

I must apologize for not replying earlier to your letter of 15 March together with a Bill of Lading for three trunks which you are shipping to the United Nations and which apparently contain pieces of art of your private collection. I have been away for a week.

I am concerned that there be no misunderstanding as to the position of the Secretary-General to your proposal for an all African art exhibit to be held in the United Nations building, and facilities or services which the Secretariat is able to provide - particularly at this stage.

The Secretary-General had indicated to you that he had agreed in principle to an exhibit on United Nations premises during the next General Assembly but such an exhibit would be discussed on a more formal basis as to the administrative implications and with no financial provision by the United Nations.

You will recall that when you saw me before your departure you said you were to explore with the various countries the loan of art works. I made it quite clear that the United Nations was not in a position to receive or be responsible for any works of art shipped directly to it nor to provide other than physical space for such an exhibit when it was assembled by you. Any art work was to be shipped to and received by the individual delegation in New York which would assume full responsibility for such art work. I understand that Mr. C. V. Narasimhan saw you on his last trip and also went over these points with you.

In the present instance these trunks should have been sent to your own Liberian Delegation to await your arrival as to disposition. Since they have already been consigned to the United

Miss Angie Brooks  
P.O. Box 1161  
Monrovia, Liberia

Nations, and my attention, however, I will on a friendly basis arrange to have them cleared and hold them here to be handed over to you when you arrive.

I know that you will appreciate that while we all are anxious to be as co-operative and helpful as possible, we are not in a position to assume responsibility for such an accumulation of valuable works of art with all its implications when the United Nations in fact has no basis at this time for doing so.

Again may I emphasize that the material will have to be assembled by you or your associate at some outside location, and when you are ready for the exhibition, the United Nations will provide an appropriate location. There can be no responsibility nor any financial involvement on the part of the United Nations.

I do hope you are having an enjoyable leave in your home country and I look forward to seeing you upon your return.

Sincerely yours,

David F. Vaughan  
Assistant Secretary-General  
Office of General Services



CVN/MK  
cc: Mr. Lemieux —  
Mr. Hamid

21 January 1969

Dear Miss Brooks,

Thank you for your kind letter dated 16 January. I have taken note of its contents and also discussed your proposals with my colleagues concerned.

I am glad to know that the Government of Liberia will make available the performance of the Liberian Cultural Group some time during the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly. I agree with you that the Cultural Group may perform in October.

I have carefully considered your suggestion that instead of a dinner, as a lady, you would prefer a reception where the representatives would be privileged to bring their wives. You are quite right in saying that this was done during the Presidency of Zafullah Khan of Pakistan in 1962. It was found by practical experience that a reception was as expensive as a dinner and was much less satisfactory all round. Over the last six years a tradition has been established of having an annual dinner co-hosted by the President of the Assembly and the Secretary-General. I feel it would be wise to stick to this arrangement.

I also believe that there would be no difficulty in arranging for a performance by the Liberian Cultural Group in connexion with the dinner. My suggestion would be that we schedule the usual reception before dinner for 8.00 p.m. and have the performance by the Cultural Group at 8.30 p.m. We can then go on to dinner at 9.00 p.m., which is the time that we normally sit down for these dinners. I hope that you will find these alternative proposals acceptable.

Miss Angie Brooks  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Republic of Liberia  
c/o Permanent Mission of the  
Republic of Liberia to the United Nations  
235 East 42 Street  
New York, N.Y. 10017

I am glad to accept your suggestion that Miss Mekeba be asked to sing on 10 December as part of the Human Rights Day programme. You may kindly inform Miss Mekeba that this will be an evening function, beginning around 8.00 p.m.

I am afraid that it will be virtually impossible to have a concert on the Sunday before the General Assembly closes in December in order to have a rendering of Handel's Messiah. As you are aware, the General Assembly usually begins on a Tuesday and is scheduled to end on a Tuesday 13 weeks later. The last Monday and Tuesday of the General Assembly are usually the busiest days when practically half the items on the agenda have to be concluded. To have a concert the Sunday before the General Assembly closes in the General Assembly Hall would make it impossible to use the General Assembly Hall the following Monday morning. I am afraid this will not be a convenient arrangement at all. There are one or two other reasons why I find it difficult to accept this proposal, and I hope you may be persuaded to drop it.

May I also suggest that there is no reason why the President of the Assembly should not, by herself, host a reception to which the representatives and their wives could be invited.

I have also taken note of the copy of your letter to the Secretary-General of the OAU regarding the exhibit of African arts and crafts.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

U Thant



MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
235 EAST 42ND STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

16 January 1969

*Thant*  
*12/1/69*  
*C.V.*

Mr. Secretary-General,

I have the honour to refer to your letter of 20 November 1968 relating to my discussions with you regarding the Twenty-fourth Session of the General Assembly and wish to indicate further the following:

- a) The Government of Liberia will make available the performance of the Liberian Cultural Group at the Twenty-fourth Session of the General Assembly.
- b) Because of the severeness of the weather by 10 December, it would not be advisable to plunge the group, many of whom would be coming for the first time into this extreme weather, I would kindly ask that Miss Mekeba be shifted to participate on

H. E. U Thant  
Secretary-General  
United Nations  
New York, New York

10 December at the Human Rights Day Program instead.

- c) The Cultural Group would perform therefore in October.
- d) I want to suggest that instead of a Dinner, as a lady I would prefer a reception where the Representatives would be privileged to bring their wives. I think this was done during the Administration of Zafrullah Khan of Pakistan. I believe too this would make a more ready physical arrangement for the Cultural dancers.
- e) I have spoken to Miss Mekeba and she want me to confirm the time for her performance.
- f) I desire to have a concert the Sunday before the General Assembly closes in December when 100 voices would render Handel's Messiah. Arrangements for that day as far as the performance is concerned can be made by me.

g) I am attaching copy of the letter  
I have addressed to the Secretary-  
General of the OAU regarding the  
African Arts and Craft Exhibit.  
With sentiments of my highest  
esteem,

Angie Brooks  
Assistant Secretary of State, R.L.

Enc. (1)

15 January 1969

Mr. Secretary-General:

In planning with the Secretary-General for the Twenty-fourth Session of the General Assembly, I conceived the idea that it would be an excellent opportunity to once more depict our African heritage by holding an African Arts and Craft Exhibit at the United Nations Headquarters for the duration of the General Assembly Session.

This idea was welcomed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and by his letter of 20 December, 1968, I was requested to explore the possibilities of holding the exhibition.

On the basis of the discussion with the Secretary-General, I would like to suggest the following:

H. E. Diallo Telli  
Secretary-General  
Organization of African Unity  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

- (a) That African States send, on loan, pieces of arts and craft through their Missions in New York to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for display. If this proposal is acceptable, it would be understood that the expenses to be incurred for insurance and in the transportation of such pieces of arts and craft to and from the United Nations will be undertaken by the participating States;
- (b) the Secretary-General on receiving the pieces of arts and craft would have the Secretariat become responsible for them for the duration of the exhibit to the time of their return to the respective participating African Missions for forwarding to their respective Governments.

I was requested to ascertain from the African States, as early as possible, which countries would be willing to participate in the exhibition. After receiving this information, Mr. Vaughn of the

United Nations Secretariat will be instructed to contact me, or what group I may designate to discuss the nature, time and place for the exhibit.

The following would then be required of the African States:

1. For those who are interested in contributing pieces of art and craft for the exhibit to inform the Executive Secretariat of the OAU in New York as early as possible.
2. To facilitate speedy planning, it would be most important if the quantity of items each state is able to supply, and if possible, names thereof and other pertinent information be furnished the Secretariat at the earliest possible date.

The question of Customs formalities will be discussed by Mr. Vaughn of the United Nations Secretariat with the appropriate U. S. Government officials when it is known which States will participate.

I would appreciate it if you would inform the African States of the suggestion contained herein and if necessary have this proposal discussed at the



4.

impending meeting of the Council of Ministers of the OAU. The Secretary-General of the United Nations has promised that he will also mention same to you when he comes to Addis.

Sincerely yours,

*Angie Brooks*

Angie Brooks

Assistant Secretary of State, R. L.



MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
235 EAST 42ND STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

2 January 1969

Mr. Secretary-General:

Thank you for your letter of 20 December, 1968. I have communicated with Liberia regarding my proposal with respect to the Liberian Cultural Group and expect to receive a reply shortly. I will kindly ask you to be good enough to give me audience on January 9th, 1969.

Please accept, Mr. Secretary-General, renewed assurances of my highest esteem and consideration.

*Angie Brooks*  
Angie Brooks  
Assistant Secretary of State, R.L.

H. E. U Thant  
Secretary-General  
United Nations  
New York, New York

OK  
3:20 P.M.  
1/4 2/1

CVN/CC

cc: Mr. Narasimhan  
Mr. Lemieux ✓

20 December 1968

Dear Miss Brooks,

When you met me on 18 November you mentioned to me your desire, at the time of the twenty-fourth session, for an exhibition of African Exhibits at the UN, to be arranged in co-operation with the OAU. You also mentioned your desire to have Miss Miriam Makeba sing a few songs on the occasion of the Dinner which is traditionally given every year by the President and Secretary-General as co-hosts. I have consulted my colleagues and I have great pleasure in confirming that it will be possible to make necessary arrangements in regard to both these suggestions. I presume that you will take the necessary initiative with the Administrative Secretary-General of the OAU on the one hand and Miss Makeba on the other.

You had also enquired whether it would be possible to have a show by a Liberian Cultural Group on United Nations Day, 24 October. As you are aware, the arrangements for the UN Day concert are usually made several months in advance. In regard to UN Day 1969, I have been informed that since February 1968 the concerned officials in the UN have been in touch with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra of London who are arranging a United States tour next Autumn and who are very anxious to play at the United Nations under the baton of Rudolf Kempe. The famous pianist, Rudolf Serkin has also been contacted to ascertain whether he would be able to play at the same concert.

Miss A. Brooks  
Assistant Secretary of State  
c/o Permanent Mission of Liberia  
to the United Nations  
235 East 42nd Street  
New York, N.Y. 10017

In the circumstances I am afraid that it will not be possible to have any such show by the Liberian Cultural Group on 24 October. However, as I indicated to you it would be possible to stage a show in connexion with the Human Rights Day concert on the night of 10 December. If you would wish to have such a show on Human Rights Day I shall be grateful if you could inform me at your earliest convenience.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

U Thant  
Secretary-General