

RESOLUTION 1640(xvi), as submitted by 3 powers, A/L.362, adopted unanimously (103-0) by Assembly on 3 November 1961, meeting 1046, by secret ballot.

"The General Assembly,

"Acting in accordance with the recommendation of the Security Council of 3 November 1961,

"Appoints His Excellency U Thant as Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations for a term of office ending on 10 April 1963."

THE ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS AND RELATED MATTERS

During 1961, the number of United Nations Members rose to 104. Four States were admitted to United Nations membership by the General Assembly, on the Security Council's recommendation (as indicated in the table below), and Syria resumed its individual membership on 13 October 1961 (for further details, see p. 168 below). Kuwait applied for membership, but the Security Council failed to adopt a recommendation for membership (for further details, see p. 168 below). In addition, the Republic of Korea asked that its application for membership be re-submitted to the Council, but, as at the end of 1961, the Council had not placed this request on its agenda.

ADMISSIONS IN 1961

The following table indicates the action taken by the Security Council and General Assembly in 1961 to admit new Members to the United Nations:

Applicant		1961	Date of Council Recommendation	Date of Admission by Assembly
Sierra Leone		26 Sep.	27 Sep.	
Mongolian People's Republic		25 Oct.	27 Oct.	
Islamic Republic of Mauritania		25 Oct.	27 Oct.	
Tanganyika		14 Dec.	14 Dec.	

There was no dissension either in the Security Council or the General Assembly about admitting Sierra Leone and Tanganyika to United Nations membership. Information about Council and Assembly resolutions and votes on their admission is given in the DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below. Proceedings of the Council and the Assembly on the admission of Mongolia and Mauritania, about which there was some disagreement among United Nations Members, are summarized in the following paragraphs.

DEBATES AND DECISIONS ON APPLICATIONS OF MONGOLIA AND MAURITANIA

On 19 April 1961, it may be recalled, the General Assembly adopted a resolution (1602 (XVI))² expressing the view that, as the Mongolian People's Republic and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania were peace-loving States within the meaning of Article 4 of the United Nations Charter (for text of Article 4, see APPENDIX II), they should be admitted to membership in the United Nations. It also asked the Security Council to take note of its decision in regard to Mauritania's candidature.

CONSIDERATION BY SECURITY COUNCIL

The two applications were placed on the provisional agenda of a Security Council meeting held on 26 September 1961, at which time it was agreed to give priority to Sierra Leone's application for membership (see above). The representative of the USSR proposed in effect that Mongolia's application be given priority over that of Mauritania, but this proposal was not adopted, there being only 4 votes in favour, with 3 against and 4 abstentions. Instead, the Council decided, by 8 votes to 2, with 1 abstention, to consider Mauritania's application before that of Mongolia.

At a Council meeting on 2 October, the USSR once more proposed that Mongolia's application be given priority over that of Mauritania, but the Council decided instead to adjourn.

The matter remained unresolved until 25 October, when the President of the Council, following prior private consultations, proposed that the two applications be considered in the chronological order of their submission. He suggested further, that, while discussing the application of Mongolia, members should also indicate briefly their positions on Mauritania's

² See Y.U.N., 1961, p. 203.