

Today is a historic day for Andorra. My State has been admitted as a Member of the United Nations, We have come to New York to raise our flag among those of other States. In this way we fulfil many of the aspirations of our people and witness the culmination of a process of serene and tenacious transformation. Andorra is no longer a vestige of feudal and medieval law but a State established according to the principles of modern international law. We have thus closed a centuries-long process of judicial formulation that began more than 700 years ago with the documents called the Pariatges and that has finally led to this ceremony.

At this time and on this occasion, it is only fair that I should make special mention of our two Heads of State. Their Excellencies the Co-Princes, who have encouraged, cooperated on and shown their acceptance of the process of institutional modernisation. I also wish to recall all my countrymen who, since 1925 when our country first approached the League of Nations, have struggled to make this ceremony a reality.

Furthermore, permit me to say that it is a great personal honour for me to represent the Andorran people here and that I consider myself extremely privileged to take part in this ceremony and carry out this very gratifying duty, because today, as it reaches this landmark, Andorra achieves the goals of normalisation and integration into the international community to which many people of my generation and I myself have devoted the best years of our lives.

I wish to express our sincere gratitude to the Security Council and to the Secretary-General for their support during the admission process. I wish in particular also to express our warmest and deepest gratitude to Their Excellencies the representatives of the French Republic and of the Kingdom of Spain, who are in fact sponsoring the admission of our State today. I request them to convey our sentiments to their

respective Governments: the same sentiments that have traditionally marked the frank and loyal cooperation between us, which I am certain will continue and even grow stronger in the future. I am also convinced that, in a similar way, our integration will be consolidated in all that the European Community represents, because we are not only situated within the Community from the territorial standpoint, but also wish to be immersed in it from the standpoint of its philosophy and of the model of society that it proposes.

We are a small country, but one that is aware of the value of authenticity and of the fact that, in a world that is in certain ways inordinately large, small dimensions may offer a positive contribution to balanced coexistence. What should be the ideal size of a State? Neither economics nor political science can give us a definitive answer to this question, of course. Aristotle, in his *Politics*, says that the size of the polis should permit all the inhabitants to be familiar with each other's character; it should be possible, he adds, completely to survey the territory from a mountaintop. Andorra possesses these human and geographical features,

Along with other micro-States of the world, we fear political giantism all the more as we are bound more closely to the notions of measure and accessibility to political life, characteristics of our country that should be safeguarded. Indeed, we still believe that man is the measure of all things. I believe that, in a world that must struggle for peace, there is a place for those of us who have chosen to coexist harmoniously and not to impose ourselves. For that reason, in the context of its modest possibilities, Andorra has the firm intention of contributing to world peace and cooperation and of sharing its ancient and never forsaken love of freedom.

I would recall that my country has not been at war since the thirteenth century.

We are a State without natural riches. We have no strength or wealth other than that of our people themselves. We are a country of the Pyrenees, those European mountains that do not form a barrier but a meeting place. The stimulation of the economic development of the Pyrenees is a priority from the standpoints of well-being, prosperity and quality of life, and from those of justice, solidarity and the need to establish firmly and retain the traditional inhabitants in the mountains for reasons of common interest, such as the conservation of nature.

Andorra is not a depressed area, however. It has always shown itself to be capable of adapting to changing circumstances in order to achieve a high income level. With the democratic adoption of Our Constitution and the opening of our participation in the international scene, as marked by this ceremony, Andorra looks to the future with optimism, trusting in its capacity and in its hopes to make the most of the new opportunities available to it.

Our country is actually a valley, and it may be said that a valley forms a way of life. It is a home; it provides water and a livelihood; in short, it is a community adapted to the measure of the individual and of the family. Just as the large valleys of the Ganges and of the Nile were the cradles of great civilisations, so our little valley of the Valira River has shaped a national identity over the centuries, an identity that has not been forged against anything or against anyone. On the contrary, we have always been a hospitable country, welcoming all those who have come to our valley. It is precisely from the standpoint of our identity that we wish to contribute our collective personality, because identity and universality are perfectly compatible, combining to form a solid base for the exchange of cultures – a necessary foundation for the construction of a free and peaceful world. This is why we, as a country wishing to open itself up to the outside world, first sought to ensure the cohesion of our identity. We were quite certain that to get things done and to communicate them, we needed to be cosmopolitan and

multilingual. But to be so, we also need to root ourselves even deeper in Our own reality, and our roots are those of Catalan culture. Catalan is our official language. It is the language of Ramon Llull, Ausias March and Salvador Espriu, and it is spoken from the city of Fraga in Aragon to Mahon on the Balearic island of Minorca, and from Salses in the French region of Roussillon to Guardamar in the southern part of Valencia. Catalan is the language in which I have come to address the Assembly and to speak of peace, freedom and brotherhood.

Permit me to conclude by quoting the motto that appears on our national coat of arms: Virtus, Unita, Fortior - action or strength united is all the stronger - a concept that fits in perfectly with the objectives of the United Nations.

## Andorra a l'ONU

DISCURS DEL CAP DE GOVERN DAVANT  
L'ASSEMBLEA GENERAL DE LES  
NACIONS UNIDES EL DIA DE L'ADMISSIÓ  
DEL PRINCIPAT D'ANDORRA

Discurs en rus