

Canada believes that, as far as possible, representation in the United Nations should be comprehensive, embracing all nations without distinction as to the form of government or social system adopted. This does not imply recognition of any particular government or approval of its policies, however, nor does it exclude the governments concerned from criticism which we consider valid.

Those who seek representation in this organization, and who also seek to impose their own conditions for doing so, cannot complain, therefore, if the shortcomings in their own record are held up to scrutiny.

Draft Resolutions

Two draft resolutions are before us for consideration. The first calls upon delegations to express an opinion on the importance of a change in Chinese representation within the meaning of Article 18 of the United Nations Charter.

Mr. President, can there be any doubt about the importance of this question? It concerns the competing claims to representation in the United Nations General Assembly of hundreds of millions of people. It concerns ultimately the disposition of a permanent Security Council seat and, by extension, of seats in the Economic and Social Council and in all subsidiary organs of the United Nations which by custom are held by permanent members of the Security Council.

Such a decision cannot be taken lightly. It must be accorded its due importance. It is patently of immediate importance both to the people who are ruled from Peking and to the inhabitants of Formosa. In the final analysis, it will have a profound influence on the effective functioning of the United Nations itself.

Any question which has remained unresolved for the past 12 years and which has attracted so much international attention must not be settled by recourse to any narrow voting majority. A just and peaceful solution must be found which is generally satisfactory to members of this organization.

Canada's Vote

For these reasons, the Canadian Delegation will cast its vote in favour of the resolution before us, declaring any proposal to change the representation of China to be an important question.

It follows that it would be altogether unjust to decide the question on the basis proposed in the draft resolution put before us by the Delegation of the U.S.S.R. This resolution attempts to prejudice the issue by speaking of the restoration of rights which most members of this organization have never yet agreed existed.