

pointed out that to play its full part in improving the international situation, our organization had to be more nearly universal and a solution to the problem of new members had to be found urgently. There is no doubt that all those who believe in our organization, and who are willing to work for the achievement of its objectives, are convinced that its stature and effectiveness are impaired as long as the membership issue has not been solved.

I do not propose at this time to attempt to apportion the blame. We ourselves have not always looked at this question in the same way. I am more concerned with the immediate prospect which is presented by the proposal embodied in our draft resolution, a proposal which in our view reconciles the constitutional requirements of the Charter and the practical exigencies of the political situation.

We have now presented, we hope, a workable solution to the membership problem. We believe that a large majority of the members of this Assembly will share our view that, in the interests of the organization and to achieve the objectives we had in mind when it was set up, we should accept a practical solution within the framework of the provisions of the Charter which will result in a substantial addition to our membership. If we can persuade the members of the Security Council that the course we suggest is wise, if we can impress upon all concerned through strong endorsement of the proposal which is now before us, that we are determined that no further delays should be entertained, for the first time we shall have achieved in our organization the representation of all the broad areas of the world.

The proposal which Canada is now putting forward in association with other members has not been advanced lightly. It is not a proposal which we have always favoured but one which we have come to support slowly and deliberately after prolonged study of its implications and consequences and after careful probing of our conscience. We have sought to find other ways out of the dilemma presented by the problem of new members but we have, in the course of time, rejected them all as impractical or as involving consequences less in the interests of the United Nations. For this reason, at San Francisco last June, my colleague, Mr. Pearson, called for action on the waiting list of applicants, convinced that the time had come when we should accept all the applications for membership which are now before the United Nations.

We have, however, delayed taking any initiative in this matter because from the outset, we have been mindful of the fact that in the admission of new members the Charter lays a joint responsibility of the Security Council and of the Assembly. It was our hope that the Security Council would have found it possible to deal with this problem long before now but we have come to the conclusion that we should not allow another session to pass without taking action which seems to us necessary in the Assembly. And unless I am mistaken, many other members of the Assembly share the view of my delegation both as to the urgency of dealing with the issue and the desirability of recording our respective positions in this field.