

Precision is one thing, directness and simplicity is another. Canadian delegations have played a leading part in efforts to ensure that the form of presentation and the language used in the official documents of the United Nations should be as simple and direct as possible. This has involved breaking with legal and technical jargon and with a number of formal traditional usages which create a sense of artificiality and are confusing to the general public. This may not seem important but I think it is. The strength of the United Nations depends on the degree of support which individual citizens give to their governments in carrying out their obligations under the Charter. In its important resolutions the United Nations must speak with a clear voice direct to these individual citizens. This means making a clean break with Geneva jargon and League lingo, with the gobbledegook of a resolution which starts with "considering" and goes on to "noting", "realizing", "taking into account", "believing" and "agreeing". An important decision of the United Nations should be embodied in simple, crisp, forceful language appropriate to the importance of the decision.

One fruitful development which Canada is responsible for initiating is the establishment of a committee to economize the time of the Assembly. That Committee will meet a week before the next Assembly and submit recommendations to it. Its work is important because if much of the time of representatives to the Assembly continues to be wasted it will become increasingly difficult for the Members of the United Nations to send first-class delegations to the Assembly, for the time of first-class men is too precious to be wasted. The calibre of the delegations will progressively deteriorate and the effectiveness and prestige of the Assembly will suffer.

Most of the things which I have referred to hitherto in discussing the role of Canada in the United Nations have had to do with Canadian actions at the Assemblies of the United Nations. But that is only part of the story. In the formative period of the United Nations it is the main part of the story but in the long run the vastly more important part of the story will be the actions which Member governments take as the result of the obligations they have entered into under the Charter, and of the studies, recommendations and decisions of the various organs of the United Nations. Will we frame our internal and external policy in the light of our obligations under the Charter, and of the studies and recommendations of the United Nations? Will we obey loyally the decisions of the United Nations?

Up to the present there have not been many opportunities for Canada to demonstrate by actions its good faith as a Member of the United Nations. There are, however, already a few indications of Canadian policy. I shall cite four of them.

Under the Charter, each Member is obliged to impose economic sanctions when so directed by the Security Council. Sanctions, to be effective, must be swift and certain. A government would, therefore, be failing to carry out its obligation if it had to wait for parliamentary approval before imposing economic sanctions against an aggressor. Therefore the Canadian Government secured legislation from Parliament last session giving the government power to implement immediately any decision of the Security Council on economic sanctions. Canada is one of a relatively few Members of the United Nations which have taken this step.

We would like to do the same sort of thing for military sanctions but we could not reasonably be expected to do so until we have negotiated a special military agreement with the Security Council placing Canadian armed forces, assistance and facilities at the disposal of the Council. Under the Charter such agreements are to be negotiated "on the initiative of the Security Council". The Security Council is, unfortunately, not yet in a position to take this initiative. All we have been able to do, therefore, is to express at the last regular Assembly our concern over the failure of the