

some threats to peace and stability which block the path to such restoration, and it was not merely words I was speaking when I said to the General Assembly the other day on behalf of the Canadian Delegation:

"The fact remains, however, that these problems must be solved and that procedures and practices which obstruct such solutions must be changed. This can be done by the voluntary abandonment of these practices; by agreed conventions or understandings which will regulate them; or, if necessary, by amendments to the Charter. We must hope that no member of the Security Council will flout clearly expressed world opinion by obstinately preventing change and thus become responsible for prejudicing, and possibly destroying, the Organization which is now man's greatest hope for the future."

For these reasons, the Canadian Delegation at Lake Success is warmly supporting the United States proposals for reform in the voting procedures of the Security Council. Moreover, Canada is prepared to do whatever it can, as a recently elected member of the Security Council, to make it a genuinely effective body.

The General Assembly itself, to which nations will turn if the Security Council does not or cannot take effective action for the settlement of international disputes, is not a law-making body. It is a Parliament in the original sense of the term, a "parlement", a talking place.

Nevertheless the General Assembly has, even under the express terms of the Charter, important and continuing responsibilities in the field of peace and security, for the maintenance of which, admittedly, the Security Council was intended to take primary responsibility. Article 11 of the Charter, for instance, authorizes the Assembly to "consider the general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of the international peace and security". Article 15 (1) (a) requires the General Assembly to "initiate studies and make recommendations for the purpose of promoting international cooperation in the political field". Moreover, Article 14 provides that the General Assembly may recommend measures for the peaceful adjustment of any situation (not being dealt with by the Security Council), regardless of origin, which it deems likely to impair the general welfare or friendly relations between nations.

Canada has been supporting at New York proposals for the continuing use of the Assembly's authority during a trial period of one year, by the establishment of an Interim Committee of the whole to meet between sessions. Much might be accomplished in this manner without its being within the power of any one member to prevent it. Within its sphere of competence, the Interim Committee could make investigations, discuss disputes, see that grievances are fully aired, publish reports of its findings and make the necessary recommendations. It could look into the implementation of resolutions adopted by the Assembly. It could also give preliminary consideration to important items on the agenda of the General Assembly for its next session. We must, I suggest, explore every avenue open to us under the Charter which can lead to the peaceful adjustment of international situations and to the improvement of friendly relations, among all nations if possible; and, if that should become or remain impracticable, among enough nations to give each of them a sense of secure confidence in the authority and prestige of the organization which they have dedicated primarily to these ends.

Though the Charter is, as I have said, an imperfect document, it does not follow that the discords and frustrations encountered in the Security Council and in the General Assembly are attributable,