

10. ELECTIONS TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In accordance with Article 23 (2) of the Charter, the General Assembly elected three non-permanent members of the Security Council to replace the non-permanent members, Australia, Brazil and Poland, which retired on December 31, 1947. Retiring members of the Security Council are not eligible for immediate re-election. Elections are by secret ballot and a two-thirds majority vote is required for election. Non-permanent members so elected hold office for two years.

The elections for the Security Council at this session of the General Assembly were of particular interest to Canada in view of the fact that the Canadian Government had made known its willingness to accept membership. The Secretary of State for External Affairs, in indicating the attitude of the Canadian Government in this regard, in an address before the Ottawa Branch of the United Nations Association in Canada on September 12, 1947, said:

"This decision in respect of the Security Council has been made only after the most careful consideration. We realize, in the first place, that if we are elected the people of Canada will be confronted with new and onerous responsibilities. We realize also that we shall have the weaknesses and difficulties from which the United Nations suffers brought home to us in an urgent and direct manner that will test to the utmost our confidence in that organization."

At the 92nd plenary meeting of the General Assembly held on September 30, voting commenced for election of the three new members. On the first ballot Canada and Argentina obtained 41 of a possible 57 votes and were duly elected. The two-thirds majority required was 38 votes. The results of the vote on the first ballot were as follows: Argentina, 41 votes; Canada, 41 votes; Ukrainian S.S.R., 33 votes; India, 29 votes; Czechoslovakia, 8 votes; Uruguay, 8 votes; Chile, 2 votes; with Ethiopia, Greece, Guatemala, and the Philippines each receiving 1 vote. As no other candidate received the necessary two-thirds majority vote on the first ballot, a further ballot was necessary.