

At first, as it will be recalled, we argued over the interpretation of Article 4 of the Charter. At the very first session, for instance, there were long discussions whether the question of diplomatic relations with a candidate for admission should be considered in dealing with its application. Later, at the second session, we sought an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice whether the admission of an applicant could be conditional upon the admission of other applicants. At the same time, efforts were made to persuade the permanent members of the Council not to exercise their right of veto and procedural amendments were adopted in the hope that this might facilitate the solution of the problem.

Legal and procedural solutions having failed, more drastic constitutional steps were then envisaged. It was suggested, for example, that the principle of universality should be formally adopted. In 1949, at the fourth session, consideration was given to the possibility of effecting the admission of new members by a decision of the Assembly when the Security Council had not made a recommendation either because the application had not obtained the required majority of votes or because a permanent member had exercised its veto. Only a few members had then been admitted and the number of applicants was steadily increasing.

By 1950, only nine countries had been admitted out of twenty-three applicants. There was a deadlock over the so-called "package-deal" solution but in many countries support for the principle of universality was growing.

In the course of the following years, proposals of one kind or another continued to be rejected and, in time, emphasis came to be placed on negotiation. We have had to recognize that action was paralyzed by the veto and that other avenues of progress would have to be explored. Studies were undertaken, for instance, in the Special Committee on the Admission of New Members which met from March to June 1953. This was followed later in the year by the appointment of a three-member Committee of Good Offices empowered to consult with members of the Security Council and to report back to the General Assembly. It gives me great pleasure to recognize that this Committee and, in particular, its distinguished Chairman, Mr. Belaunde of Peru, has played no small part in bringing about a more realistic appreciation of the kind of approach which has to be adopted if a way out of the impasse is to be found.

And I may say by way of digression that I welcome his statement, this interpretation of support of the Resolution which is now on our table. And I may say that at least one other member of the Good Offices Committee has indicated to me, as have so many members of this Committee who are not sponsors, their intention to support the Resolution.

More and more, support of as broad a membership as possible in our organization has increased. The powers represented at the Bandung Conference have recorded in no uncertain terms their own position regarding universality of membership. At San Francisco, speaker after speaker