

No. 53/50

ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS

Text of a statement made on October 6, 1953, by the Alternate Representative on the Canadian Delegation, Mr. G.B. Summers, Q.C., in the Ad Hoc Committee of the eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly, New York, dealing with Agenda Item 22

Note: The text of the resolution passed by the Ad Hoc Committee, and the results of the voting are given at the end of the Canadian Statement

The problem of enlarging the membership of the United Nations in order to make it a truly world-wide organization in accord with the intention of its founders has been with us for many years. Every aspect of the problem whether legal or political has been ably discussed in this Committee during the session and many times before. The position of the Canadian Delegation has been stated in previous sessions and has recently been re-stated to the special committee on the admission of new members, the report of which is now before us. I do not propose, therefore, to deal now with the matter once again in any detail and would wish merely to state very shortly the views of the Canadian Delegation on the broad problem and in relation to the proposals which are before us.

The wish of the General Assembly as a whole is clearly in favour of the enlargement of our membership. Every delegation has so stated and put in these broad terms, it can be said that we are unanimous. It is therefore a sad commentary on our statesmanship that it has not been possible to achieve this desired end. Until some solution has been found and deserving applicants have been admitted, we cannot claim that the United Nations is in a position to speak for the world as a whole and to exercise its functions as it should. The Canadian Delegation considers it a matter of great importance that some means should be found to solve this problem, and that all of those states which are eligible for admission under the provisions of the Charter should be added to our councils as soon as possible.

I must state from the outset, however, that the Canadian Delegation does not consider that this end should be achieved by circumventing the provision of the Charter. With due respect to the legal opinions of those who hold a contrary view, and recognizing the goodwill and good intentions of those countries who would endeavour to solve this problem by taking the matter out of the hands of the Security Council and dealing with it in the Assembly, we remain convinced that the matter should not be settled in this way. The provisions of the Charter are, we believe clear and the decisions of the International Court of Justice must be respected. Before we can solve the problem here, therefore, we must have before us a recommendation of the Security Council.