

15. One feature emerges most forcefully from an analysis of what lay behind the friction, frustration and lack of achievement of the Thirteenth Session. This session seemed to make a period of transition when a new balance of political forces was taking shape within the old United Nations framework. There were three main contributing factors.

16. In the first place, there was a notable increase in the influence of the Asian-African countries, often in combination with anti-colonial and "have-not" countries elsewhere. They were generally better organized, more forceful and more skilful than in the earlier years. They were also more numerous, a combination which many members of the group found heady and which made them less amenable to moderation and reason. At the same time it was increasingly difficult for Canada and other members of the old "fire brigade" to work with India and the Asian-African countries. More than once we had the experience of attempting to find a compromise between extreme positions only to find that the Indians then moved to a point between that compromise and the Soviet position. Much depended on the personalities; in some committees the Indians played a mischievous and inconsistent role, while in others they were cooperative and reasonable.

17. In the second place, the Soviet bloc showed improved organization, greater skill in tactics and more restraint in their interventions. The Soviet Delegation was most successful in exploiting for their own ends the conflicts between the Western Powers and the African-Asian countries, between the "haves" and the "have-nots", between the colonial powers and the anti-colonial countries. Often the USSR was able to give the impression of protecting the interests of the less privileged countries.

18. In the third place, there was a notable lack of effective leadership on the part of the United States, in particular, and the other Western delegations in general.

19. This picture may give grounds for discouragement but should certainly not be cause for despair, if future Western policy in the United Nations takes account of the transition that has been taking place and works out new methods to deal with it instead of relying on tactics and formulae that are no longer applicable.