

members of the Security Council, and that it should be the right of the members of the states located in each area to nominate their choice of candidate. The Soviet Union, he said, had always accepted the candidates designated by groups of states in other areas, and it expected the Assembly to accept the candidate nominated by the Communist states of Eastern Europe.

Mr. Vishinsky could claim a certain justification for the first part of this principle, i.e., that representation should be upon a geographical basis, in the custom which had developed in the Assembly for elections to the Security Council. According to this custom, it was understood that the six non-permanent members of the Security Council should always include two Latin American states, one Western European state, one Eastern European state, one state from the Middle East, and one state from the British Commonwealth. It had often been the case also that, by agreement among themselves, the states of each of these areas would indicate their preference for the election of one of their members, and would agree among themselves to vote for the state which they had selected. There was, however, no constitutional provision that this geographical distribution should necessarily be observed, nor was it in any sense obligatory upon any members to accept the nomination of any particular group. In the case of Commonwealth representatives, indeed, there had been in both 1946 and 1947, active contests between two Commonwealth states for election to the Security Council. In 1947 also, one of the permanent members of the Security Council, the United States, had refused to vote for the Eastern European state which had been nominated by the Soviet Union.

The choice of Yugoslavia was the only one of the three selections which became the subject of controversy. The election of India, the only member of the Commonwealth to claim a place on the Council, was a popular choice, justified by the heavy responsibilities which India is assuming in the Far East and the important role it is playing in the United Nations. Ecuador was the only Latin American state to be put forward, and the unanimous vote of the other Latin American states made its election almost a certainty. Although it has been less active in United Nations affairs than other Latin American states, it gave assurance in accepting its new office that it would faithfully fulfil the heavy responsibilities which it was assuming. Concerning the election of Yugoslavia there were, however, many doubts. Some member states considered that the presence of a Yugoslav Representative on the Security Council would project the Soviet-Yugoslav dispute into the meetings of the Council to such an extent that other business would suffer. Other states were impressed by the Soviet claim that the election of Yugoslavia would constitute a breach of faith, and would drive the Soviet Union to reconsider its position as a member of the United Nations. On the other hand, the Yugoslav plea that they were dangerously threatened by the Soviet Union, and that their election to the Security Council would enable them better to withstand this threat, impressed many members, which at the same time considered Yugoslavia to be as responsible and active a member of the United Nations as any other in Eastern Europe. In the last analysis, many states which might otherwise have voted for Czechoslovakia were driven to accept the Yugoslav candidature by the violence with which Mr. Vishinsky proclaimed his principle that the election of any state but the Soviet nominee would be a violation of the Charter. It was generally felt that it would be dangerous