

At the 15th session of the General Assembly, I expressed the conviction that a group in which the two sides would face one another is a practical and effective arrangement. Our re-examination of the problem of composition in recent weeks has confirmed us in this belief. However, we are also convinced that the participation of additional countries with a fresh perspective would be of great value. It is not for me to suggest which states should fulfil this role. However, it seems clear that it would be desirable for them to be chosen from areas of the world which have not been represented on the negotiating group.

At the last session of the General Assembly, Canada advanced proposals designed to broaden the representative character of the negotiating group, and to increase its effectiveness. At that time, my Delegation suggested the addition to the Ten-Nation Committee of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and rapporteur from other countries. However, strong arguments have been advanced in this debate to the effect that any additional members over and above the ten should be full participants in the work of the negotiating committee and I agree.

To meet the requirement for a more representative composition, provision should be made for participation by the main geographical regions not already represented - namely, Africa, Asia and Latin America. We might agree, for example, on an expanded committee of thirteen or sixteen by adding one or two representatives from each of these areas to the ten powers which were engaged in the negotiations in Geneva.