

External Affairs
Supplementary Paper

No. 53/58 UNITED NATIONS PERSONNEL POLICY
(Amendments to Staff Regulations)

Text of a statement delivered on November 24, 1953, by the Vice-Chairman of the Canadian Delegation, Mr. Alcide Côté, in the Fifth Committee of the eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly (Agenda item 51).

Note: The resolutions adopted on this subject and the text of a Canadian statement made on December 1, 1953 are to be found in Supplementary Paper No. 53/59.

I would be remiss if I did not, at the outset, commend the Secretary-General for his thoughtful study of this very important and complicated subject; and for his detailed and lucid presentation of the issues involved and of his proposals for removing as far as possible the anomalies and sources of conflict which have existed heretofore in the application of the present staff regulations. Our Advisory Committee should also have our thanks for the most helpful study they have made under difficulties recognized by us all.

It might not be inappropriate for me to express the belief of my Delegation that there is no reason why public opinion in member states should lead to the conclusion that, because a few dismissals of members of the staff have been found necessary, the United Nations Secretariat is a hot-bed of intrigue. I should therefore like to commend the Secretary-General for, and to associate my Delegation with, his remarks in paragraph 93 of his report in which he expresses his conviction that the United Nations is at present served by a dedicated and competent group of men and women on whom he may thoroughly rely for the accomplishment of the tasks lying ahead.

The concern of my Delegation, which I am sure must be the concern of every delegation here, is to create conditions such that the Secretary-General may exercise fully those powers which the General Assembly has vested in him in the Charter, while ensuring at the same time that a competent and loyal international staff is provided with full protection against arbitrary acts. My Delegation agrees fully with the Secretary-General that it is difficult to see how a postponement of the issues now before us could be in the interest either of the organization or of the staff.

Speaking generally, for we may have specific comments on matters of detail to offer later, we would say that the proposed amendments to the regulations provide a needed and acceptable clarification of the powers of the Secretary-General. For the protection of the staff, who have no national Court of Appeal, we attach great importance to the role of the Administrative Tribunal - a role from which the amendments to the regulations under discussion will not detract.