

Although these amendments are being submitted in the name of two delegations, they are the work of many hands. The text in document L408 was discussed and negotiated over several weeks with as representative a cross-section of the Assembly as was physically possible.

We are introducing these amendments for one purpose and one purpose only -- to secure the widest possible measure of support for the resolution in A/5316. This in our view is the most important resolution recommended by the Second Committee for approval by the General Assembly at the Seventeenth Session. We believe it would be most unfortunate if the United Nations were to take this major step forward in the field of international economic relations -- to convene a conference of the entire membership of the United Nations family to discuss the trade and development problems of the developing countries -- without the wholehearted support of all the nations represented here -- the major trading countries as well as the developing countries.

Mr. President, we are all realists here. The chances of reducing to manageable proportions the trade and development problems of the developing countries will be seriously diminished if this conference does not command the wholehearted support of all countries, and particularly of those best in a position to offer solutions to some of those problems.

We all know that in the debates and vote on this resolution in Committee, there were only two sections of the resolution on which no agreement could be reached. Given the unanimous agreement on the rest of this very comprehensive resolution, these points might seem minor indeed. Nonetheless, despite protracted attempts to produce compromise wording at the final stage of the Committee's debate, these two questions were considered sufficiently important for ten delegations to vote against the resolution as a whole, and for 23 more delegations to abstain.

Thus, despite unanimous expressions of support for the holding of the Conference, despite wholehearted agreement by all member states on by far the greatest part of the text before us, close to one-third of the membership of this Organization were not in a position to