

membership of ECOSOC is not restricted by specific Charter rules or other formal conventions regarding membership, it may be less complicated to adapt to present-day political realities.

Attack Easier Obstacles First

We are then agreed that the African and Asian areas are inadequately represented on the Councils. Since it has also been, I think, demonstrated that we must make real progress at this session, I suggest we should proceed first in the direction where the obstacles or possible areas of disagreement are least evident. If politics is the art of the possible, we should then perhaps not try to solve both the most difficult and the easiest aspects of this problem all at once. It seems to my delegation that the outlook this year for enlargement of the Security Council is not too encouraging, in spite of the valid reasons advanced for the necessity to reform in this direction. Major political differences inevitably become involved with the purely procedural aspects; and we fear that resultant disagreements with respect to one objective might seriously prejudice reaching a satisfactory solution this year for the other.

Alternative Courses Open

It is therefore up to this Committee to determine by what procedure we can adequately satisfy the objective so overwhelmingly expressed here. There are several alternatives open to us which have been suggested during the course of this debate:

The first is: Observer status, as authorized under Article 69 of the Charter - Representation of this type would be without voting privileges and could therefore, I think, be regarded only as an interim solution. My delegation could not look favourably on any attempt to create in this way a kind of second-class membership for any sovereign state. We could possibly envisage some interim arrangement through observer status that could enable additional representatives to participate in the deliberations of ECOSOC between the time of Assembly approval of additional seats and completion of the ratification process. We repeat, this suggestion could only be considered as an interim measure.

The second
alternative

is: Redistribution of existing seats - This second alternative does have the advantage of not requiring Charter amendment, but would, of course, require approval of two-thirds of the member states. Previous speakers have called attention to an important disadvantage of this procedure - the