

No. 61/9 Partial Text of a Statement on September
11, 1961, in the House of Commons by Mr.
Wallace Nesbitt.

... This morning I should like to confine my remarks in this debate to two subjects. I should first of all like to make some observations regarding the future of United Nations, and second concerning the present crisis in Berlin and NATO.

First of all, regarding the United Nations, during the last few years there have been many changes, as all members appreciate. Having had the opportunity and honour of attending the United Nations in various capacities in the last number of years--I first went there as a Parliamentary Observer... I can assure you the changes have been many. When I attended its deliberations originally something over 50 countries had membership in the United Nations, while there are now almost 100.

Accompanying this change in the membership of the United Nations have been a great many attendant problems. I think all will agree that the United Nations is the best organization that man has been able to devise to date, and that it must continue its operations in the future.

There are many dangers which confront the United Nations at the present time. There are many faults which exist in the United Nations itself. However, I suggest there is no advantage in acting like an ostrich, with our heads in the sand, pretending these faults do not exist. I suggest the best approach is to recognize them and attempt to correct them.

The first and principal danger to the United Nations is the present attack by the Soviet Union in respect to its organization. I suggest one does not have to look far to see the reason for this. The United Nations has quite clearly on many occasions frustrated the ultimate designs of the Soviet Union. It was quite clear at the fifteenth General Assembly last year that one of the principal objectives of the Soviet delegates was to destroy or at least emasculate the United Nations organization. This was attempted in several ways, first of all by personal attack on the Secretary-General, Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld, and second by suggesting changes in the structure of the United Nations.

The personal attacks on the Secretary-General were not successful last year. Toward the end of that General Assembly, I believe in March, a vote was taken, the details of which are not important but which in effect turned out to be one of confidence in the Secretary-General, with the only delegates voting against him being those of the Soviet bloc. I feel safe in stating that so far these attacks upon the Secretary-General by the Soviet Union and satellite delegates have been unsuccessful.