

31. TEACHING OF THE PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE SCHOOLS OF MEMBER STATES

The Norwegian representative, in submitting a resolution on the subject of the teaching of the purposes and principles of the United Nations in the schools of Member States, expressed the view that the public gave too much attention to the political differences in the United Nations and largely ignored the positive work being accomplished by the organization. The resolution recommended that Member Governments encourage teaching on the United Nations Charter, the purposes and principles, the structure, background, and activities of the organization, in the schools and institutions of higher learning of their countries, particularly in the elementary and secondary schools. This draft resolution met with general approval.

However, when the vote was taken, the Canadian representative abstained on the grounds that within the federal system in Canada each of the provincial governments had complete control over educational matters. Before it was approved in plenary session after unanimous vote, an amendment was made in the resolution on the initiative of Cuba requesting Member States to furnish the Secretary-General with information on measures taken to implement the resolution.¹

The Canadian representative in voting for the resolution in plenary session explained that Canada had abstained in the Third Committee to draw attention to the constitutional limitations of the federal government of Canada in the field of education. In voting for the resolution in plenary session, Canada desired to support the principles enunciated and to indicate the willingness of the Canadian Government to fulfil the purposes of the resolution insofar as the Canadian constitutional system permitted.

¹ The text of this resolution and of the two Canadian statements on this matter is given in Appendix II, K, p. 235.