

that what is now required in my view is not a matter of study or research. What we seek from the committee are not questions but answers. What we look to the committee to do is to act on behalf of this Assembly in mapping out a viable solution and paving the way for forward movement on this issue. This surely is the basis on which the committee must pursue its endeavours if it is to make the sort of recommendation which we have the right to expect it to put before us at our next session.

It has been suggested that one question which should be put to the Government of the People's Republic of China is whether it is willing to be seated in the United Nations. I am quite ready to acknowledge that statements which have come from Peking have been such as to implant real doubts in our minds about the general attitude of the Government of the People's Republic of China towards the workings of the United Nations. On the other hand, countries friendly to the Government of the People's Republic of China have in successive years tabled proposals aimed at the seating of that government in the United Nations. We must assume, I think, that this would not have been done without Peking's consent. ✓

It has also been suggested that the Government of the People's Republic of China be asked whether it is willing to adhere to the obligations of the Charter of the United Nations. Now it is obviously of the greatest importance that all member governments respect and observe the obligations of the Charter. The question is properly put, in accordance with Article 4 of the Charter, to any state which is applying for membership in the United Nations. But China is a member state of the United Nations. The issue before us is not one of admitting China to membership. It is rather how China as a member state can be represented in our midst in such a way as to reflect the realities of the present political situation. ✓

But I can see a further drawback to this whole procedure of asking questions at this stage. I would submit, Mr. President, that the real responsibility of any Committee we appoint is to devise a basis on which this Assembly would consider it reasonable for the people of China to be represented in our midst. The time for asking questions is after, not before, such a basis has been devised. The real responsibility which is ours is to formulate proposals which can be put to the parties in full confidence that