

It can be said therefore that the third alternative we are considering involves an element of reallocation in that it adds two seats to the number of seats assigned to Africa and Asia in 1956.

The advantage in this approach is that, following the precedent adopted in 1956, it supplements rather than supersedes an arrangement already in existence and it avoids the danger of attempting a new general reallocation which could involve the Committee in lengthy and controversial discussions, not to mention the difficulties we have outlined above which may be in store for the International Law Commission itself.

For these reasons, of the three possible courses open to us, the Canadian delegation feels that the more reasonable one is that suggested in the draft resolution which is now before us. Canada therefore proposes to vote for the eight power resolution contained in document A/C.6/L.481.

This is not to argue that the 1956 solution was ideal and that the modification now suggested will make it perfect in every respect. I put it to you that such a solution may commend itself to you, in the end, as the best available in the circumstances.

Proposed Working Group

There is one more question concerning which the Canadian delegation would like to comment. The suggestion has been made that this complex matter should be referred for consideration to a small working-group on which all points of view would be represented. The Canadian delegation considers that the formation of such a working group would only be required were it considered necessary to undertake a complete reallocation of the seats on the Commission. For the reasons already expressed, the Canadian delegation feels that an attempt at such a reallocation could be most unwise. The Commission has been provided with a better solution to the problem which does not require reference being made to a working group. This is the solution provided, of course, by the proposed eight-power resolution.

Conclusion

One final point, Mr. Chairman. We are as anxious as any country around this table to provide all countries and all groups of countries with opportunities to participate in the work of the International Law Commission. Our comments and suggestions have been made with this essential point in mind.

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