

ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS

Statement by the Chairman of the Canadian Delegation to the United Nations, and Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Paul Martin, made in the Ad Hoc Committee, December 1, 1955.

... We are not asking the agreement of the other members of this organization to a proposal which is without difficulties. There are reasons why we should have preferred not to take this course but in this imperfect world it is often unwise to refuse to take any action unless that action is open to no possible objection or criticism from any standpoint. It seems to us that the course we recommend is best, on balance. To delay longer would be to perpetuate injustices. We doubt the wisdom of such an alternative.

After long consideration it has seemed to us that the worst course would be to allow a considerable number of countries to languish in frustration outside the United Nations. Most of the applicants are countries with much to contribute to or gain from our organization. They are in many cases countries with ancient traditions and great cultures. Some are countries with governments newly instituted which are anxious to establish their international relations within the ordered framework of the United Nations as the organ of the community of nations.

In particular—and I mention this as an ex-

ample—I have in mind the case of Italy, a country which culturally has been one of the main creative forces within our Western civilization and one which, for instance, in the field of law, for thousands of years literally has made a constant and inspiring contribution. It is hardly conceivable that our organization should continue any longer to operate without being able to list among its members a country like Italy which is one of the recognized founders of the very family of nations of which this organization seeks to be the expression.

Some applicants are controlled by regimes or are following policies which we do not like. Some dwell in such isolation and obscurity that we know little about them. This is far from a satisfactory situation but the question remains whether admission of these members will on the whole make it better or worse. We think that the edge is more likely to be taken off intolerance and misapprehension within the United Nations than in barren isolation.

We do not agree with the tendency to look upon admission to membership in the United



—United Nations

SIXTEEN NEW NATIONS ADMITTED TO UNITED NATIONS

At a meeting of the Security Council on December 15, sixteen new countries were admitted to membership in the United Nations.