

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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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.

My country is honoured and proud to be associated with 27 other nations in advocating a constructive and positive move designed to strengthen the United Nations. I need only list these countries to suggest how broad, how widely representative is the movement supporting our proposal. We have with us as sponsors, Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Burma, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Liberia, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Syria, Thailand, Yemen and Yugoslavia. And as I introduce the Draft Resolution which we have sponsored together with these 27 other countries, I have a feeling which I am sure will be shared by many other members of this Committee, that this may indeed be for this organization an historic occasion. For the opportunity is now given to us to solve the basic constitutional question relating to the admission of new members.

Our record over the last few years in dealing with this matter has been one of failure and undoubtedly this has reflected on the prestige of the organization. The effectiveness of the United Nations as an instrument of international co-operation and as a world forum is directly involved in the solution of the new members problem. It is now our strong belief that we can break the deadlock; we will then have accomplished in the course of this session a significant move in the field of international relations. The opportunity is ours if we will act reasonably now.

The conditions for admission of new members are clearly set out in the Charter both as to substance and as to procedure. But, as we survey the past proceedings and the controversies over this issue, it becomes clear that the problem facing the organization in this matter is not strictly of a legal, constitutional or procedural but of a political nature, and that, in this as in many other fields, the only possibility of breaking the deadlock is through the acceptance of a compromise.