

current, incipient or potential disputes? A reluctance to talk is no excuse. The Council, at least behind-the-scenes, must function as a multilateral hot-line.

Mr. President, a second failing is that we have not lived up to our own responsibilities as member states of the U.N. We have expected the Secretary-General to fill the vacuum, without giving him adequate political support to do the job. We must allow the Secretary-General a greater margin of initiative and independence of action. He has been able on his own to take action in some areas of U.N. activity. He has, for example, made a promising start in improving the management of the U.N.'s limited financial and human resources; he has used a period of budgetary restraint to begin to weed out low-priority activities. The Secretary-General has also been exerting a positive influence on many intractable international problems. But we must provide him with more political backing. He should be allowed and encouraged to increase his "fact-finding" capacity and his ability to exercise his "good offices" in particular situations.

A third thing that has gone wrong is that too much valuable time and resources are being wasted throughout the U.N. system on extraneous political issues. We all accept the fact that the Security Council and General Assembly are political fora. But, even here, we should avoid the repetition of sterile political debates, the proliferation of resolutions on the same topic, and the scheduling of redundant conferences and meetings.

We must also resist the "over-politicization" that is increasingly infecting the technical parts of the U.N. system, which are neither mandated nor equipped to handle such issues. It is naive to expect that a certain number of heated political issues will not be raised. It becomes debilitating, however, when political issues begin to frustrate the normal give-and-take between groups in working out consensus on the essential activities of U.N. organizations. UNESCO, for example, has been a serious offender in recent years. We must step up the momentum to bring UNESCO back into balance.

We must not permit challenges to the universality of membership to undermine the continued viability of the system. Israel, for example, must retain its right of membership in the U.N. family of organizations. The Republic of Korea deserves full membership in the U.N.

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