

9. In the first part of the First Session of the General Assembly Canada received 33 votes on the first ballot for one of the non-permanent seats of the Security Council, one vote less than the required two-third majority. <sup>1</sup> On the second ballot Canada and Australia (which had received 28 votes on the first ballot) received 23 and 27 votes respectively. After the third ballot, in which Canada received 33 votes and Australia 28, Mr. St. Laurent proposed that in order to avoid a contest between the two members of the Commonwealth, Australia be elected unanimously. While this gesture was well received by the Assembly it also faced the Government with something of a dilemma. If Canada did not seek election at the following session of the General Assembly, would not in fact her chances for election be prejudiced for several years to come?

10. In April, 1947, the Department began its attempt to find the answer. On April 26th Mr. Pearson instructed Mr. Reid to prepare a memorandum for the Minister, setting out the pros and cons. Mr. Pearson in his memorandum said that he was afraid lest "abstention at this time might be misinterpreted ... and might also mean far more than abstention for a year". It was his feeling that although there were a variety of valid arguments against running, Canada should, nevertheless, stand if her candidature appeared to have a good chance of success. It was evident, however, that there was no great enthusiasm for the idea among the senior officers of the Department. Mr. Wrong, in a letter of April 25, 1947, to Mr. Pearson, said that on balance he favoured our standing but that "it would not take a great deal of pressure to argue (him) out of that position". Mr. Reid's memorandum, as it finally emerged after consultation with Mr. Wrong in Washington, Mr. Ignatieff in New York, Mr. Robertson in London, and, of course, the interested divisions, was dated May 30th and listed the following principal arguments against standing:

- (a) The record of achievement of the Security Council had been poor and membership on it was not considered to be so important from the point of view of influence and prestige as it had once been thought;
- (b) The work of the Department would be considerably increased and the Delegation in New York would require instructions for the purpose of voting on matters concerning which Canadian interests were not directly involved;
- (c) Because of the Canadian view that membership on the Security Council imposed on each individual member "the obligation to exercise its rights and responsibilities as a member of the Council not in defence of its own special national interests but in defence of the interests of the United Nations as a whole", it would be necessary to make decisions on policy in regard to questions which do not directly affect Canada;
- (d) As Canada was due to go off the Economic and Social Council at the end of 1948, the chances of re-election to that body might be prejudiced;

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1 Actually Canada got 34 votes, but the Nicaraguan delegate spoiled his ballot by signing it.