

The Charter does not require, or even authorize, sanctions, including expulsion, to be applied merely because one member of the United Nations follows policies, such as apartheid, considered abhorrent and degrading by the others. Quite apart from the practical and legal arguments against such action, by majority vote, where will this course lead? There may be - indeed there are - other governments represented in this Organization which follow policies and adopt practices that are discriminatory and violate human rights. Are voices to be raised in the Assembly for imposing sanctions, including expulsion, on the governments concerned? I hope not.

The fundamental aim of this Organization should be to hold the nations together in an international system as nearly universal as possible. We should be seeking to increase the membership, not to decrease it.

Today, the world around us is filled with uncertainties and risks from a wide and worrying variety of unresolved issues. Many of them do not appear on the Assembly agenda. Some may no longer be susceptible of United Nations treatment; and can best be dealt with, at least for the time being, by the parties most directly concerned.

In its approach to international affairs, the United Nations has to take into account the reality of world politics; which in some cases makes direct negotiations preferable to UN involvement.

There are certain questions, however, which are the direct concern and responsibility of this Assembly. There are old questions such as disarmament; the elimination of racial discrimination; freedom for peoples who never have had it and for others who have lost it. There are also new questions raised with each passing year. Whether old or new, they have their place in United Nations priorities. They pose the question with a compelling urgency; how can this collective United Nations response to international challenge best be fitted into the future pattern of world affairs?