

In introducing that draft resolution, the chairman of the Canadian delegation, Mr. Paul Martin, observed that the record of the United Nations in dealing with this matter had been one of failure and had reflected on the prestige of the organization. Canada now believed that the deadlock could be broken. The problem was not strictly legal, constitutional or procedural, but was rather a political issue that could only be solved by compromise. Some applicants were controlled by regimes or followed policies that Canada did not like, but the edge was more likely to be taken off intolerance and misapprehension within the United Nations than in barren isolation. The United Nations could have been formed with a membership exclusive to those who held similar views on most issues, but Canada had never had any doubt as to the infinitely greater value of an organization embodying all the major traditions and contemporary philosophies of government.

Although the resolution was adopted by the General Assembly by an overwhelming majority, the applications of two of the 18 states, Japan and Outer Mongolia, were vetoed in the Security Council; but, as a result of the Canadian initiative, the following 16 states became members of the United Nations: Albania, Jordan, Ireland, Portugal, Hungary, Italy, Austria, Romania, Bulgaria, Finland, Ceylon, Nepal, Libya, Cambodia, Laos and Spain. (Japan was admitted in 1956 and Mongolia in 1961.)

In succeeding years, United Nations membership increased by leaps and bounds and, by the end of 1975, stood at 144. In large part this has been brought about by the rapid accession to full sovereignty and independence of many new African states. The decolonization of Africa has been one of the most significant developments of our time and the admission of the new African members has had a profound effect on the United Nations.

Although there has been no recurrence of the earlier membership deadlock, the United Nations has thus far failed to find a complete solution to the problem of the divided states. The Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic were admitted simul-