I am thinking particularly of the Security Council. Its record in recent years has been one of diminishing returns. We are all aware of the main reason for this - the lack of the essential unanimity among the Great Powers.

That unanimity is still lacking but this year, for the first time in the post-war period, we can perhaps begin to hope that improved political relations between the Great Powers may make possible the restoration to the Security Council of the high executive function it was designed to fulfil.

We might also consider how to modify the Council's function to make it more effective as the instrument of political action for the United Nations. Indeed, the time may be at hand for a Security Council which can keep continuing watch on the affairs of the Organization as a whole in much the same way as the executive committees operate in the Specialized Agencies.

If the enlarged Security Council were given a properly balanced composition with sufficient safe-guards as regards voting rights, it could conceivably become the main arena for political decision on questions which require urgent action. It could assume responsibility for many of the items which now lie heavily on the agenda of the General Assembly. Such a Council could be in session virtually throughout the year and make it possible to cut drastically into the excessive time and energy now consumed by Assembly proceedings.

There is another change that might be considered.

The United Nations will inevitably remain the central world forum for international discussion and recommendation on a wide range of subjects. We already have on the other hand, regional groupings of states - in Europe, Africa and Latin America. Other groupings conceivably may be formed. The time may have to come to correlate the activities of these regional groupings more closely with those of the United Nations. It is possible to envisage a stage in the evolution of the UN when regional assemblies may be used to deal with regional problems in search of local solutions or in the preparation for broader treatment at the United Nations.