

the most difficult and the easiest aspects of this problem all at once. It seems to my Delegation that the outlook this year for enlargement of the Security Council is not too encouraging, in spite of the valid reasons advanced for the necessity to reform in this direction. Major political differences inevitably become involved with the purely procedural aspects; and we fear that resultant disagreements with respect to one objective might seriously prejudice reaching a satisfactory solution this year for the other.

It is therefore up to this Committee to determine by what procedure we can adequately satisfy the objective so overwhelmingly expressed here. There are several alternatives open to us which have been suggested during the course of this debate:

The first is: Observer status, as authorized under Art. 69 of the Charter: - Representation of this type would be without voting privileges and could therefore, I think, be regarded only as an interim solution. My Delegation could not look favourably on any attempt to create in this way a kind of second-class membership for any sovereign state. We could possibly envisage that some interim arrangement through observer status could enable additional representatives to participate in the deliberations of ECOSOC between the time of Assembly approval of additional seats and completion of the ratification process. We repeat, this suggestion could only be considered as an interim measure.

The second alternative is: Redistribution of existing seats: - This second alternative does have the advantage of not requiring Charter amendment, but would, of course, require approval of two-thirds of the member states. Previous speakers have called attention to an important disadvantage of this procedure - the fact that an old