

As far as the Canadian delegation is concerned, an examination of the jurists' report paragraph by paragraph would therefore seem at this time to be unnecessary. For that matter, neither have we any intention of discussing the report of the Secretary-General article by article. Rather, we should like to make a few general observations and specific recommendations with regard to that report.

Our impression is that the Secretary-General will desire to have the opinion of delegations and that, in the execution of his policy, he will -- according to his judgment and as far as he can reconcile any conflicting views -- bear these opinions in mind. I may here remark that the Canadian delegation was among those which urged upon the Secretary-General, in the meeting of the Fifth Committee on 16 December, the wisdom of making haste slowly in reaching decisions on certain matters that had become controversial.

We agree wholeheartedly with the Secretary-General's remarks on the necessity of maintaining the international character and the independence of the Secretariat. This Assembly will not find much difficulty in reaching unanimity of agreement on this point. This principle is now so generally agreed upon and so firmly embodied in the Charter that certainly I have no present intention of defending it at any length, although I should like to say something about the channels through which it may be maintained. I have said earlier that the Secretariat is an indispensable part of the United Nations. It is equally true that an international outlook and freedom from interference by member governments are indispensable characteristics of the Secretariat. Without this sort of Secretariat, the United Nations would hardly be able to justify its existence. I hope that the most violent critics of the Secretariat are not taking advantage of this fact to attack the United Nations itself under cover of an attack on the integrity of the Secretariat.

Before going further, I should like to make it quite clear that the Canadian Government believes that the very great majority of the members of the Secretariat think and act as international civil servants should, and do not in fact permit themselves to be interfered with by any member government in anything that pertains to their work in the United Nations. It cannot be denied, however, that constant and active vigilance is required to maintain this independence on the part of the Secretariat. The ultimate success of all our efforts to this end depends in the final analysis on the officers of the Secretariat themselves, on member governments, and, finally, on the Secretary-General.

First of all, each member of the Secretariat is in conscience bound by the Charter and by the regulations governing his employment as an international civil servant to serve the United Nations faithfully. Having pledged himself to this profession, there are limits placed upon his freedom of speech and his freedom of action, just as there are limits placed on the freedom of speech and action of any civil servant. Beyond those limits, there is a field in which his conduct must be determined by his judgment and by his conscience. If his judgment is bad or his conscience is an uncertain guide, he must expect to get into difficulty. The Secretary-General's exposition of the responsibilities of the Secretariat members in this regard