

buildings could not be completed satisfactorily with the funds already provided. In the Committee, the Soviet Delegate contended that the increased cost had been due to the inefficiency and extravagance of the Secretary-General and his planning staff. The other members rejected this view, which they believed to have been motivated by political considerations. The Committee endorsed the Secretary-General's proposals.

In the Fifth Committee the Soviet Representative repeated his criticisms and submitted a counter-proposal which would have denied the Secretary-General the extra funds. After the Secretary-General had given assurances that the further funds requested would complete the project, the Fifth Committee rejected the Soviet proposal and approved the Secretary-General's request.

Not included in the main costs of construction are objects of art, furnishings and decorative materials which have been offered by governments, organizations and private individuals and accepted by the Secretary-General and a special board of advisers. Norway, Denmark and Sweden have provided decoration for the three Council Chambers. The United Kingdom has undertaken the decoration of one of the committee rooms. Other gifts have been provided by India, New Zealand, Australia, Greece and by United States school children. Canada is giving seven decorative metal doors for the north entrance of the General Assembly building. These will form the principal public entrance to the building, and it is expected that they will be in position before the opening of the seventh session of the Assembly. The doors are distinctively Canadian in materials and design.

Personnel Administration

Permanent Staff Regulations

The development of an international civil service, embodying (in the words of the Charter) "the highest standards of efficiency, competence, and integrity", has been the continuing concern of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies, and of the Secretary-General and senior United Nations officials. But while it is widely recognized that a Secretariat of very high calibre has been built up in a remarkably short time, some problems — the result mainly of the organization's newness — still remain to be solved.

When the Secretariat was first recruited, the words of the Charter, quoted above, were carefully borne in mind. Time did not permit full observance of a secondary but also important criterion which the Charter laid down: "Due regard shall be paid to the importance of recruiting the staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible". As a result, the Secretariat contained a higher percentage than was desirable of the nationals of a few of the larger member states.

Provisional staff regulations, setting forth the conditions of employment of staff members, were adopted by the General Assembly on February 13, 1946. The Assembly recognized that experience would show ways in which these regulations could be improved. It was intended that permanent staff regulations should be adopted at a later date.