

The Canadian delegation also gave its support to proposals for increasing the usefulness of the Assembly. In his opening statement, the Chairman of the Canadian delegation said that his delegation would support the suggestion of the United States delegate that a subsidiary body of the Assembly should be established to carry on some of its functions when the Assembly was not in session. He stressed the fact that contentious issues for which the Security Council was intended to take primary responsibility could receive the benefit of free and frank discussion and of thorough investigation in the Assembly or in a continuing committee of the Assembly.

The Chairman of the delegation concluded his opening statement by pointing out that, in their search for security, peace-loving states might consider it necessary to form associations within the United Nations, for their collective self-defence. He said:

"Nations, in their search for peace and co-operation, will not and cannot accept indefinitely and unaltered a Council which was set up to ensure their security, and which, so many feel, has become frozen in futility, and divided by dissension. If forced, they may seek greater safety in an association of democratic and peace-loving states willing to accept more specific international obligations in return for greater national security. Such associations, if consistent with the principles and purposes of the Charter, can be formed within the United Nations. It is to be hoped that such a development will not be necessary. If it is unnecessary, it will be undesirable. If, however, it is made necessary, it will take place. Let us not forget that the provisions of the Charter are a floor under, rather than a ceiling over, the responsibilities of Member States. If some prefer to go even below that floor, others need not be prevented from moving upwards.

"Two, or more, apartments in the structure of peace are undoubtedly less desirable than one family of nations dwelling together in amity, undivided by curtains or even more substantial pieces of political furniture. They are, however, to be preferred to the alternative of wholly separate structures.

"This, you may say, is defeatism of the worst kind. It is not. It is merely sober realism. It is folly to deny that certain events of the last twelve months have weakened the position of our organization. It would equally be folly to deny that a continuation of this trend may cause it ultimately to collapse.

"Our delegation, our Government, and our Canadian people are determined to do everything they can to prevent this tragic development. Our faith and hope still shine, though now through an overcast of anxiety. The work of this Assembly, to which we pledge our contribution, will, we trust, remove that anxiety, justify that faith, and heighten that hope."