

frustrate its real tasks. For example, at the San Francisco Conference nearly half the time of the conference was taken up with procedural discussions - debates not on what the conference should decide, but on how it should go about making a decision.

103. It is probably no exaggeration to say that Canada has played as active a role as any other state in the development of rules of procedure for the General Assembly and in the attempt to secure the adoption of more effective rules of procedure for the Security Council in regard to the pacific settlement of disputes. For example, on September 8, 1947, a Committee on Procedures and Organization of the General Assembly met under the Chairmanship of the Canadian representative, Mr. Escott Reid. This Committee held fifteen meetings and presented a report to the General Assembly suggesting a considerable number of changes designed to improve the Assembly's rules of procedure. These suggestions were largely approved by the Legal Committee of the Assembly and were eventually adopted on November 17, 1947, by the General Assembly itself, to take effect as from January 1, 1948. It is only by good rules of procedure that the General Assembly can use the time available for its sessions to the best possible advantage. Progress in this field is therefore very important because, if men of high ability and prominence in their own countries believe that a good deal of the time of the Assembly is being wasted, members of the United Nations will find it increasing difficult to send first-rate delegations.

104. On the same general principle of saving time and of improving efficiency, Canadian delegations have repeatedly insisted on the use of clear and direct language in the resolutions and conventions adopted by the United Nations. If resolutions are adopted which are ambiguous and confusing, they will certainly lead to a great waste of time in the future and may even lead to charges of bad faith and serious international resentment. Moreover, if the decisions of the United Nations are to be comprehensible to the general public and are to gain their support, they must be embodied in simple and forceful language appropriate to the importance of the decision.

105. With the same goal of improving efficiency, Canadian delegations have consistently placed emphasis on personal competence in the election of officers in the United Nations, as opposed to any other considerations. One of the recurrent themes of controversy in the Assembly has been the relevant importance to be attached to "efficiency" and to "adequate geographic representation". This theme runs through innumerable debates on the Secretariat, on the Chairmanship of the Assembly Committees, and on the membership of these Committees and of the various Councils. Canada has consistently stressed the maximum efficiency, although recognizing that a completely unbalanced geographic representation would be harmful.

106. For the same reason, the Canadian Government has refused to nominate Canadians for positions on the Secretariat. Canada's view has been that the Secretary-General cannot carry out his obligations if national governments press him to appoint their nationals. Canada has also insisted that any Canadians who are appointed to the Secretariat of the United Nations or of an international specialized agency are in no sense responsible to the Canadian Government for their activities as members of such a secretariat.