

action. It could assume responsibility for many of the items which now lie heavily on the agenda of the General Assembly. Such a Council could be in session virtually throughout the year and make it possible to cut drastically into the excessive time and energy now consumed by Assembly proceedings.

"There is another change that might be considered.

"The United Nations will inevitably remain the central world forum for international discussion and recommendation on a wide range of subjects. We already have, on the other hand, regional groupings of states – in Europe, Africa and Latin America. Other groupings conceivably may be formed. The time may have come to correlate the activities of these regional groupings more closely with those of the United Nations. It is possible to envisage a stage in the evolution of the United Nations when regional assemblies may be used to deal with regional problems in search of local solutions or in the preparation for broader treatment at the United Nations."

Since 1963, the Security Council has, in fact, met more frequently than it did during the previous 15 years and has worked more effectively, thanks notably to the practice of holding informal consultations in which differences can be aired and compromise agreements possibly reached prior to the convening of formal sessions. There has also been increasing co-operation between the United Nations and regional organizations, particularly the Organization of African Unity and the Organization of American States, although the respective competences of the United Nations and regional organizations in the field of peace and security has never been defined.

Another problem of enlarged membership is that of voting. The principle of equal political rights is a fundamental principle of the Charter. It is reflected in the "one state, one vote" rule in the General Assembly. Because of the wide disparity in size, population and wealth