

obtain. There is a danger that wider expansion will render the Economic and Social Council unwieldy and its work less effective. The Delegation may support a proposal to enlarge the Council if such a proposal is pressed and has strong support. It should favour a modest increase (three seats) in preference to more extensive proposals and should favour a distribution of seats which would maintain so far as possible the present pattern of voting strength in the Council.

The Delegation should oppose an increase in the number of judges in the International Court since the size of United Nations membership has no bearing on the size of the Court.

South Africa

At past sessions Canada has voted for inscription of two items dealing with apartheid and with the treatment of people of Indian origin in South Africa. If the situation in the Assembly at the present session has not materially changed, the Delegation might again vote for inscription of these items. If, however, some friendly delegations come to the conclusion that it would be desirable to encourage South Africa to resume a fuller cooperation with the United Nations and that this might be effected by not favouring inscription, the Delegation this year might abstain on inscription of this item. In explanation of such action it might be stated that there has been ample opportunity in the past to discuss racial problems in South Africa and there is no practical value in so doing once again. If, as expected, the items are inscribed, the Delegation should vote against any proposals which call for United Nations intervention in South African affairs. If any resolutions are put forward which do not call for intervention and are not objectionable in themselves, the Delegation may nevertheless abstain if our position on inscription requires such action in order to be consistent.

Korea

At this session the main discussion on this procedural item will centre on the recently-announced intention of the United States forces in Korea to modernize its military equipment in Korea because of Communist breaches of the Armistice Agreement and the need to counterbalance the military buildup which has taken place in North Korea. A Communist-sponsored motion condemning the United States decision will probably be introduced and the Delegation should vote against it. As some accusations have been made that the West is not seriously interested in reunification it is desirable to avoid any statement on reunification which indicates a too rigid or inflexible view of the conditions on which reunification might be achieved.

West Irian (West New Guinea)

For the fourth successive year an item on West New Guinea (known as West Irian to the Indonesians) has been inscribed on the Provisional Agenda. Since The Netherlands relinquished sovereignty over Indonesia in 1949, Indonesia has disputed The Netherlands right to rule West New Guinea, but The Netherlands retains possession. Canada's position in the past has been that the dispute should be referred to the International Court for decision on the legal merits of the two claims. We have not considered that there were sound reasons for opposing a discussion of the subject in the Assembly, but we have doubted whether such a discussion would assist in finding a solution. Consequently Canada has abstained on the question of inscribing the item. At this session the Delegation should abstain on inscription of the item. On the substance of the issue the Delegation should not support the Indonesian claim which is not based on sound arguments of racial affinity or historical right.