

qualifications and who enjoy the trust and confidence of the Assembly. We should waste no time in selecting one of these widely respected men to take interim charge of the functions and responsibilities of the office of the Secretary General.

We do not expect such an arrangement to be indefinitely prolonged. We see it as a means for keeping the essential work of the organization going and of affording us the time required to give careful consideration to the appointment of a new Secretary General.

We would expect the interim appointee to have the loyal co-operation of the Secretariat at all levels. He will no doubt have his own working methods and make his own arrangements for drawing on the advice and experience of the international staff. He may wish to make some adjustment in the Secretariat. He must, however, retain full authority to make the decisions and give the directions which are the sole responsibility of the office he will be filling.

As for the longer term problem, the Charter calls for the appointment of a single executive. Any change in the nature of the office would require Charter amendment. This does not mean that the composition of the Secretariat should not reflect the changed membership of the United Nations. On the contrary, all member states have a legitimate interest in ensuring that the main geographical areas have equitable representation. However, no state or group of states should be in a position within the Secretariat to veto the implementation of decisions of any organ of the United Nations.

We stand firmly behind Article 100 of the Charter which provides that the Secretary General and his staff "shall not seek or receive instructions from any government or any other authority external to the Organization". An