

No. 53/59 UNITED NATIONS PERSONNEL POLICY  
(Amendments to Staff Regulations)

Text of a statement made on December 1, 1953, by the Canadian Representative, Mr. S.D. Hemsley, in the Fifth Committee of the eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly, on agenda item 51, in support of a draft resolution sponsored by Canada (U.N. Doc. A/C.5/L.258).

Note: The texts of the resolutions adopted on this item by the General Assembly on December 9, 1953 are included at the end of the Canadian statement.

Members of the Committee may recall that in the general debate on the Staff Regulations the Canadian Delegation expressed the view that it might be useful to arrange to record (more formally than the Secretary-General had proposed) the principles which have been and will be applied in interpreting the Staff Regulations.

In paragraph 39 of his report on personnel policy the Secretary-General suggested that the closest analogy to parliamentary control in some Member States of such matters would be an arrangement by which the General Assembly would have opportunities of discussing the principles applied by the Secretary-General in his interpretation of the proposed new grounds for termination of employment. He went on to say that if his proposals were adopted, he would consider a review of principles of interpretation by the Assembly as a step in the right direction in the development of a balanced and sound constitutional and legal system in the United Nations administration. The Secretary-General indicated that he thought these principles should be brought to the notice of the General Assembly when the procedures under discussion now have been tried for a suitable period so that an attempt could be made to translate into a legislative text the principles thus far evolved.

The Canadian Delegation also indicated the other day that we would support the recommendations of the Advisory Committee contained in paragraph 13 of their report (Document A/2555) to the effect that it would be desirable to review the new regulations at the end of a two-year period.

Consistent with these suggestions, the Canadian Delegation would now like to make a formal proposal which is embodied in the draft resolution before you (Document A/C.5/L.258).

You will note that this resolution calls for a review of the Staff Regulations and of the principles and standards progressively developed and applied by the Secretary-General in his implementation of the Staff Regulations - such review to be undertaken by the General Assembly at its Tenth Session on the basis of a report to be circulated by the Secretary-General to member governments four weeks before that session is convened.