

Charter. Indeed, in 1974, the General Assembly established an *ad hoc* committee to consider the matter. Under its own terms, amendment of the Charter can be effected only by a two-thirds majority vote of the General Assembly, including all the permanent members of the Security Council. It is very unlikely that in the foreseeable future any proposal that involves fundamental changes, such as modification of the "one state, one vote" rule in the General Assembly or of the veto provision in the Security Council, will overcome this obstacle. The permanent members of the Security Council oppose weakening of the veto power, and an overwhelming majority of the members of the United Nations support the principle of sovereign equality. It may be that agreement could be reached on some relatively minor amendment touching certain outdated provisions of the Charter and those concerning procedure. It is also possible that some of the objectives of countries advocating a revision of the Charter might be met by changing the rules of procedure, or by effecting institutional and structural reforms without amending the Charter.

Recognizing that worthwhile changes in the Charter are unlikely to be made, Canada has approached the matter cautiously. In its response to a resolution of the General Assembly of 1969 on the "Need to consider suggestions regarding the review of the Charter of the United Nations", the Canadian Government commented as follows:

"The United Nations can be made more dynamic without rewriting the Charter; its effectiveness and vitality depend not so much upon changing the basic structure of the Organization as upon the political resolve of the Member States to fulfil the obligations and the responsibilities each has taken up in subscribing to the provisions of the Charter. In short, the effectiveness of the United Nations is directly dependent on the political will of its Members. No documentary revision in itself can be a substitute for that will; nor can it be shown that where the will exists the present form of the Charter has frustrated it."