

the United Nations will leave in the Congo may be less than perfect. But is this so surprising? How many of us would claim that political conditions in our own country are ideal? Given their slender preparation and their underlying problems, should we expect more of the Congolese?

It is apt to be forgotten, I think, that one important effort has already been made in the direction of a political settlement. The Conciliation Commission was not - despite its commendable achievement in this field - primarily a fact-finding Commission. The first task of the Conciliation Commission was to conciliate. It would appear, moreover, that it came very close to succeeding - I have in mind, particularly, the statement on this point by the distinguished representative of Ghana in his observations in Annex XX of the Commission's report. The Commission has, moreover, indicated a variety of ways in which the United Nations could assist the Congolese people to find a solution, and I commend them to the Assembly's attention.

Most particularly, I would urge upon all member states the wisdom of abandoning the sterile sort of dispute which seeks to discredit all but one or another favoured faction in the Congo on the grounds that the others have no valid claim to legality or constitutionality. The view of my Delegation is that legality and constitutionality have for so long been disregarded in the Congo that no faction is immune from this type of attack. This is not intended as criticism of any of the de facto authorities in the Congo. A wise Asian colleague in the Advisory Committee has remarked that legality is not apt to be a feature of revolutionary situations, and this is very true. At the same time I would urge the authorities in the Congo to return to legality and constitutionality in their actions as rapidly as possible. I would draw the Assembly's attention to the Conciliation Commission's recommendations in this connection, because this seems to me to be the best