

conventions have grown up, except that the five permanent members of the Security Council had, until the fifteenth session, always been re-elected at the completion of their terms in ECOSOC.

The admission of seventeen new members at the fifteenth session, gave a new and urgent character to the problem of enlarging the two Councils, since new weight was given to the growing pressure, particularly on the part of African states, for a greater emphasis on the criterion of "equitable geographical distribution" in the allocation of the seats in both organs. The debate, in which the Canadian Delegation took a leading part, revealed a widespread desire to provide for greater Asian and African representation through an enlargement of the membership of both Councils. In this regard two draft resolutions were submitted: one was designed to enlarge the Security Council by two non-permanent seats and the other to enlarge ECOSOC by six seats. When the Soviet Union flatly refused to consider ratification of any recommendation for Charter amendment which the Committee might propose so long as the issue of Chinese representation remained unsettled, a number of the African and Asian countries sought support for an alternative solution envisaging the re-allocation of existing seats. This, of course, carried the implication that Latin American and Western European representation would be reduced.

In an attempt to avoid a decision for the time being, India, Burma, Ceylon, Ghana and Iraq submitted a third draft resolution recommending the immediate establishment of a committee, comprising *inter alia* the United States, the United Kingdom, France and the U.S.S.R. for the purpose of seeking a solution and providing a report on the question to the sixteenth session of the General Assembly. Both the United States and the U.S.S.R. questioned the usefulness of such a committee, while various African member states took exception to any further postponement in reaching a decision on their claims for larger representation.

The desire of the new African members for redistribution of existing seats to give them an opportunity of immediate participation in the work of the Councils, evoked little general sympathy at the fifteenth session. Many member states doubted the wisdom of upsetting so abruptly the "Gentleman's Agreement" without prior and thorough consultation. As a result of this controversial discussion the current elections to both Councils were postponed in the hope that compromise solution might be reached behind the scenes. However, intensive negotiations over a period of more than two weeks failed, in spite of the best efforts of many delegations, including that of Canada, to produce a satisfactory compromise formula; whereupon a number of African and Asian states tabled amendments recommending immediate redistribution of existing seats, pending the longer term Committee amendment. These amendments were approved by the Council but they so changed the purpose of the two draft resolutions originally tabled as to make