

I believe that, while such matters need frequent review, the salaries paid are sufficient to attract and hold well-qualified persons. In reading the Secretary-General's bulletin on staff regulations and rules, our impression is that reasonable regard has been shown for the material well-being of employees of the Secretariat and that the provisions which have been made do more or less parallel those made for employees of our own domestic government services.

It is therefore with deliberate intent that I have given the Assembly my impressions both of the calibre of the men and women who make up the United Nations Secretariat, and of their working conditions, which have been approved on behalf of the governments of the Member States at previous sessions of this Assembly. It is a good thing, it seems to us, for the politically conscious people of member states to know that we of the Assembly highly esteem our fellow workers of the Secretariat. It is also a good thing for the peoples of our countries to know that the governments which represent them here, acting collectively, have behaved fairly and honestly towards the employees of the United Nations and that they intend to continue to do so according to the best advice they can secure and to their best judgment.

Thus far I have been talking about what might be called domestic questions affecting the United Nations staff in the sense that they are primarily internal in their character although they arise in an international organization. It would be unusual if there did not exist even in these internal relations certain strains and stresses. However, it is not these domestic strains and stresses that our attention is particularly directed by the agenda item under discussion.

The report of the Secretary-General is concerned with the political and international aspects of the question. The problem which he has put before us is not one which can be stated simply. The difficulty of explaining it is partly, I think, one of language. We have allowed ourselves over the years to use the word "international" in two somewhat different senses. We all agree that the United Nations is an international institution. Four of its six principal organs are indeed internationally constructed. This Assembly, for example, is composed of delegations which are appointed by their respective countries, and which take instructions from and speak in the names of their respected governments. On the other hand, the Secretariat, which is international in several ways, is not international and ought not to be international in any of the ways I have just mentioned. Its members do not represent governments. We insist that they should not take instructions from their respective governments and certainly they never professed to speak in the names of their respective governments.

My delegation feels that the Secretary-General is to be commended for the way in which he has set out the issue in his report. We believe his report represents an advance upon, and indeed supersedes, the report of the Commission of Jurists. Some features of the jurists' report with which this delegation could not agree have not been carried on into the Secretary-General's report. All the parts of the jurists' report which we approved seem to us to be taken up in the report of the Secretary-General.