

A planning committee had been created in 1969, chaired by a Canadian, François Pouliot. Besides requesting assistance from member states, this committee urged that national youth organizations be given every chance to select national delegates, that these delegates attend the Assembly as representatives of all the young people of their countries, and that they be unencumbered by instructions from their governments or specific youth groups. The normal age-limit was considered to be 25. Canada contributed \$30,000 to the UN Trust Fund for the Assembly, and the two national airlines, Air Canada and Canadian Pacific Airlines, also undertook to transport 20 participants from developing countries free of charge.

Choice of Delegates

The Canadian Committee for the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the United Nations supervised the selection of the Canadian delegates to the Assembly. The Committee organized five regional selection committees, decided upon the criteria to be used in the choice of the Canadian delegates (that they be Canadian citizens; that they be students, young workers or rural youth; that they be between the ages of 17 and 25; and that they have a genuine interest in national and international affairs), and in June 1970 made the selection. The delegates chosen were Gordon Harrison Cleveland, James Roland Delaurier, Dorothy Jean O'Donnell, Michael Francon and François Gilbert. Alternate delegates were Luba Fedorkiw and Marcel Simard.

When the World Youth Assembly convened on July 9, one of the Canadian delegates, Gordon Cleveland, was elected to the North American seat on the steering committee. On the first day, this committee decided to hold a wide-ranging discussion on how the Assembly should conduct its business during the next ten days. The Assembly then divided into four commissions: (1) World Peace; (2) Development; (3) Education, and (4) Man and Environment. It was in these commissions that the substantive work of the Assembly was accomplished. For more than a week, delegates discussed world issues that fell into these four categories.

Commission Reports

On July 17, the Assembly reconvened in plenary to take up the reports of the four commissions. These reports, however, while perhaps expressing the consensus of each commission, did not enjoy the unanimous approval of delegates in each commission. The debates in Commission One and in plenary were often heated and acrimonious, and some of the commission reports were adopted without regard to proposed amendments (in one case for alleged lack of time). In plenary, they were simply "taken note of", not approved by formal vote, again without additions or amendments.

At the close of proceedings, the World Youth Assembly adopted a message which was to be presented to the twenty-fifth session of the UN General Assembly.