

Budgetary Questions undertook a workmanlike and effective scrutiny of the finances of the United Nations, and among other things, gave approval to the arrangement for the construction of a new headquarters. The Legal Committee carried forward the proposal for the codification of international law. It also gave final reading in Committee to a revision of the rules of procedure which, when they come into effect at the next session of the Assembly, will greatly increase the efficient conduct of business.

The Canadian Attitude

The Chairman of the Canadian delegation to the United Nations in an address made in Ottawa on the eve of his departure for the Second Session of the Assembly, and again in his opening statement at the Assembly, gave renewed assurances that membership in the United Nations is a basic principle in Canadian foreign policy, taken most seriously by the Government of Canada.¹

The Canadian delegation was conscious, as were other delegations, that the Security Council had so far failed to provide the means of ensuring peace, and it shared the hope that the Assembly would provide the means for developing a strong United Nations. It therefore contributed as much as possible to the constructive work of the session, and used its influence to help offset, when possible, the influence of delegations which sought to obstruct the business of the Assembly. It endeavoured to avoid the premature development of issues which might divide the Assembly to the point where the existence of the United Nations would be endangered and gave its support to measures which were designed to strengthen the structure and operation of the organization.

The decision to accept membership on the Security Council was taken in the full realization of the heavy obligations which rest upon members of the Council. These obligations were accepted because it was considered that Canada should accept the responsibilities as well as the benefits of membership in the United Nations.

¹ The text of these statements by the Chairman of the Canadian delegation is given in Appendix I, A and B, pp. 175 to 180.