

(2) It is to be expected that decisions will be handed down by the principal judicial organ of the United Nations - the International Court of Justice - and by other judicial or quasi-judicial bodies which may have occasion to consider the meaning of the Charter. The International Court has not yet, like our own domestic courts, been burdened by a crowded agenda. It has now, however, a case before it - the legal dispute between the United Kingdom and Albania concerning incidents in the Corfu Channel. Other cases of a litigious character are likely to come before it. Moreover, the General Assembly and the Security Council (under the Charter), the Economic and Social Council and the specialized agencies (by authorization of the General Assembly) are empowered to seek advisory legal opinions from the Court.

Advantage will no doubt be taken of these powers from time to time and helpful pronouncements can be expected.

(3) The various organs and related agencies of the United Nations will have to give practical interpretations to many of the provisions of the Charter as business proceeds. No organization, public or private, national or international, can operate without some conception of the nature of its functions and the extent of its jurisdiction. Some of the practical interpretations will be implicit assumptions upon which lines of conduct are predicated; others may be expressed in the form of interpretive resolutions. In any event a body of precedents of this character will inevitably grow up.

(4) Formal amendments to the Charter may be looked for in the course of time - there is certainly a limit to what can be accomplished by the processes to which I have already referred. This is not to suggest that formal amendments are in the realm of practical politics at the present time. They are of course subject to the so-called "Great Power Veto" of which I will speak later on.

(5) The architects of the Charter were, of course, not unaware that certain of its provisions were couched in pretty general terms. Indeed, some of the more important provisions of the Charter expressly provide the machinery necessary for their own clarification. I shall mention only two. "Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms" is not an expression to which all would attach precisely the same meaning. Accordingly, Article 62(2) of the Charter provides that the Economic and Social Council may make recommendations for promoting respect for and observance of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedom for all, and the council has to that end established a Commission on Human Rights, the activities of which have recently been under study by a Committee of the Canadian Parliament and with respect to which the Minister of Justice has invited expressions of views from many sources.

Another example is provided by Article 102 of the Charter, which provides that the United Nations, its officials and the representatives of its Members shall enjoy the privileges and immunities necessary for the fulfilment of the purposes of the United Nations and the independent exercise of their functions in connection with the Organization. The third clause of the Article provides that the General Assembly may make recommendations with a view to determining the details of the application of the Article and that it may propose Conventions for this purpose. In the exercise of this power and in an effort to clarify the Charter, a Convention on Privileges and Immunities was duly adopted by the General Assembly in London and presented to Members for accession. Substantial approval of this Convention was obtained from the Canadian Parliament during the last session.