

98. While it is still too early to make a general assessment of the work achieved by the Interim Committee to date, there can be no doubt that the various proposals considered and recommended by its three Sub-committees are of enormous importance in regard to the future form and organization of the United Nations.

(c) The Admission of New Members

99. Another matter which has caused great controversy in the United Nations concerns the election of new members to the organization. The relevant Article of the Charter on this subject is Article 4, which lays down five conditions for membership in the United Nations. According to Article 4, paragraph 1, the applicant must (a) be a state; (b) be peace-loving; (c) accept the obligations of the Charter; (d) be able to carry out these obligations; and (e) be willing to do so. The second paragraph of Article 4 states that the admission of any such state for membership in the United Nations will be effected "by a decision of the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council."

100. Despite the clear wording of Article 4, a number of applications for membership in the United Nations have been vetoed by the Soviet Union in the Security Council on such grounds as, for example, that the applicant state did not enjoy diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union. In the view of the Canadian Government, such a criterion is completely irrelevant and the sole point at issue is whether or not the applicant state fulfils the requirements of Article 4. The Canadian position on this subject was stated clearly by the Canadian representative in the Political Committee of the General Assembly on November 7, 1947: "The attitude of the Canadian delegation towards admission of new members to the United Nations is based on Article 4 of the Charter. Applicants should be considered on their merits. Their qualifications should be judged on the principles defined in the Charter. The applicant must be a peace-loving state, it must accept the obligations of the Charter and it must be able and willing to carry out these obligations. This basis of judgment was approved by the General Assembly itself in a resolution of November 19, 1946, which states that each application must be examined on its merits 'as measured by the yardstick of the Charter in accordance with Article 4'. We therefore reject any considerations extraneous to the Charter, such as whether or not the applicant state is in diplomatic relations with certain members of the United Nations."

101. On May 28, 1948, the majority of the International Court of Justice gave an advisory opinion on the question as to whether the conditions in Article 4, paragraph 1, were exhaustive or whether other considerations should be taken into account in determining the admission of new members. The opinion of the majority of the Court was, briefly, that considerations other than those given in Article 4 were extraneous and irrelevant to the question of membership. The opinion of the Canadian Government is in accordance with this advisory opinion of the majority of the International Court. To summarize, the Canadian Government believes that, if the applicant state fulfils the requirements enumerated in Article 4, its application for membership in the United Nations should be approved by the Security Council and by the General Assembly.

(d) Rules of Procedure and the Election of Officers

102. Anyone who has been to an international conference will recognize the real importance of having good rules of procedure. Without unambiguous and well-considered rules, an international conference may well become embroiled in long and fruitless debates on procedure, which