

(3) Small reductions would be made in the assessments of Argentina, Brazil, Egypt, India, Iran, Pakistan, the Union of South Africa, and the United Kingdom;

(4) Small increases would be made in the assessments of Belgium, Colombia, El Salvador, Greece, Guatemala, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Philippines and Venezuela;

(5) The assessments of all other countries would remain the same, Canada's remaining at 3.3 per cent.

These recommendations were approved by the Assembly although strong objections had been raised by the Soviet Union and other Eastern European countries. They objected to the reduction in the assessments of the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Union of South Africa, and maintained that post-war reconstruction in their countries was still demanding enormous expenditures.

Many delegations, including the United Kingdom, Belgium, France, and Norway, made strong replies to the U.S.S.R.'s stand, pointing out the inconsistency of objecting to increases in assessments on the grounds of economic incapacity while at the same time claiming in other connections substantial improvement of their economies.

The Canadian Delegation, while acknowledging that the recommendations represented important improvements in previous scales, nevertheless reiterated the stand that further improvements toward the development of more equitable assessments were possible for the future. The Canadian Representative expressed approval of the fact that the scale was proposed for one year only. He repeated the importance which Canada attaches to the per capita principle of contributions but conceded that further implementation should be deferred until "new members are admitted or a substantial improvement in the economic capacity of existing members permits adjustments to be gradually absorbed in the scales". In this way, Canada wished to indicate its genuine desire to avoid shifting financial burdens to countries less able to pay, while nevertheless maintaining intact the per capita ceiling principle of sharing the costs of the United Nations.

Specialized Agencies

As in the United Nations itself, Canadian Representatives on the Specialized Agencies continued to stress the need for a scale of contributions based on ability to pay. The Canadian opinion has been that the per capita principle is the closest approach to equity although exceptions have, of necessity, to be made at present because of post-war reconstruction efforts in several member states upon which the per capita principle would be a hardship until recovery is achieved. On the other hand, there is the desire of the United States not to be assessed at a rate higher than 33 1/3 per cent of the total contributions. A resolution to this effect had been adopted by the United States Congress in July 1952. It will be seen from Appendix V that this 33 1/3 per cent ceiling has been attained in the United Nations, UNESCO, and WHO.