

Admission of New Members

The eleventh session of the General Assembly saw the admission of five new member states: Japan, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia were admitted by unanimous votes in the opening days of the session; and Ghana, after achieving independence on March 6, 1957, became the 81st member of the United Nations on March 8, 1957. Canada voted for all five states and co-sponsored, with seven other members of the Commonwealth, the resolution by which Ghana was admitted to membership.

When the eleventh session convened, applications for membership to the United Nations were outstanding from five other countries—the Republic of Korea (South Korea), the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea (North Korea), the Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnam), the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam) and the Mongolian Peoples Republic. At the tenth session of the General Assembly, it had been decided not to take any action on behalf of applications of divided states, and the application of Mongolia had been vetoed by China in the Security Council.

At the eleventh session of the General Assembly, the question of the admission of new members was referred to the Special Political Committee, where the United States together with 12 co-sponsors put forward two draft resolutions reaffirming the General Assembly's determination that South Korea and South Vietnam were fully qualified for membership, and requesting the Security Council to reconsider their applications in the light of the Assembly's determination.

The Soviet Representative, in a counter move, introduced a draft resolution which "in view of the general opinion that the composition of the United Nations should be as universal as possible" proposed the reconsideration of the applications of North and South Korea and North and South Vietnam, and recommended the "simultaneous admission" of all these states to membership in the United Nations. No formal move was made to reopen the question of Mongolia's application for membership.

Canada has consistently supported South Korea as the only legally constituted government in Korea and, therefore, supported its admission to membership in the United Nations. The position with regard to South Vietnam was, however, somewhat different. In the Special Political Committee, the Representative of Canada, referring to the membership of the International Supervisory Commission on which Canada serves together with India and Poland, expressed the view of Canada that "no good purpose would be served by our taking positions here which might reflect in any way on our impartiality", and noted Canada's intention to abstain in the vote on Vietnam. The Canadian Representative went on to say: "It has been suggested that those of us who promoted the admission of so many new members last year have committed ourselves to a doctrine of universality and that this doctrine means that every applicant should be admitted. I can assure you that Canada has never accepted such an argument. We have argued for making the United Nations as universal as possible and representative of many points of view and forms of government, whether we like those forms of government or not. To suggest, however, that we should admit every authority which asks to come in, without assuring ourselves that