

became stronger, the Government of the People's Republic of China itself announced that, if it were necessary to amend the Charter rather than redistribute the seats on the Councils, the People's Republic would "naturally favour the corresponding revision of the relevant articles of the Charter so as really to satisfy the justified demand of the Asian and African countries". In the light of this statement, the Soviet Union withdrew its opposition and resolutions to amend the Charter were adopted. The amendments, which entered into force in 1965, provided for the enlargement of the Security Council to 15 by increasing the number of non-permanent members from six to ten, and for increasing the membership of the Economic and Social Council from 18 to 27. In 1971 the membership of ECOSOC was increased to 54.

There was never any question of enlarging the Trusteeship Council, which became smaller as trust territories became independent and the number of administering powers consequently decreased.

### Powers and functions

Enlarged membership has brought other problems in its train. Some of these problems formed a main subject of Mr. Pearson's address before the General Assembly on September 19, 1963:

"We might also consider how to modify the (Security) Council's function to make it more effective as the instrument of political action for the United Nations. Indeed, the time may be at hand for a Security Council which can keep continuing watch on the affairs of the organization as a whole in much the same way as the executive committees operate in the Specialized Agencies.

"If the enlarged Security Council were given a properly-balanced composition with sufficient safeguards as regards voting rights, it could conceivably become the main arena for political decision on questions which require urgent