

External Affairs  
Supplementary Paper

No. 57/1 ENLARGING THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Statement by the Hon. Roch Pinard, M.P.  
Vice-Chairman of the Canadian Delegation, in the Plenary Meeting  
of the United Nations General Assembly, New York, on December 18,  
1956.

We have before us a very important resolution submitted by a number of delegations in paper A/3446 of December 12. It is important because my Delegation considers the Security Council a body of paramount interest to the United Nations in spite of the frustrations under which it has had to operate in the past eleven years. Therefore any amendment to the Charter affecting the operations of the Security Council must be examined by this Assembly with great care.

The sponsors of this resolution have very competently explained the reasons for suggesting an expansion of the Security Council and I need hardly repeat them here. There is little doubt in my mind that certain areas of the world would be inadequately represented in the Council unless some expansion were approved. The composition of the United Nations has changed radically, not only since the admission of twenty new members in the last year, but since the creation of the United Nations at San Francisco.

The Canadian Delegation has long felt that the countries of Asia were inadequately represented in the Security Council, and one of the more desirable effects of the expansion proposed in the resolution before us would be a more satisfactory representation for this area. At the same time it would be improper not to recognize that the large increase in the number of European members requires an improvement in their representation in the Council, if Europe is to be properly represented.

It is our understanding that a reasonable allocation of the non-permanent seats in the Security Council, in rough proportion to the countries members of the United Nations, should, under the new dispensation, provide an additional seat for Asia and an additional seat for Western Europe. It would also be our understanding that in the allocation of the original non-permanent seats the Assembly would give full effect to the original arrangement under which these seats were to go to Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth, Latin America, Western Europe, and the Middle East and Africa.

I do not want to suggest that the sole criterion for electing countries to the Security Council is "equitable geographical distribution". We must, in the opinion of my Delegation, continue to pay due regard to the contributions of members of the United Nations to the maintenance of international peace and security and other purposes of this Organization, as laid down in Article 23(1) of the Charter. I think the regional considerations and the so-called functional considerations are both taken care of in the distribution of seats I have just mentioned.