

Together with the growth of the organization itself, we also seem to have had a growth of long, repetitious speeches and other things. This again will have to be dealt with, and perhaps some time when the United Nations organization is streamlined it will be possible to do something to restrict the number of times a person can speak in a debate. This will have to be worked out, but the present practice tends to bog down the work of the United Nations. People tend to lose interest, and I am afraid that sometimes a very bad appearance is presented to the public whose support is necessary for the continuance of the United Nations. I am sorry to say also that some countries seem to have personalities representing them whose views do not always accord with those of their governments. There is a tendency for a number of so-called personalities at the United Nations to put on shows of exhibitionism which certainly in no way assist the United Nations.

Baleful Effect of Cold War

The last thing I should like to mention in this regard is the question of the cold war influence. Again, this is an influence that interferes with virtually every subject that comes before the United Nations. You will find that the cold war always creeps in in some way. You will find that some countries always vote one way and other countries always vote the other way, while a large number of countries will never stand up and be counted at all. We have seen some evidence outside the United Nations recently of how a number of neutral countries have behaved. I wonder what would have been said by some of these countries if the United States had been the country to start nuclear tests again, but when another country did it nothing much was said in that regard.

I have other comments on the cold war influence which I will make later. As I have pointed out, a number of countries will not stand up and be counted. It has been said that Canada and a number of other countries should lead a crusade for world peace and get things started. For goodness sake, no one has tried harder to do this than the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Let me give one example. Last year Canada had a moderate, sensible resolution concerning disarmament before the United Nations. Hardly anybody disagreed with its substance even publicly, although one or two said privately that they could not agree publicly although they agreed privately. When we tried to get a vote on it we could not do so, because such a large number of countries felt that the Soviet Union did not approve and therefore they would not even vote on whether a vote should be taken on the resolution.

That is what you encounter at the United Nations. It is very frustrating to find that many countries will not do anything unless it has the approval of both the United States and the Soviet Union. I do not wish to present too gloomy a view of the United Nations, but I think these are home truths that must be faced, and if the organization is to succeed we must find some way to get around these difficulties ...

LIBRARY E A / BIBLIOTHÈQUE A E



3 5036 01046149 2