

Union were in the hands of the satellites just as on the Western side important initiatives were developed by smaller powers.

6. Some observers have tended to regard this as an inevitable development in an eighty-two-member assembly, which is mainly composed of small powers. The possibility should not be ruled out, however, that the Soviet Union at some future session, perhaps as early as the Thirteenth, might firmly seize the initiative and with the help of the satellite delegations, whose recent experience would be invaluable in those circumstances, try to reassert great power leadership in the Assembly, but, of course, from the communist side of the house. Given the enhanced position in the uncommitted world of the Soviet Union and the apathy and indecision which the Western great powers have recently shown, there could be a marked shift in developments at future assemblies and to the decided disadvantage of the West.

7. On the encouraging side a more subtle influence began to make its appearance at the Twelfth Session and frequently with the most promising results. There was a clear demonstration that the fear, which for the past two years has haunted some of the Western delegations, about a "blocking third" consisting of the combined African-Asian and Soviet groups, was more apparent than real. There was increasing evidence at the Twelfth Session that important members of the African-Asian group were reluctant to become bound by group decisions, usually reached under the sway of the more extremist opinion within the group. This was most strikingly demonstrated during the consideration of the Syrian item, when Dr. Fawzi proved to be the strongest influence for moderation. There were other demonstrations, but particularly behind the scenes, during the debates on Algeria, Cyprus, the financing of UNEF and of the Suez Canal clearance. During the consultations about the major colonial items the Delegations of Ceylon, Iran and Japan rendered effective assistance in combating extremist elements in the African-Asian group. Concerning the Middle East questions, and including some difficult negotiations about the resolution on UNRWA, the Egyptians were the champions of moderation and proved much more helpful to the West than some of its Arab allies. The Indian Delegation provided a moderating influence as well but the Indian position within the African-Asian group was considerably weakened because of a strong reaction against Mr. Krishna Menon. (Toward the end of the session he did not attend group meetings). There was evidence of an increase in Japan's influence within the group and of a growing rivalry between Japan and India. The Indians continued to be active, however, in the Fourth Committee. It can be broadly concluded that the African-Asians are not unresponsive to reasonable appeals for moderation and indeed at the Twelfth Session they seemed more than willing to seek a middle ground. The possibilities of compromise with this group seemed promising, as long as the interested Western powers maintained some flexibility in their own approach.

8. Also apparent at the Twelfth Session was the desire of the Arab states, but particularly Egypt and Syria, to repair their lines of communication with the Western powers. The emphasis on Arab nationalism, independence and neutralism during the general debate was most pronounced. There was concrete evidence behind the scenes that the Egyptians in particular wished to restore the balance in their international relations, as between the Soviet bloc and the Western powers. Perhaps the best illustration was given during the Syrian debate but the Egyptian position in this regard was consistent throughout the Twelfth Session. It clearly reflected Dr. Fawzi's desire to "clean up the mess of last year" and to explore possibilities for improving the overall situation in the Middle East. The response of the Western Great Powers to this shift in Egyptian policy was sluggish, and particularly by the United States, presumably because of domestic political difficulties and a desire not to irritate the United Kingdom and France. The impression was, however, that