

## Recognition by the United Nations of the Representation of a Member State

During 1950 a controversy arose in the United Nations as to which of the two rival Chinese Governments should be entitled to accredit delegates to represent China in the United Nations. From January until August, when the Soviet Representative returned to the Security Council, the Soviet Union refused to participate in the various organs of the United Nations while the representatives of the Chinese Nationalist Government continued to be accepted as representatives of China. Recognition being, as it is, a question which each individual state decides for itself, it was not unnatural that as long as the majority of states continued to recognize the Nationalist Government, those states would continue to support the representation of China in the United Nations by the Nationalist Government.

There was a further difficulty. Because the principal organs of the United Nations and the various Specialized Agencies have authority to pass upon the credentials of representatives at their own meetings, it would be possible for some of these to accept representatives of one government and for others to accept representatives of the other government.

Early in 1950 the Indian Representative on the Security Council proposed that, if the right of a government to represent a member state in the Security Council were challenged, the President should, before the question is decided by the Council, ascertain the views of all member states of the United Nations. Constitutionally an affirmative vote by seven of the eleven members of the Security Council is all that would be necessary to seat a representative of a new government. The majority of the members of the Security Council considered, however, that, while the Council was the competent body to deal with any issue relating to the representation or credentials of its own members, the General Assembly was the more appropriate organ to initiate the study of the broader question of representation of a member state in the United Nations. As a result of this decision Cuba, a member of the Security Council, proposed the inclusion of the item, "recognition by the United Nations of the representation of a member state", on the agenda for the Fifth Session of the General Assembly.

Immediately upon the opening of the Fifth Session, the question of Chinese representation was broached directly by both the Indian and Soviet Representatives on September 19, 1950. Resolutions were introduced seeking support for the immediate seating of the representatives of the Chinese Communist Government. Neither of these resolutions was adopted.

Meanwhile, to provide an opportunity of examining the issues involved, the Canadian Delegation had submitted an alternative resolution proposing the establishment of a special committee of seven to consider the question of Chinese representation and to report back, with recommendations, to the same session of the General Assembly taking into account the views of the Assembly