

the accelerating recovery of many countries from war damage and devastation. In other words, the rule ties the scale of contributions much too permanently to compensatory arrangements designed to meet a situation which was recognized to be a special and temporary one.

Secondly, it will not be possible for the Contributions Committee to give adequate effect to some truly amazing improvement in productivity and national income which have been claimed by certain member states.

Any permanent situation of this kind would, of course, be entirely inconsistent with the best interests of the organization. The Canadian Delegation has always insisted that, unless the burdens of the United Nations are equitably and justly shared by all its members the effect on the public at large and upon national legislatures in particular can only be unfavourable and detrimental to the long-range interest of this organization. We cannot permit the Committee on Contributions to continue to be guided by a rule which perpetuates the present inequities in the scale.

The Canadian Government has always been most sympathetic to the problems of those countries which have been faced with the problem of repairing war damage. We have to the greatest possible extent given assistance wherever this was required. But we cannot accept a situation in which the difficulties of the past are accepted as justification for the unlimited avoidance of current and future responsibilities.

The Representative of Poland, in a statement in the Second Committee, informed us that "despite the fact that, as a result of the ravages of war, my country lost over one-third of its national wealth, already in 1949, after the three-year plan was completed, industrial production reached a level of 177 per cent of the pre-war output". In the same speech, this representative referred to a 180 per cent improvement in the production of electric power and equally impressive figures for industrial growth, agricultural growth and capital investment.

Later, the Representative of the U.S.S.R. made equally imposing claims regarding the level of the post-war improvement in the economy of his country. It may be naive for us to assume, in the face of such obvious and impressive testimony, that these member states, which exert such an important influence on the activities and deliberations of the United Nations, should be carrying a considerably higher proportion of the cost of the United Nations.

However naive or not that may be, we, in Canada, feel most strongly that it is only reasonable to expect that the contributions of these states should reflect in full measure this increase in their basic capacity to pay. In this connection, I do not think it is up to us to make any judgment on the reliability of claims of the nature to which I have referred. It is sufficient to say that they have been seriously advanced before committees of this Assembly in support of positions assumed by these countries themselves.

We have selected these examples because in these cases the conclusions seem to us unavoidable. These are countries whose contributions were set at an arbitrarily low figure in order to give them an opportunity to limit their financial burdens during the difficult period of post-war reconstruction. Now that their reconstruction is well advanced, we must insist that they begin to pay their fair share of the load. We cannot accept the continuation of any working rule which will prevent this from being achieved. However, once an adequate permanent scale has been achieved through the rapid application of the necessary re-adjustments to bring the contribution of all member states to a satisfactory level, then the application of the rule might be reconsidered to prevent unduly erratic fluctuations of national contributions which might arise from the necessity of following too closely temporary variations in national economies.

It must be evident from what I have said that my delegation is not satisfied with the present situation. However, we are not unmindful of the difficulty, if not the absolute impossibility, of attempting in this committee to formulate a new scale in which the ten per cent working rule would be abandoned. Therefore, in a spirit of co-operation and accommodation and in order to expedite the work of this committee, the Canadian Delegation will reluctantly accept the recommendations of the Committee on Contributions for 1951.

We do so, however, on the clear understanding that this situation will not be repeated again next year. We would, however, request the rapporteur to carry a clear indication of the will of this committee that during 1951 the ten per cent rule is no longer to be applied and that all member states will be required to carry their full and equitable share of the burdens of the United Nations. Alternatively if you would prefer a more formal expression of this thought, my delegation would be pre-