

Let me state here, as one who for a quarter of a century has known many employees of the United Nations and of its predecessor, the League of Nations, my conviction that this reconciliation is possible. I do not want to pursue the observations of my delegation on the matter under discussion without giving them against a background of this evident fact, a fact that I am sure will not be disputed by the great majority of representatives here who have worked closely over the years with the United Nations or League of Nations employees.

Before I speak in more detail of their status and of the Secretary-General's particular problems in this part of his heavy and responsible post, I should like here to pay tribute to the members of the United Nations Secretariat. For myself, and on behalf of the delegation whose spokesman I am, I regard it a privilege to place on record my belief and the belief of the Government in whose name I am speaking that the members of the Secretariat do, for the most part, bring to their tasks the "highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity" spoken of in Article 101 of the Charter. It surely must be apparent to all that United Nations achievements, in which they have contributed so much, reflect more than "efficiency", more than "competence", more than "integrity". They reflect the genuine sense of dedication and devotion to duty that characterize so many members of the Secretariat whose qualities of heart rival their qualities of mind.

The Charter defines the Secretariat as one of the six principal organs of the United Nations. Its proper functioning is indispensable to the success of the other five organs which it serves. All of us at this Assembly, and especially the members of the various permanent delegations who are in constant communication with members of the Secretariat, know that the successful implementation of decisions depends in large measure on the conscientiousness, effectiveness and imagination of these officers. We know, too, that, of the factual information on which this Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Trusteeship Council, for example, base their deliberations, a great part is collected, collated and set out for us in intelligible form by the Secretariat. Officers of the Secretariat are also respected counsellors in the formulation of the decisions, both substantive and procedural, which are reached in these councils.

It is therefore of the highest importance to the United Nations and to the world that officers of the Secretariat should be qualified to carry out their duties and that conditions of employment should be such as to induce the right sort of candidates to come forward and to encourage those officers who have proved their worth to remain. First class candidates will not seek positions in the United Nations and first-class members of the Secretariat could hardly be expected to remain unless the conditions of their service make it possible for them to exercise their qualities of mind and of heart to the fullest advantage for the purposes of the United Nations they are pledged to serve.

From the economic point of view, in the light of the particular difficulties pertaining to employment in an international civil service, I believe that the conditions of service in the Secretariat are generally satisfactory.