

er of the United Nations remarked that it was generally considered by delegations that there was an urgent need to ensure adequate representation of member states on the main organs of the United Nations, particularly the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council. Delegations were also agreed that the composition of these organs should be a better reflection of the increase in the United Nations membership, particularly in Asia and Africa.

Various proposals to this effect were introduced and debated in the Special Political Committee from December 2 to 16 (inclusive). The Committee's final recommendation, which was considered and voted upon in plenary on December 17, called for:

- (a) membership in the Security Council to be increased from the 11 to 15 by the addition of four non-permanent seats (under this proposal the ten non-permanent members of the Council — there are currently six — would be elected in accordance with the following pattern: five from African and Asian states; one from Eastern European states; two from Latin American states and two from "Western European and other states"). The proposal was approved by 97 votes in favour (including Canada), 11 against, with four abstentions;
- (b) membership in the Economic and Social Council to be increased from 18 to 27 (the nine additional members of the Council would be elected as follows: seven from African and Asian states; one from Latin American states and one from "West European and other states"). The proposal was approved by 96 votes in favour (including Canada), 11 against, with five abstentions.

According to the Charter, the increase in the membership of the two councils requires ratification by two-thirds of the members of the United Nations, including the permanent members of the Security Council. Of these, the U.S.S.R. and France voted against the resolutions and the United States and Britain abstained.

Speaking of the proposals in Committee on December 6, the Canadian Representative, Mr. Jean Chapdelaine, reiterated the views first expressed on the matter by Prime Minister Pearson in his address to the General Assembly on September 19. He went on:

The task before us is to give adequate representation on the Council to the new members who have joined the United Nations since 1945. We want to do this. There is not the slightest doubt in our minds that enlargement is the answer to the problem, and that it must be adequate in both the Security Council and in ECOSOC to permit an equitable allocation of seats. This equitable distribution of seats cannot be based exclusively on geography but must take full account of the criteria set out in Article 23 (of the Charter), the most important of which, as I have noted, is the contribution of members to the maintenance of international peace and security and to the other purposes of the organization. It must, therefore, take into account the existence of the Commonwealth and of its contribution to United Nations affairs, a consideration to which my Government and the people of Canada attach the utmost importance. Finally, we must remember that the membership of the United Nations has more than doubled since 1945 and is still growing. It is apparent, therefore, that, while avoiding undesirable inflation, we should move in the direction of restoring the ratio between the total of the membership and the number of seats open to