

With the emphasis in recent years on geographic loyalties - almost to the exclusion of all others - there has grown a tendency in some quarters to write off the Commonwealth as a group in the United Nations. My Delegation...does not accept this viewpoint. In our view, the Commonwealth represents a happy combination of both geographical and functional considerations, which make it eminently suitable as a group for purposes of representation on and effective contribution to the work of the Councils. I would also remind the Committee that the Commonwealth group itself in the United Nations, which consisted of a small number of six members at the birth of the United Nations, in 1946, has since grown to a total of 16. In a few days, there will be two other applicants for membership, both from the Commonwealth. And the number is not closed. My Delegation is therefore firmly opposed to any suggestion which does not take fully into account the existence of the Commonwealth and its contribution to United Nations affairs. Indeed, it would be ironical if the United Nations failed to recognize a group of nations dedicated to international co-operation over and above regional and racial differences. After all, this is one of the main objectives which the United Nations itself is pursuing.

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, 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 UN 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 election in order to satisfy each grouping - those provided for under the Gentlemen's Agreement of 1946, and the new members.

Expansion, which would make for a just re-distribution (and provide adequate representation on the Councils for all groups, the old members and the new members) may be prevented unless the Soviet Delegation reconsiders its attitude. If it does not, it will be responsible for this injustice to the members from Asia and Africa. But it is to expansion and equitable representation for all that we have to address ourselves now, in order that we may lay the ground for a happier and more fruitful future in this organization, remembering however that a patch-up job in these last days of an Assembly may do more harm than good. It is in this light that my Delegation will examine all concrete proposals put before the Committee for expansion of the Security Council and



Commonwealth countries have also played a prominent and useful role in the work of the Economic and Social Council. In these circumstances, it is perhaps not out of place...to ask the questions: "Can the General Assembly expect member states to contribute substantially to the political, economic and social activities of the United Nations unless it is prepared to offer them a reasonable prospect of representation on the organs controlling these activities?"