

use which might be made of United Nations machinery in the effort to bring about the relaxation of international tension. These suggestions are clearly consistent with the improved atmosphere in which we meet.

Colonial Questions

At this session we have on our Agenda many of what have come to be called the colonial issues. Some of these were referred to last year by my colleague, Mr. Pearson, as "hardy perennials". And as he so aptly observed, "to insist on discussing the same question seven times in seven years does not necessarily bring us seven times nearer the solution." Of course, some of these items, have more recently made their appearance on the Assembly Agenda.

My country doesn't claim any particular competence in discussing colonial matters, but from past experience we have come to the conclusion that the debates in this Assembly on colonial issues do not always produce useful results and in some instances, I fear, have had harmful effects.

The last thing I want to suggest is that discussion should be stifled to avoid an objective airing of legitimate grievances. Canada has frequently in the past asserted its belief that the Assembly should be allowed to discuss any matter of international concern. We do recognize, however, that there are times and circumstances in which discussion may be neither wise nor helpful.

Many of us I think in this room are politicians and proud, I hope, of our craft and our profession. However varied our experiences, we have all learned that politics is the art of the possible. Much of our art is that of timing. We know that there are some political measures which are not right or wrong in the absolute sense. They are so often right only if they come at the right time. I wish to make this point clear so that we will not be accused of a reactionary attitude towards change and progress or of lacking sympathy for those who challenge the existing order of things. For the fact is that in a great many cases we do not quarrel with proposals for change which come before the Assembly, we question only the time chosen. And our opposition is not absolute or timeless either. We do not want to see the United Nations become like the so-called Holy Alliance which set its face against all reforms by arguing that they were never timely.

Assistance to Materially-Underdeveloped Nations:

Among those subjects which can be most usefully discussed at this Assembly are those which are part of the economic and social work of the organization. We have in mind, in particular, questions concerning materially under-developed areas of the world. This is surely a field in which the work of the organization is progressively becoming more efficient and more effective. And we, speaking for Canada do not wish to see this creative work curtailed for there can be no lasting peace so long as ignorance, sickness and poverty are allowed to go unheeded anywhere. We are more than ever convinced that no nation can remain healthy and prosperous in a diseased and bankrupt world. But our dilemma is that some assurance of peace and security is required if all member countries are to make a full contribution to combatting economic and social ills. Nations which want to assist in the development of less fortunate countries often find that for their own security they must limit that assistance in accordance with the burden of national defects which they must also bear.