

- (c) The Main Committees should, at their first or second meetings, establish a number of sub-committees of ten to fifteen members to study various questions referred to them by the Committee and to report back to it. In order that these sub-committees may meet simultaneously, each sub-committee should have its own chairman.
- (d) The General Committee, in discussing matters related to the agenda of the General Assembly, should not debate the substance of a question but should confine itself to discussing whether or not it should recommend that an item be included in the agenda of the General Assembly.
- (e) The General Committee should be required to submit its report to the General Assembly on the inclusion of an item in the agenda within, say, forty-eight hours of receiving a request that the item be included in the agenda. (The General Committee's report, being a recommendation, is debatable by the General Assembly but agreement might be reached that the debate be limited to two hours at most.)
- (f) In order to lessen the danger that committees waste their time on procedural debates, a number of improvements in the rules of procedure on the conduct of business might be made. Thus it might be desirable to insert a new rule on the order in which resolutions, as distinct from amendments, should be put to the vote. Changes in the existing rules of procedure might be required to implement some of the suggestions made above. It might also be useful if the Secretariat prepared for the guidance of chairmen of committees and sub-committees a commentary on the rules of procedure governing the conduct of business.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) L. S. ST. LAURENT  
Secretary of State for External Affairs

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## B. Canadian Statement, December 15, 1946

The Canadian delegation hopes that the adoption of the resolution now before the Assembly will result in the accomplishment of the aim which my Government had in view when it made its original proposals last September in a letter addressed to the Secretary-General. That aim was that there should be introduced at the beginning of the next session of the Assembly opening in September, 1947, reforms in the practices and rules of procedure of the Assembly so that we would not at the next session waste as much time as I think, on occasion, we have during the present session. On the face of it, it might seem that this resolution now before the Assembly is not of great importance. I would submit, however, that