

reluctant to consult us. The Council and troop contributing countries have gained greatly from the opportunity, and now the habit, of consultation. More broadly, the greater transparency and openness in the Council's work benefits all member states, including the Permanent 5, whose motives are no longer as widely suspected as they once were in New York. These improvements have strengthened the Council's legitimacy.

However, the vexed question of the Council's expansion remains deadlocked. I hope you do not spend too much time today on the Council's composition. More important is what we wish the Council to do in years ahead. For example, are we satisfied that we understand and agree on the circumstances which genuinely threaten international peace and security and should impel the Council to act? Only when we have a clear vision of the Council's future mission are we likely to make sensible decisions about its composition. Furthermore, should states consider membership in the Council as a right or a privilege? I have often wondered whether all Council members should pay a surcharge in their dues in order to mark the special nature of their role. These are some of the notions on which I hope you will touch during your deliberations.

It remains for me to thank UN Under-Secretary-General Kittani and many other distinguished guests who have travelled to Ottawa to be with us today. We are also honoured by the presence of Ambassador Lichem of Austria. David Malone tells me that no formal record will be made of remarks at this conference, but he has promised to send me and you a summary report on its conclusions. May your discussions prove exciting and fruitful. Thank you.