

I do not think we shall ever be able to resolve this question on a reasonable basis so long as we proceed from the narrow concept of a contest of votes. If we are to proceed in the spirit of the Charter, any solution should be sought in terms not of contest but of consensus.

Only by agreement among ourselves on a way out of the dilemma, followed by negotiated acceptance of a reasonable solution by the parties concerned, can we hope to reach any just and satisfactory outcome. I do not suggest that this can be an easy process, or that what we in Canada have been proposing in our consultations is a short-cut to a solution. There are no short-cuts which do not violate both common sense and the spirit of the Charter. What I do suggest is that, unless we are to throw up our hands and turn away from our responsibilities, a start must be made in an effort to find a consensus on this issue.

What we have to decide at this point in time is this: are we content once more to choose--or refuse to choose--between a set of unsatisfactory options? Or should we devote our full efforts and energies to the search for a constructive alternative?

We cannot afford to shelve this issue for very much longer if the realities of a diverse world are to find effective expression in the United Nations. I also want to make it clear that the Canadian Government for its part is not prepared to stand by and see this situation perpetuated indefinitely. My colleagues and I have devoted much time in the last few months in an effort to open the way for a forward move on the question of Chinese representation at the United Nations.

I do not propose to linger over the question of importance on which we are being asked once again to pronounce ourselves. It has been the view of my delegation in previous years that this is an important question and we do not think that the passage of time has in any way detracted from its importance. It is important for the United Nations. It is important for the maintenance of international peace and security. And it is important, in the final analysis, because the people of China are important. My delegation, therefore, does not propose to seek a resolution of this issue by denying its importance.

We also have before us once again the proposal of the Albanian delegation and other cosponsors. The intent of this proposal is to seat the representatives of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations. With this we are in full accord. But the resolution embodying this proposal goes on to stipulate that this can be done by expelling the representatives of the Republic of China. The Canadian

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without doing our part to solve the representation issue at the United Nations.