

Social Council should be enlarged if the necessary vacancies are to be created to permit balanced and equitable representation from the various geographical areas. The debate at the eighteenth session on this subject demonstrated that the vast majority of members shared this view and did not accept the Soviet Union's contention that enlargement must await the solution to the problem of China's representation. Resolutions were adopted by an overwhelming majority in favour of the enlargement of both Councils. It remains to be seen whether the proposed amendments will be ratified in accordance with the Charter.

Other important problems include the question of China's representation, the continuing problems of admission of new members, the need to reform Assembly methods and procedures and, ultimately, the question of Charter review. Perhaps the basic political requirement is to bring about some new accord in the relations among the various power groupings so that the competitive manoeuvring for prestige and influence will be minimized and the United Nations system of international co-operation will be strengthened in a significant way. The main weakness may derive from great-power rivalry, but the contests between have and have-not countries, between new states and their former colonial masters, and between regional groupings pressing competing demands are also factors which weaken the will and ability of the United Nations to act effectively. They tend, moreover, to divide the organization along racial lines, with all the emotional stress which such division implies.

While most member states believe the United Nations should play a substantial role in world affairs, some are more preoccupied with propaganda and domestic considerations than with the essential need to strengthen the organization and improve its methods. This attitude need not be judged too harshly, since the United Nations has become the focal point for world public opinion on a wide range of international subjects. However, if the organization is to maintain a steady course in world affairs and the necessary degree of public support, it should be effective and significant. It should not be asked to perform tasks, or to assume responsibilities, which are beyond its capacity, but it should be used to the extent of its capability in the current state of international relations. Whether it can or will respond to the valid demands of these turbulent times will depend on whether member states are prepared to accept the assistance and to use the facilities which the United Nations can effectively offer. It will also depend on whether those facilities are maintained at peak capacity within the letter and spirit of the Charter.

The United Nations today cannot be expected to be perfect when it has to operate in an imperfect world. The removal of these imperfections is largely a matter of modifying the attitudes of member states, particularly the attitudes of those which possess real attributes of power. This kind of change is likely to be brought about not by drastic reform