

gave his Government's opinion that this clause in the San Francisco Statement had been more honoured in the breach than in the observance by one of the permanent members of the Council and said that "where one portion of this Statement has been violated, as this portion has so frequently been, the validity of the document as a whole is certainly brought into question". He added that the San Francisco Statement was not a part of the Charter, nor in any sense an annex to it, and that fifty-three of the fifty-eight members of the United Nations were thus not bound by its terms. The Canadian Government, for example, certainly does not consider itself bound by this Statement.

91. The studies and recommendations on the problem of voting procedure which have taken place in Sub-committee 3 of the Interim Committee, and which have recently been considered in the Interim Committee itself, are, in the view of the Canadian Government, of great importance to the future of the United Nations. In matters such as the admission of new members, the establishment of sub-committees and commissions of enquiry, and in other actions relating to the pacific settlement of disputes, the great majority of the members of the United Nations quite obviously believe that the veto power should not apply, and that to use it in matters such as this is to frustrate any useful action which the United Nations can undertake in the conciliation of international disputes. This point of view is reflected in the recommendations of this Sub-committee -- recommendations which the Canadian Government supports. These recommendations, together with other proposals on this subject, come up for discussion again at the present Session of the General Assembly. There is no doubt that this problem of the veto will be one of the most controversial issues on the agenda of this Session of the Assembly.

(b) The Establishment of the Interim Committee of the General Assembly

92. In his opening speech at the Second Session of the General Assembly in 1947, the Chairman of the United States delegation (General Marshall) said that his delegation would introduce a resolution proposing the creation of a standing committee of the Assembly, consisting of all members of the United Nations, for the purpose of dealing with situations and disputes under Articles 11 and 14 of the Charter. Because of the extensive use of the veto in the Security Council by the Soviet Union during the previous eighteen months that body had frequently been unable to act even in matters of seemingly minor importance and of a procedural character. Also, the agenda of each succeeding General Assembly Session was becoming heavier and it was increasingly difficult to cover all matters in the period allotted to ordinary sessions. Many delegations therefore agreed that some standing committee could well take on duties which might facilitate and expedite the work of the United Nations in general and make the General Assembly a more efficient working body.

93. The main discussion of this United States proposal, when it was submitted to the Political Committee of the Assembly, centered around the powers to be allotted to the proposed committee and the matters which it should be permitted to discuss. Various delegations warned against giving the proposed committee powers that properly belonged either to the Security Council or to the General Assembly. The United States delegation made it clear that, according to its proposal, the committee would be a subsidiary body of the General Assembly and would in no way infringe upon the powers of the Security Council. The delegation of the Soviet Union objected to the proposal on the grounds that it was a violation of the Charter and a deliberate attempt to circumvent the Security Council. Other eastern European states made similar objections,