

I should like to explain briefly the position of delegation on the six power proposal regarding the employment of international staff from non-self-governing and trust territories. My delegation generally concurs with what the distinguished delegate of New Zealand said yesterday on this point. As he suggested, most delegations here including my own will no doubt agree with the principle which calls for the recruiting of international staff at the United Nations as well as in its agencies to be on as wide a geographical basis as possible. This is a sound principle and one which has been constantly applied, as the present composition of the Secretariat clearly shows. To that extent, we fully appreciate the purpose of a six power resolution contained in Document S/288 Rev. I.

My delegation on the other hand has always stressed previous discussions on the question of personnel recruitment of international staff, the need of giving priority to the qualifications of the applicants. My delegation has also always attached importance to the necessity of leaving to the Secretary-General all possible discretion in the selection of his staff, as a guarantee that we shall have a qualified and suitable personnel. These are principles which, I am sure, no one here will question since they are dictated by the elementary principles of economy and efficiency. The importance of the six power resolution might have the effect of actually impairing the discretion of the Secretary-General in this field. This possibility should be considered particularly at this time, when, as we all know, the Secretary-General is engaged in an overall review of the personnel establishment of his organization, and has furthermore been invited to keep the size of his staff reduced to the minimum required for efficient operation.

There is also the additional possibility that the importance of this proposal might establish a precedent by involving other groups to advocate similar increased recruitment from their own representatives.

In any circumstances, therefore, my delegation considers whether the same objective envisaged in the six power resolution might not be attained by merely informing the Secretary-General of the opinion of this Committee that it would be desirable, whenever circumstances permit, to include the Secretary-General's qualified inhabitants of non-self-governing and trust territories. My delegation has no doubt that the Secretary-General would do everything possible within the authorized personnel establishment of the Secretariat to meet a wish of this Committee so expressed.