

of China as the sole legal government of China. It soon became apparent that there was a clear trend towards the seating of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations and that the majority in favour of the next resolution on this question would be much greater than that of 1970. The Canadian Government accordingly decided, in the light of this trend, that the "important question" procedure had served its purpose of ensuring against an ephemeral and reversible majority, and hence that it would no longer support the usual resolution that the question was an important one. At the General Assembly of 1971, the "important question" resolution was defeated; a final attempt to seat both the People's Republic of China and the "Republic of China" was rejected; and a resolution to seat the representatives of the People's Republic of China and expel the representatives of the "Republic of China" was approved.

Problems of enlarged membership

The United Nations itself is changing, as is the climate within which it must operate. The major cause of this change is the expansion of membership that has occurred in the past 15 years. The "winds of change" that have blown through Africa in the wake of Western decolonization have resulted in the admission to the United Nations of 39 new states from Africa alone.

The effect has been felt in all areas of United Nations activities. In his address before the General Assembly on September 19, 1963, Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson commented:

"Of all the changes of the past few years, none has been more dramatic than the emergence of new and free nations in Africa. This emergence has had a profound impact on the political evolution of the United Nations and on international affairs generally. It has added heavy responsibilities to our organization in many fields of activity.