

ever. Canada has achieved a position in the United Nations which we could not immediately renounce if we wanted to, although the failure over several sessions to make substantial contributions to the process of compromise and mediation would soon lose us a position we have gained over the years. However difficult, we must continue to have faith in the possibility of understanding between the Asian and African peoples and the Europeans and not allow ourselves to be diverted by the argument that Asians and Africans are natural allies of the Communists and the only way to treat them is to form a solid NATO or Western bloc in the Assembly. Such an attitude requires even greater effort than before in the establishment of personal contacts in New York and our missions abroad and a more consistent and intense study of the problems of colonial areas to enable our good offices to be used more effectively.

A policy of greater appeasement of the anti-colonialists is not called for or timely. It has never been Canadian policy weakly to agree with either the colonialists or the anti-colonialists in principle. Our reputation is based on a willingness to discriminate, on not voting automatically one way or the other. Without retreating from our attitude of cool detachment towards the colonial and racial policies of countries like South Africa and Portugal, we might find it opportune to grow somewhat tougher or more impatient with the extreme anti-colonialists. If at all possible, we should try to indicate to them that their unbridled behaviour in the past Session is not the best way to achieve results. Because we have been sympathetic to them, we can afford to be outspoken when outspokenness is required. Above all, we should seek to persuade the more influential and the more sober members of the anti-colonial group, members of the Commonwealth in particular, that their tactics are threatening the power and influence of the Assembly and of the other organs of the United Nations as well. We should seek to convince them that the policy of goading to fury the rich and powerful countries is not the way to bring about a reduction of international tension or the launching of international economic aid programmes. We should argue that they, more than any other peoples, are dependent upon the United Nations to exert their influence in the world and as a field for their diplomacy and that a policy of bringing the United Nations into disrepute is weakening the principal arm of their own policy.

These remarks are not easy points to make, as anyone who has tried to make them will realize. Nevertheless, there are distinguished Asian and African leaders who would understand the gist of the argument if it were put in the right way. Canadians are certainly in a better position to put the argument than are representatives of the Great Powers themselves. We might consider the possibility of waging a tactful but discreet campaign through our missions in Commonwealth countries, not of course by instructing our high commissioners to go and deliver lectures in the Foreign Offices but possibly by asking them to initiate with the local officials a joint examination into the causes of our present discontents in the United Nations, thereby providing an opportunity for scoring a few points on a basis of equality.

We might have another hard look at our positions on some of the colonial topics in the United Nations to see if it is possible for us to budge a little. The complaints of the Europeans against the so-called "Afro-Asian Bloc" have little effect on most Asians and Africans because they point out that their "bloc" is by no means as consistent in its voting as the Western bloc. If we complain that Asian countries automatically support Indonesia on West Irian even though many of them have doubts about Indonesian policy on the subject, the reply is that we do exactly the same thing on Algeria. Our own position as a country with an open mind is based on our willingness to vote in disagreement with the major Western Powers from time to time. We cannot maintain this position unless we