

My delegation has suggested that a concentration of effort on this problem alone, eliminating all unnecessary complicating factors or reference to quite separate questions which have come before the General Assembly, would be the best guarantee of reaching a satisfactory solution. The wide-ranging proposals advanced by the distinguished representative of the U.S.S.R. for a simultaneous alteration of the entire structure of the United Nations should not distract us from the problem before us or delay its solution. The extensive Soviet proposals clearly involve a full-scale re-writing of the Charter, which could not possibly be decided by this Committee. They would require a formal conference on Charter review, provision for which is clearly made under Article 109 of the Charter, to which our attention was drawn by the distinguished representative of Indonesia. In actual fact, the General Assembly adopted a resolution (A/4199) at the fourteenth session which requested the Committee on Arrangements for a Charter review conference to report with recommendations to the General Assembly not later than at the sixteenth session. Therefore, we suggest that the Soviet proposals might be more appropriately held over until that time.

It is our view that, since the world is divided into geographical areas corresponding to different traditions and national interests, the main organs of the United Nations should reflect this fact as well as the specific criteria of individual membership either as laid down in the Charter or established by past performance through functional contributions. We cannot, therefore, understand the Soviet desire to reorganize the basis of representation here along lines of massive power blocs. This classification is not only completely at variance with the principles of the Charter that seek the harmonization of nations, but it would also have the effect of enshrining a formal and totally artificial division of the world in terms of defensive alliances or of political differences which we must all hope to be merely temporary. Since this Committee is examining a proposal for Charter amendment, we should use extreme care to maintain the Charter as a document that embodies firm principles but recommends procedures elastic enough to meet the needs of changing times.

My delegation is pleased to note that the discussions on this item, with only a few exceptions, have at this session avoided the temptation to lay blame for past failures or to indulge in vitriolic recriminations when setting out our points of view. The real issue has been kept clearly before us, and no time has been lost in the by-ways of procedural arrangements that must follow, and not precede, agreement on whether or not to enlarge the Councils. We sympathize with the natural and clearly-expressed desire of the many new states to take some concrete steps forward at this session. We cannot agree with those who discourage any attempt to amend the Charter, simply because we were not successful at previous sessions. The admission of 17 new states to this Assembly is reason in itself for prompt