

17. INCREASE IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

The Argentine proposal to increase the membership of the Economic and Social Council from 18 to 24 was referred by the General Assembly to the Joint Second and Third Committee for consideration. The Argentine representative in supporting this proposal argued that the increase in membership was made necessary by the increasing scope and complexity of the work of the Council and by the increased membership of the United Nations. Discussion indicated that the majority of delegations thought this move inappropriate since it involved an amendment to the Charter. The present membership of the Economic and Social Council was considered adequate for the effective discharge of its responsibilities. As a consequence of these views the Argentinian representative withdrew the proposal on the understanding that Argentina reserved the right to reintroduce the proposal at a future meeting of the General Assembly. During the course of the debate in the Second and Third Committee on the Argentine proposal, the Indian representative attempted to introduce a further resolution for "a more equitable geographic distribution of the membership of the Council". It was suggested that this resolution could not properly be discussed since it had not been referred to the Committee by the General Assembly. The Chairman concurred in this view and ruled that this was a new item and could not be considered.

In the plenary session of the General Assembly on November 15, the Argentinian representative stated that the resolution would again be presented at the Third Session of the Assembly.