

VII ADMINISTRATIVE QUESTIONS

Personnel Policy

A complex and controversial problem concerning personnel policy appeared once more on the agenda of the General Assembly at the eighth session.¹ The discussion on two of the items on this subject revolved about two seemingly conflicting concepts, that of an independent international civil service and that of the protection of the legitimate security interests of a member state, particularly of a host state. The principles contained in Articles 100 and 101 of the Charter emphasize that the Secretariat must be of a truly international and independent character, that the Secretary-General must therefore have the sole responsibility in the appointment of staff and that members of the Secretariat must conduct themselves in a manner befitting the status of an international civil servant. The increased attention to national security interests and the problem of subversion arising from the cold war have resulted in a situation which at times has seemed to threaten these principles of the Charter.

The official activities of United Nations employees and the information available to them are public knowledge open to all member states; so members of the Secretariat, in the performance of their *official* duties, do not seem to present a security risk. It is the United States view, however, that it is not in its interests that the United Nations should employ United States citizens who are, or are likely to be, engaging in subversive activities. The attention of United States bodies concerned with investigating such activities has naturally been drawn to the large group of United Nations employees who work in New York.

In 1952 the United States Senate Sub-committee on Internal Security and a United States Grand Jury investigated a number of United States citizens employed by the United Nations, some of whom cited the Fifth Amendment when asked to testify about communist affiliations. In January 1953, the President of the United States issued Executive Order No. 10422 providing for a loyalty check of United States employees of the United Nations, which involved the fingerprinting of United States nationals in the United Nations and the completion of questionnaires by them. This order, which has since been altered in form rather than substance by the Republican Administration, provides for the results of these investigations to be transmitted to the executive head of the organization concerned.

The United States investigations created interest and concern in that country and in other member countries of the United Nations which resulted in a debate in plenary session of the resumed seventh session of the Assembly in March 1953. Discussion revolved about reports of the Secretary-General and of a three-man Commission of Jurists, which had advised him as to dismissal policy. Speaking on

¹See *Canada and the United Nations 1952-53*, pp. 93-97.