

to the peace, breaches of the peace, and acts of aggression. When the subject was discussed in the First Committee the United States delegation proposed that the whole problem of voting procedure in the Security Council should be referred for detailed study to the Interim Committee.

The debate in the First Committee was directed for the most part to the Argentinian and United States proposals. The United States resolution included provisions for consultation by the Interim Committee with any committee designated by the Security Council to co-operate in a study of the veto, and for a report by the Interim Committee on its study to the Secretary-General by July 15, 1948. The United States proposal also requested the permanent members of the Security Council to consult together in order to secure agreement on the problem.¹ In introducing this proposal the United States representative made it clear that this was not an attempt to alter the Charter but merely an attempt to clarify the issues involved in the voting procedure in the Security Council and to facilitate an objective study of this question at the next session of the General Assembly.

Most delegations were of the view that the Argentine proposal for a general conference to abolish the veto was neither opportune nor practical, since it would not be possible to amend the Charter without the concurring votes of all the permanent members of the Security Council, including that of the U.S.S.R. In consequence, the United States' approach to the problem received general support. The U.S.S.R. and the other eastern European States defended the use of the veto in the Security Council at length. In the course of the debate, the Soviet representative argued that the Soviet Union, in its use of the veto in the Security Council, had defended the rights of smaller states. He categorically refused to take part in any committee discussing this question and would not agree to any proposal either for a conference to amend the Charter or for any limitation of the veto, or even any study of the question.

The United States resolution was adopted in the Committee by a large majority, Canada voting for the proposal. The Arab States, Egypt and Chile abstained from the voting on this resolution, the

¹The full text of the United States proposal is given in Appendix I, U. p. 216.