

The documentation finally recommended by the Preparatory Commission was a compromise between conflicting points of view. It consisted of a provisional agenda for the first meetings of the Security Council, a draft directive to the Military Staff Committee, and a very brief and inadequate set of provisional rules of procedure. The experience of the Security Council meetings in London and New York appears to have borne out the views of the Canadian delegation.

Among other issues which arose in the Preparatory Commission, those which precipitated most controversy were (a) provisions for private meetings of the Council; (b) the right of access by Members of the United Nations which are not members of the Council to records of its private meetings; (c) the chairmanship of the Council; and (d) languages to be used in the Council.

The Preparatory Commission recommended that "unless it decides otherwise, the Security Council shall meet in public." Private meetings would thus be an exception. The delegate for Syria championed the right of all Members of the United Nations to consult the records of private meetings of the Security Council. The Canadian position, like that of the majority of the committee, was that the Security Council should be free to decide this question for itself. The Preparatory Commission recommended that the chairmanship of the Security Council should be held by each of its members for one month at a time, in the English alphabetical order of countries. On the question of languages the Preparatory Commission recommended the adoption of rules based on the practice of the San Francisco Conference.

The Canadian delegation to the Preparatory Commission submitted two amendments to the rules of procedure. One of these provided for an orderly procedure for the suspension and amendment of the rules. It was rejected by the committee dealing with the Security Council at the same time as the committee on the Economic and Social Council was adopting the identical amendment, also proposed by the Canadian delegation. The usefulness of such an amendment was demonstrated during the first part of the First Session of the General Assembly.

The other Canadian amendment, providing that decisions of the Council relating to individuals should be taken by secret ballot, was also voted down.

The Canadian delegation proposed that a commentary drafted by the Preparatory Commission on the provisional rules of procedure should be transmitted to the Security Council for its information, and submitted a draft commentary as a basis for discussion. The purpose of the commentary was to provide an explanatory background of the rules for the benefit of those representatives on the Council who had not participated in drawing them up. It was