

Normally, a Canadian Delegation to the General Assembly consists of five representatives, five alternate representatives, some ten advisers, two information officers, together with secretaries, clerks, security guards, and other administrative staff. It is the usual practice for the Secretary of State for External Affairs to act as the chairman of the Delegation. Representatives and their alternates are usually Members of Parliament, Senators, or senior civil servants, while the majority of advisers are drawn from the Department of External Affairs.

The Canadian Delegation, like most other delegations, holds a daily meeting each morning before its members leave New York City for Lake Success or Flushing Meadow. Reports are given on the meetings of the previous day, and decisions are taken or questions referred to the Department of External Affairs in Ottawa as to the attitude which the Delegation should adopt on the subjects which are about to be discussed in the Assembly. In the course of these meetings the members of the Delegation have an opportunity to express their views on the business before the Assembly.

At the end of the day reports are sent to Ottawa; statements are drafted for use the following day; and other delegations are consulted as occasion demands.

The Security Council

By Article 20 of the United Nations Charter, the Security Council has "primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security", and to this end acts on behalf of all members of the United Nations. The Council consists of five permanent members (China, France, the United Kingdom, the United States, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), together with six non-permanent members elected for two-year terms. At the Fourth Session of the Assembly, in October 1949, Ecuador, India and Yugoslavia were elected to succeed Argentina, Canada, and the Ukrainian S.S.R., which were due to retire at the end of 1949. The three new non-permanent members will join Cuba, Egypt and Norway, which have been represented on the Council since January 1, 1949, and which in turn will retire and be replaced on January 1, 1951.

The Security Council is so organized as to function continuously, and it holds periodic meetings whenever occasion demands. It has its own Council Chamber at Lake Success, Long Island, and a similar Chamber will be installed as part of the permanent headquarters of the United Nations, now under construction on the East Side of Manhattan. The eleven national representatives on the Council occupy seats at a horseshoe-shaped table in the forefront of the Chamber. Immediately before them is a long table at which interpreters and official stenographers translate and record the discussions. To left and right a line of glass-fronted booths provide accommodation for additional interpreters, and for recording, broadcasting, and photographic facilities. The remainder of the Chamber resembles a theatre facing the Council table, with the lower tier available for the public and an upper balcony for the Press. The chairmanship of the Security Council rotates monthly by countries on an alphabetical basis. During Canada's two-year term, the Canadian Representative acted in this capacity three times, and on these occasions, in addition to representing Canada, he was required to preside over the formal meetings and to perform important functions of a mediatory nature.