

"We had trouble with the Irish. Our resolution called for the admission of all the undivided states. [It requested the Security Council 'to consider, in the light of the general opinion in favour of the widest possible membership of the United Nations, the pending applications for membership of all those 18 countries about which no problem of unification arises,' and it asked the Security Council to report back during the current Assembly session.] The Irish didn't want that characterization, and we had a terrible time persuading them to overlook this and get them in; after all, they were a divided state, just as much as Vietnam or any other country.

"The British carried on its opposition right to the end. Just before our resolution came up for debate [in the Ad Hoc Political Committee], there was a message from [Athony] Eden, the British prime minister, to St. Laurent asking us not to table the resolution, not to embarrass their main allies. And, just before the vote, the British ambassador, Sir Pierson Dixon, came to me and said, 'You can't go ahead. There's a message from our prime minister.' I said, 'I don't give a damn. The policy of our government is as I have stated it, and we are going ahead.' [In the vote, 52 nations voted in favour; Taiwan and pre-Castro Cuba voted against; 5 countries, including the United States, France and Belgium abstained. On the following day, December 8, precisely the same result came in the General Assembly itself.] When it came to the vote, Britain voted in favour. They didn't want to be isolated from the Commonwealth countries. It was just like [Prime Minister] Thatcher's action on the Rhodesian issue many years later."

The General Assembly vote put heavy pressure on the 11 members of the Security Council to approve all 18 applications. But this was not the end of the struggle. Indeed, the whole effort seemed to collapse in ruins when the Security Council began voting on individual applicants. Taiwan, attacking the notion of admitting Soviet "satellite states," cast its veto against the application of Outer Mongolia. Thereupon, the Soviet Union vetoed every subsequent non-Communist country.

Despondently, Paul Martin returned to Ottawa, after a conversation with the Soviet delegate showed a possibility of a new resolution omitting from the list Outer Mongolia and in addition Japan, with which the Soviet Union had not yet signed a peace treaty. The Soviet Union then took the initiative to request an emergency session of the Security Council. The Soviet resolution called for the admission of the remaining 16, and the deferral of these 2 countries' applications. Martin hurried back to New York, to join in the lobbying in support of this resolution.

"It was really Sir Leslie Munro, the New Zealand ambassador who was that month's president of the Security Council, who by some very clever footwork in the Council was able to get the resolution through. Cabot Lodge produced an amendment—supported by Britain, France and Taiwan—to restore Japan's name to the list. You usually take amendments ahead of the original resolution, but Munro took the position that this was a request from the General Assembly and it was a question that should be considered first. If it had been the other way 'round, the resolution might not have succeeded.