

that further expansion of the Commission is required to take into account that the membership of the United Nations has been increased by 21 states, with 19 of these states being African states, since 1956.

By Resolution 1103 (XI) dated 18 December 1956 the General Assembly increased the membership from 15, being the number at which the Commission was originally established in 1947, to 21 members, to ensure that the great number of states which had joined the United Nations since that time would be adequately represented on the Commission without prejudice to the status quo existing at that time.

During the discussion that took place in the 6th Committee prior to the adoption of General Assembly Resolution 1103 referred to above, delegations reached what is known as the Gentlemen's Agreement with regard to the allocation of seats on the Commission. It seems important, Mr. Chairman, that the substance of this agreement should be placed on the record again at this time. It provides that six additional seats being added to the Commission should be allocated as follows:

- 3 seats to nationals from African and Asian members of the United Nations;
- 1 seat to a national from Western Europe;
- 1 seat to a national from Eastern Europe; and
- 1 seat, in alternation, to a national from Latin America and a national from a British Commonwealth country not otherwise included in any recognized regional group.

The Gentlemen's Agreement also provided that the distribution as between different forms of civilization and legal systems would be maintained in respect of the then existing 15 seats.