

The appointment of a Secretary-General is a matter so important that it would require mature reflection even if circumstances were normal, but in the prevailing political atmosphere an early appointment seems out of the question from the Canadian point of view.

But today's circumstances will not allow this Organization to be left any longer without direction. The Congo situation alone demands that an interim arrangement be made at once. Member Governments, such as the Government of Canada, with important commitments in that country have a right and a duty to insist that the United Nations operation be conducted under proper authority. Here we have important negotiations under way at this very time with Katanga, yet with no one here in New York to direct the operations of the Secretariat. That, I suggest, is a foolish situation, but surely there is enough wisdom in this Assembly to meet that situation and to appoint someone on an interim basis. The Congo Committee, made up of eighteen nations, of which Canada is one, has done splendid work here for more than fifteen months past, and yet there is now no one to whom that Committee can give directions. That, I repeat, is the situation which should not be allowed to continue.

No delegation here has expressed disagreement about the urgency of making an interim arrangement. Intensive consultations have already taken place about various possibilities. It is recognized by all -- and I do not believe there is one delegation here that would disagree with the statement that I am about to make -- that there are right here in his hall eminent representatives who have the necessary qualifications and who enjoy the trust and confidence of the Assembly. We should waste no time in selecting one of these widely respected men to take interim charge of the functions and responsibilities of the office of Secretary-General.

We do not expect such an arrangement to be indefinitely prolonged. We see it as a means for keeping the essential work of the Organization going, a means of affording to us the time required to give careful consideration to the appointment of a Secretary-General.

We would expect the interim appointee to have the loyal co-operation of the Secretariat at all levels. No doubt he will have his own working methods and will make his own arrangements for drawing on the advice and experience of the international staff. He may wish to make some adjustment in the Secretariat. He must, however, retain full authority to make the decisions and give the directions which are the sole responsibility of the office he will be filling.

Independence of the Secretariat.

As for the longer term problem, the Charter calls for the appointment of a single executive. Any change in the nature of the office would require amendment of the Charter. That