

It is desirable that the views of one of the two organs of the United Nations which are concerned with the admission of new members should be clarified fully at this juncture so that the members of the other body concerned may appreciate our position in reaching their own conclusions.

We are not asking the agreement of the other members of this organization to a proposal which is without difficulties. There are reasons why we should have preferred not to take this course but in this imperfect world it is often unwise to refuse to take any action unless that action is open to no possible objection or criticism from any standpoint. It seems to us that the course we recommend is best, on balance. To delay longer would be to perpetuate injustices. We doubt the wisdom of such an alternative.

After long consideration it has seemed to us that the worse course would be to allow a considerable number of countries to languish in frustration outside the United Nations. Most of the applicants are countries with much to contribute to or gain from our organization. They are in many cases countries with ancient traditions and great cultures. Some are countries with governments newly instituted which are anxious to establish their international relations within the order framework of the United Nations as the organ of the community of nations.

In particular, and I mention this as an example, I have in mind the case of Italy, a country which culturally has been one of the main creative forces within our Western civilization and one which, for instance, in the field of law, for thousands of years literally has made a constant and inspiring contribution. It is hardly conceivable that our organization should continue any longer to operate without being able to list among its members a country like Italy which is one of the recognized founders of the very family of nations of which this organization seeks to be the expression.

Some applicants are controlled by regimes or are following policies which we do not like. Some dwell in such isolation and obscurity that we know little about them. This is far from a satisfactory situation but the question remains whether admission of these members will on the whole make it better or worse. We think that the edge is more likely to be taken off intolerance and misapprehension with the United Nations than in barren isolation.

We do not agree with the tendency to look upon admission to membership in the United Nations, or for that matter, upon recognition of states as the conferring of a favour and to forget that it is also in some respects the performance of an international duty and the imposing of a discipline. Admission to membership means the bringing of countries under the obligations of our organization and these are obligations which go far beyond those which are normally incumbent on members of the international community under the law of nations. We may disapprove of the regime or of the policy of some of the applicants but are they not likely to become more acceptable members of the world community as part of this