

Statement made on October 23

I should like to explain briefly the position of my delegation on the six power proposal regarding the employment of international staff from non-self-governing and trust territories. My delegation generally concurs with what the distinguished delegate of New Zealand said yesterday on this matter. As he suggested, most delegations here including my own, will no doubt agree with the principle which calls for the recruiting of international staff at the United Nations as well as in its agencies to be on as wide a geographical basis as possible. This is a sound principle and one which has been constantly applied, as the present composition of the Secretariat clearly shows. To that extent, we fully appreciate the purpose of a six power resolution contained in Document L.283 Rev. 1.

My delegation on the other hand has always stressed in previous discussions on the question of personnel recruitment of international staff, the need of giving priority to the qualifications of the applicants. My delegation has also always attached importance to the necessity of leaving to the Secretary-General all possible discretion in the selection of his staff, as a guarantee that we shall have a qualified and suitable personnel. These are principles which, I am sure, no one here will question since they are dictated by the most elementary principles of economy and efficiency. The acceptance of the six power resolution might have the effect in practice of actually impairing the discretion of the Secretary-General in this field. This possibility should be avoided particularly at this time, when, as we all know, the Secretary-General is engaged in an overall review of the entire personnel establishment of his organization, and has furthermore been invited to keep the size of his staff reduced to the minimum required for efficient operation.

There is also the additional possibility that the acceptance of this proposal might establish a precedent by provoking other groups to advocate similar increased recruitment from their own representatives.

In any circumstances, therefore, my delegation wonders whether the same objective envisaged in the six power resolution might not be attained by merely informing the Secretary-General of the opinion of this Committee that it would be desirable, whenever circumstances permit, to include on the Secretariat suitably qualified inhabitants of non-self-governing and trust territories. My delegation has no doubt that the Secretary-General would do everything possible, within the authorized personnel establishment of the Secretariat, to meet a wish of this Committee so expressed.

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